

SAWF IN
South Asia Women Foundation India

ANNUAL REPORT

WOMEN'S FUND
INDIA

2022 - 2023





ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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THE YEAR GONE BY

Women's funds worldwide are constantly bringing attention to the importance of supporting movements for equality and non-discrimination. Movements, and women's movements at that, are driven by the agenda to dismantle structures and norms that sustain inequality and injustice. They are an essential part of the eco-system that wants to bring fundamental, long-term social change. Therefore, supporting movement building means investing in lasting change that addresses the underlying and often fundamental causes of inequity.


In the last year, SAWF IN has been actively advocating for resource flows toward feminist movements, agendas, and leadership. By sharing the findings and insights from SAWF IN's experience and research on resourcing needs for feminist agendas, in national platforms, we have argued for flexible and more resources to flow towards women and gender nonbinary people from marginalised communities. As a part of Prospera – the international network of women's funds - SAWF IN has sought to amplify the funding priorities and claims of grassroots feminists into the network's strategic planning and goal setting process. We have also been active in collective learning efforts around building a narrative about women's funds that can in turn support feminist claims for greater resources. SAWF IN has also been an active contributor in regional learning processes on feminist learning and measurement methods and tools.

Through fellowships and grants we have directly supported 10 partners during the last year and disbursed INR 28,52,000. The accompaniment support that we offer to our programme partners has been a source of immense mutual learning and has also deepened trust and solidarity. This support has taken the form of designing and facilitating regular and structured, online and offline spaces for reflection and analysis on change trajectories, facilitating dialogues on challenges faced by partners and exploring solutions collectively as well as learning how to communicate our change stories more effectively. These spaces have also been used to invite subject matter experts and resource agencies to provide need-based inputs. Our accompaniment support journey has reinforced our belief that holding safe spaces for critical dialogues and exchange is an essential part of strengthening movements and connecting with the core purpose of building a just and equal world.

Our blog series this past year, written by an immensely talented pool of feminist scholars and practitioners, enabled us to bring attention to the much-needed issue of integrated approaches to addressing gender-based violence and the broader canvas of access to justice. Through a highly experiential and interactive process, we curated a platform for leaders from community-based organisations and corporate organisations to share their leadership journeys and explore solutions to common challenges. We have come to realise that creating spaces for conversations across the divides of class, caste, and gender identities is an important way to build dialogue, engagement, and alliances.

There are ebbs and flows in movements, but the pole star is always about just redistribution of resources and about claiming voice and representation for equality and non-discrimination. To realise this goal, we seek grants and donations to support programmes on ending violence against women and advancing women's economic participation in socially and geographically challenged regions.





This year, we are excited to announce our new identity, Women's Fund India, to reflect our institutional mandate and position as a fund to advance the rights of women and gender non-binary persons in India.

We look to 2023-2024 as a year of making ourselves heard louder as a women's fund pushing feminist claims for equitable resources.

Suneeta Dhar, Chairperson
Anuradha Rajan, Honorary Executive Director

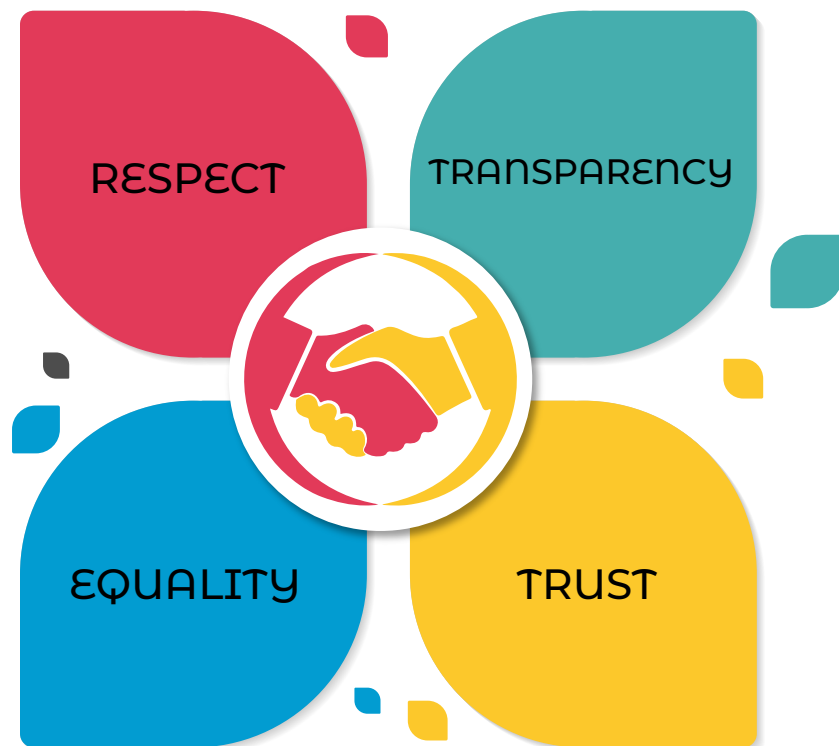


ABOUT SAWF IN

South Asia Women Foundation India is a national women's fund and envisions a world where women, girls, trans¹, and gender non-binary persons realise their rights and freedoms on the basis of equality and non-discrimination. To accomplish this, we mobilise indigenous and other resources, to support initiatives led by women and gender non-binary persons, that speak to their claims and change agendas. We are intentional in directing resources towards feminist movement building and leadership as well as towards efforts that dismantle barriers to gender equality and non-discrimination.

SAWF IN's origins are rooted in broader efforts to bolster resourcing of feminist movements in the region. Through the process of building a political voice for resources to strengthen feminist movements and leadership in the region, South Asia Women's Fund (presently Women's Fund Asia) recognised the need for a national women's fund in India, which could claim resources for grassroots organising and mobilisation work. At the same time, there was a growing realisation among feminist philanthropists for a nationally-led, institutional process that could recast ways in which funding was being perceived, sought, given, and used. SAWF IN was put forward as an idea by the Indian members of the Board of Directors of the South Asia Women's Fund in 2013, and registered in August 2015 in India.

Our Values



¹For SAWF IN, trans* refers to a wide range of gender identities. This umbrella term includes but is not restricted to agender, gender fluid and gender non-conforming identities.



STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

a. Build a case for increasing the philanthropic flow towards gender transformative agendas

During the last year, we invested in building a strong case around gaps in resourcing the agendas of feminist movements and also explored challenges to resource flows for gender transformative initiatives. The landscape studies conducted during this period reinforced the need for more demand-driven and locally designed, led, and managed funding to women and trans persons groups. The scoping processes we undertook during this period highlighted that while there is a genuine desire and intent among many donors in funding strategic gender needs, the need for scale and reach means resource flows are stymied towards hard-to-quantify, normative change agendas that chip away at oppressive power structures that keep women, trans persons and other vulnerable groups in subordinate social and economic positions.

i. A review of resourcing opportunities and challenges around feminist agendas

- Through a rapid assessment of the philanthropic landscape invested in gender rights and equality, we sought to understand key funding trends, donor presence, and strategic allocation of resources on the issue. Several key actors from the philanthropic community and implementing organizations participated through interviews and an online survey.

Some of the key takeaways emerging from the assessment were:

- Lesser known and smaller grassroots organisations working at the margins tend to remain unnoticed, due to limited opportunities for visibility creation and networking. Therefore, they remain under-noticed by the philanthropic community and distanced from consistent funding opportunities. Funders, on the other hand, who are committed to the issues of women's empowerment and rights, also remain unaware of these lesser-known yet credible partners working with last-mile communities.
- It is often difficult to show quantifiable and tangible results and outputs in the short term through initiatives on women's rights and gender equality. At the same time, corporate donors find it hard to make a case, internally, for such issues and initiatives, due to a lack of quantified indicators. Both the communities need to invest in dialogue and building exposure around a common perspective and framework on the measurement of change.
- There is donor recognition that annual funding commitments (very often in the case of CSR) do not align with the rhythm of the work on the ground when it comes to women's empowerment agendas. There is a need to build multi-year funding cycles if supporting transformative agendas has to be nourished.
- The study also highlighted the need for a vocabulary and language that unpacks what it means to adopt an empowerment and rights-based approach to gender equality.





ii. I Cannot Live on Tomorrow's Bread: Developing a funding agenda to support trans* persons led social justice initiatives

A scoping study to understand the landscape of resources for LBTQIA++ movements as well as gaps in resourcing emerging agendas from the community, was carried out by Anindya Hajra, a senior activist from the LGBTQI+ community and founder of Pratyay Gender Trust. The study, titled, "I Cannot Live on Tomorrow's Bread: Developing a funding agenda to support trans* persons led social justice initiatives", involving both primary and secondary research, highlighted that most of the development work in the last two decades to support LGBTQIA++ communities has been in the context of HIV/AIDS. While this issue led to the emergence of a large number of organizations working with the community, advancing the rights of trans persons remains an underfunded area, especially within domestic philanthropic commitments.

In order to navigate the complex and dynamic concepts and politics of language and agendas in the gender spectrum, SAWF IN as a women's fund, could invest in processes and products that demystify many of these concepts constantly that can enable LBTQIA++ communities to be heard and understood. The scoping pointed to emerging fatigue among trans activists and trans persons-led organisations in continuous resource mobilisation efforts. In their view, apart from the initial proposal development and grant receiving process, maintaining partnerships and report writing begins to take priority over the work on the ground. In this context, support in developing resource mobilization and partnership building strategies is essential for the community.

iii. Bringing a gender lens to the landscape on climate change actions

An inquiry that can generate a dialogue on developing gendered solutions to climate change was initiated by SAWF IN in February-March 2023. The first phase of the inquiry explored the philanthropic landscape of climate change actions, especially those working at the intersection of climate change and gender justice.

While SAWF IN's geographic focus is India, the research scanned a global view as well to understand the frameworks and approaches that exist and can positively influence the scope of work in climate change and gender justice. A review of literature that covered 52 research papers, articles, reports, and grey literature reinforced the argument that a gender-neutral approach to climate change actions will not work as the effects of climate change are felt first and more harshly by women and girls. Incorporating gender analysis actively and engaging women, especially from marginalised communities through convenings and consultations is essential in developing climate solutions.

Funding something like climate action takes a lot more perspective, understanding, tenacity and patience – a path not too many have been willing to take. (Jindal, N., 2023)²

The study further revealed the need for more robust research to unpack the myriad ways in which climate change has a gendered impact in the Indian context. SAWF IN is undertaking primary research to bridge the gap in existing literature and gauge

² Jindal, N. (2023, March 19). Climate philanthropy in India is still very niche – and we need to change that! Retrieved from Svarya: <https://www.svarya.in/climate-philanthropy-in-india-is-still-very-niche-and-we-need-to-change-that/>



the interest in the Indian philanthropic community in supporting work that lies at the convergence of climate change action and gender justice.

b. Raising visibility on resourcing gender equality and non-discrimination

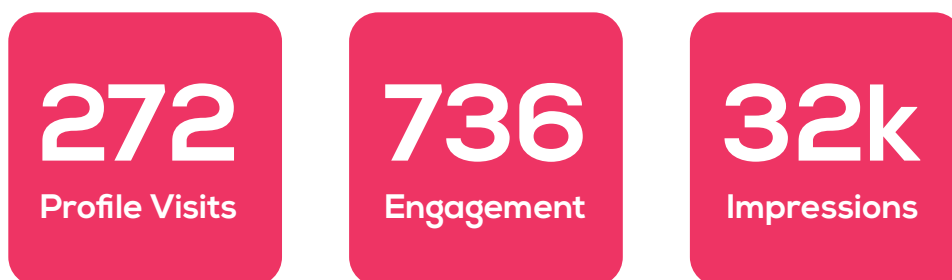
i. Online campaign on 16 days of activism

To spark debate and bring visibility to the issue of integrated responses to gender based violence, SAWF IN invited, feminist thinkers, scholars and actors committed to gender equality, to share their views through a blog series. The blogs highlighted the key link between women's economic rights and their access to justice. The blogs brought home the many ways in which the two issues are intrinsically linked and further emphasised the role of philanthropy in supporting solutions that systematically address the root causes to gender based violence, especially those rooted in shifting social norms and discriminatory practices.

“This is a multi-layered challenge, not only infrastructure related but also related to mindsets and gender norms, that will require a multi-stakeholder and a strategic multi-dimensional approach.” - Alifya Loharchalwala, Strategic Initiatives Lead, Gray Matters Capital

“The system for dealing with complaints must be robust and should inspire confidence in all parties. That is the key to ensuring that as and when women face sexual harassment, they have the trust and confidence to raise their voices and seek redressal as per law. This needs to be a fair, sensitive, unbiased, non-judgemental, time-bound, and confidential process.” - Adv. Anubha Rastogi, Lawyer, Mumbai

“Philanthropy, whether by individuals, foundations or corporates, can adapt a lens of gender equity in all their support in different areas, even if this might not be their core area of work.” - Urvi Shriram, Lead, Centre of Philanthropy for Social Justice, Indian School of Development Management (ISDM).



Audience engagement on LinkedIn during the blog series

A shout out to other contributors in this series:

- Yamini Atmavilas, President (Strategy & Research), The Udaiti Foundation
- Priya Paul, Founding Director, SAWF IN
- Ujjwal Banerjee, Senior Programme Manager, Education, HT Parekh Foundation
- Shipra Jha, Gender and Development Specialist, UNICEF India
- Sona Mitra, Principal Economist, IWWAGE and Preethi Rao, Associate Director, Lead at Krea University
- Amita Pitre, Oxfam International
- Anuradha Rajan, SAWF IN



c. Women For Women - Showing up in ways that matter

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2023, SAWF IN launched a series of personal accounts titled, Women For Women. The writers of the series shared their experiences about standing in solidarity with women from different socioeconomic, cultural, and religious backgrounds, and how these experiences continue to inspire them and bring out the best in each other. A perspective piece was also released which focused on how the philanthropic community can be more intentional in supporting gender rights and ways funding processes can be made more inclusive and responsive to the needs of women, girls, and gender non-binary persons.

"It is equally critical for funding organisations to create internal mechanisms and structures for ensuring that agenda-setting, decision-making and leadership for defining and approving funding priorities lie with the women, girls and gender non-binary people who they seek to partner with and support." - Subhalakshmi Nandi, Independent Consultant

We deeply thank all the contributors in this series:

- Shruthi Goel, Upaya Social Ventures
- Mayuri, Individual Supporter - Feminist Movements
- Sagarika Bose, Lead CSR, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd.
- Suvena Bansal Marar, Business Head, Affordable LAP U GRO Capital
- Anuradha Rajan, Honorary Executive Director, SAWF IN
- Deepa Misra, Capability Lead, AMEA, Mondelez International
- Sunanda Rangarajan, Head of CSR, Omega Healthcare
- Pooja Sanghavi, Individual Supporter - Feminist Movements
- Debdatta Purkayastha, Individual Supporter - Feminist Movements
- Subhalakshmi Nandi, Independent Consultant, Gender Equality, women's rights and sustainable development
- Priya Paul, Founding Director, SAWF IN

d. Building solidarity spaces around women's leadership - Rubaru



The blog series culminated in an event, called "Rubaru", which brought women leaders from community based organisations and corporate companies to a common platform to share and learn from each other's journeys. 23 women were part of the event held on March 12, 2023 at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. The participants were



from diverse educational, professional, and socio-economic backgrounds, including women leaders associated with grassroots organizations (Committee of Resource Organization (CORO) India, Parcham, SNEHA, Daryavati Mahila Sanghathan, along with one of SAWF IN's fellow from Palghar) and several leaders from the corporate sector, educational institutions and social enterprises. Rubaru attempted to create a safe and non-judgmental space for the women to share their achievements as well as challenges, highs, and lows in their leadership journeys and what enabled them to address the barriers they encountered. It curated a learning platform where women leaders engaged in each other's lived realities and reached across social and economic lines. It built a feeling of solidarity due to the similarities in their leadership stories, and in the opportunities and threats that they navigated.

The event was facilitated in Hindi with a set of reflective questions about building their identity as a leader, setbacks they faced, their role models and inspiration, as well as the resources that enabled them to become a leader.

“Standing up for myself and deciding against the family’s wishes, knowing that all decisions are made collectively, took much courage. Looking back, I feel proud of myself.” - A representative from Intellicap

“This is a powerhouse I came up with the assumption that this event is only for the grown-ups but after listening to all the stories, I think I should have gotten my daughters along to learn life lessons right in this room.” - A trained singer from an upper middle-class family

e. A Podcast on “Future Ki Baatein”

In June 2022, we featured a podcast on Spotify, called “Future Ki Baatein” to discuss the stereotypical idea of a technology-infused ‘future’ and analyse its impact on the environment and on the lives of women and trans persons. The episode featured Anita Paul, Founder of Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation, and S Ashalatha from Mahila Kishan Adhikar Manch. Both speakers discussed the impact of changes in the environment on rural women’s economic participation, especially from marginalized communities, and highlighted the increasing hardships placed by dwindling water sources and land degradation, on women farmers.

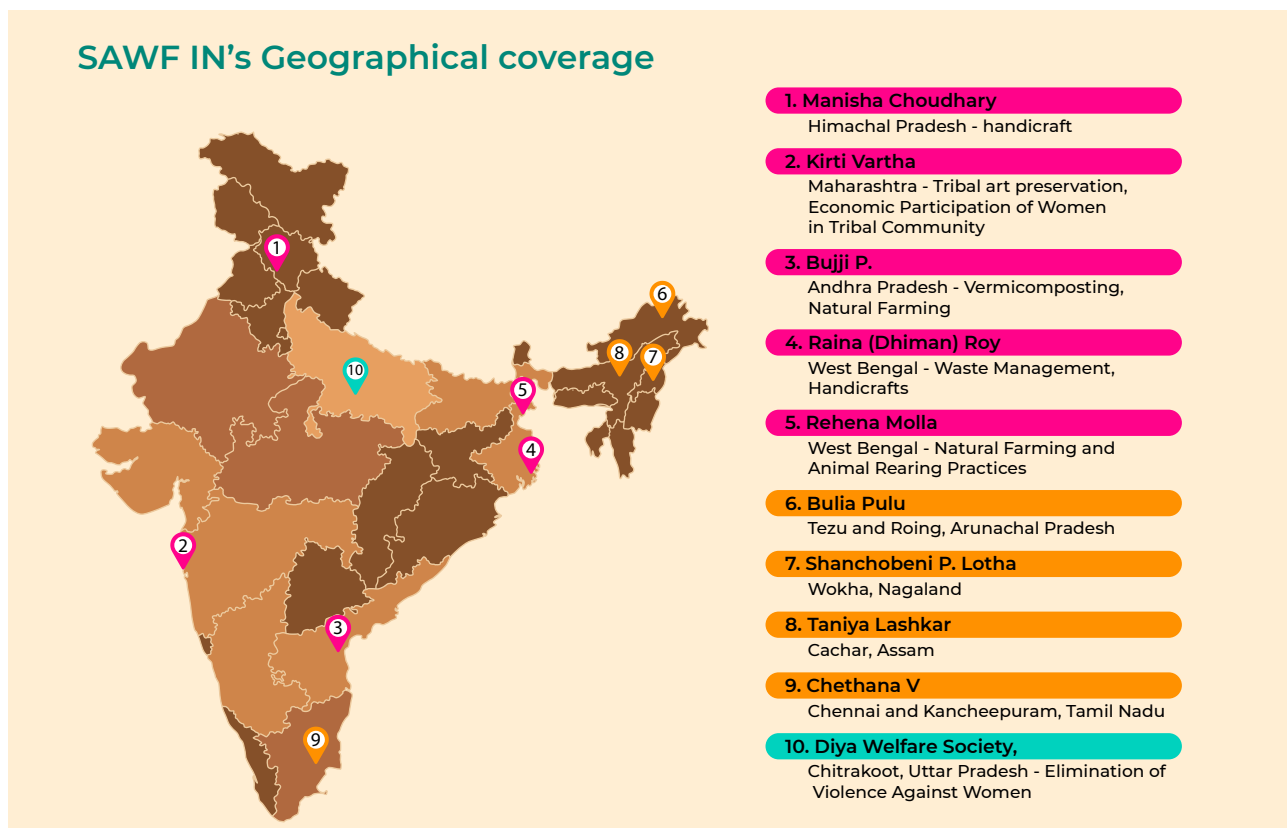


“In hospitable terrain, insufficient infrastructure, and now, climate emergencies are adding further to the vulnerability of the remote mountain communities. Drying up of water resources, shrinking glaciers, and of late, we have started hearing about cloud bursts; these are all severely impacting livelihoods (of communities).” – Anita Paul, Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation

“Why are women not visible? Because women are not recognized as farmers. In India, farmers are recognized on the basis of land ownership. Women are already discriminated (in this regard), they do not get any institutional support, and they do not get bank loans or any subsidies... So, in this situation, the environmental degradation is going to hit them hard.” – S. Ashalatha, MAKAM



f. Direct support to under-resourced women led organisations and collectives through grants and fellowships



Through a meticulous scoping process, SAWF IN has built a repository of women and trans people led organizations in states, with some of the lowest gender indices, in the form of skewed sex ratio, high rates of crimes against women and low rates of women's labour participation. The process of constantly curating and updating this cohort of potential partners enables SAWFIN to also hear closely to the resource needs and agendas emerging from the grassroots. We realised there is a growing need among NGO's for updated and verified sources of domestic funding, developing a deeper understanding of intersectional approaches and learning innovative ways to measure and communicate the change agenda they are pursuing.



i. Economic and Environmental Justice (EEJ) Fellowships

The EEJ Fellowship supports women and trans persons to claim their rights over economic and environmental resources through entrepreneurial models. In its second year, the fellowship has emerged as an initiative that enables the fellows to design entrepreneurial enterprises and strategise on the way forward according to the dynamic contexts in which they work.

The fellowship adopts an intersectional approach that builds an understanding of how economic and environmental sustainability are intrinsically linked as well as acknowledges the importance of social and gender identities in accessing and controlling these resources. The fellowship has enabled SAWF IN to become much more aware of how economic and environmental vulnerabilities are deeply tied and impact access to both physical and social capital.

Ecological issues being addressed through fellow's projects:

Fellow	Ecological and economic sustainability in the Fellows' initiatives
Bujji Pallepogu	Bujji's economic model in two villages of Andhra Pradesh empowers 70 women through vermicomposting production for sale and kitchen gardening activities. Bujji aims to reduce soil and water pollution, improve public health, and create a localised production and consumption framework through collaboration with the government and networking for local sales.
Kirti Vartha	Kirti is empowering Warli Adivasi women in Maharashtra's Palghar district by reviving traditional livelihood practices. She works with 46 women, promoting women-led practices and forming a collective called Dhavleri Parishad. They promote their art, culture, and natural composting and advocate for tribal development projects while preserving their social systems and ecological footprint against modernization.
Rehena Molla	Rehena is working with 60 women in her village in Sundarbans, West Bengal on natural farming and poultry rearing. She promotes natural farming to reduce water pollution and re-fertilize saltwater lands, and she also capacitates women to raise poultry as a source of income and good health.
Raina Roy	Raina, a transwoman, is collaborating with 52 trans waste collectors at Dhapa garbage dumping ground near Kolkata city to create awareness of safe waste management practices, regular savings through SHGs and establish sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities for the group.
Manisha	Manisha is leading a handicrafts-oriented enterprise called "Bargat" managed by a collective of 20 women in Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh, which utilises locally available pine needles and builds ecological awareness in the community.



Key gains and successes:

- **220 project participants** mobilised by the fellows are participating in an income-earning activity that is environmentally sustainable, including the production of handicrafts, natural farming produce, and vermicomposting.
- **220 project participants** have gained knowledge and skills needed to participate in the respective economic activities being led by the fellows. These include natural farming techniques, methods of preparing natural pesticides, composting and vermicomposting, soil preparation, seed conservation, poultry rearing, kitchen gardening in small plots of land, making Warli paintings/drawings using traditional motifs and designs as well as using Warli art to make products of daily use.
- The fellows and their cohorts have reached out to **5000 community members to spread awareness about their initiative, its links to addressing environmental sustainability in their areas, and the economic and social gains their enterprise has, for the community.** They have done this through community meetings, federation meetings, participation in conventions, exhibitions, events, social media, etc.

EEJ Fellows' Meet in Kolkata

SAWF IN organised an in-person meeting in Kolkata from 28th to 30th August, 2022 with the support of Microland Foundation. It was attended by all EEJ fellows, community members from their projects, and members of SAWF IN and Microland Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to share and learn about the journey and progress of each of the fellows, especially given the difficult background and context in which they are working. Resource persons were also invited to share insights and inputs from their entrepreneurial journeys. The fellows also learned about the use of social media to build visibility and marketing linkages, through a session conducted by a communications expert. The reflective space created in the meet strengthened the fellows' connect with a common purpose, helped in building trust, and enhanced collective ownership for the fellowship.



Supporting the fellows in their entrepreneurial journeys the Fellowship

- Based on the implied and expressed needs of the EEJ fellows, a training on “Business Plan Development and Marketing Strategy Development” was conducted on 4-6 December 2022 in Latur, Maharashtra by Swayam Shikshan Prayog, a leading organization working on women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship for the last two decades. The training gave the EEJ fellows an orientation on how and why a business development plan, structure, and components of a business plan. The fellows got the opportunity to go on exposure visits in SSP’s project areas and were inspired by the work of the women farmers practicing organic farming techniques.
- An in-person training was organized in Mumbai on 16th & 17th March 2023 to broaden the fellows’ understanding and knowledge of environmental sustainability, climate change risks, and measures that can be applied and adopted in their projects.


COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP CREATES AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR TRANS WASTE COLLECTORS

COVID-19 exacerbated the economic vulnerability of the trans waste collectors at the Dhapa dumping ground in the city of Kolkata whose livelihoods are dependent on daily collection and sale of waste materials. They spend more than 8-10 hours every day collecting and segregating waste, without access to sanitation facilities (toilets or washrooms), or a clean space to sit, have meals, etc. They face rampant sexual and economic harassment and exploitation by people in dominant positions within the waste collection eco system. Some of the waste collectors are sex workers but they neither have information nor access to safe

sex practices, were (and continue to be) not paid for their sexual services because of their gender identity and are viewed as objects which can be only used. The complexity of issues dealt by the trans waste collectors made Raina (an EEJ fellow) and her team member, Subharthi, strategise differently in their work with the community. It was strongly felt that working with trans women cannot happen in silos and needs to be deeply cognizant of the change agendas they want to define.

Raina was mindful of what a collective leadership model should look like when working with a transwomen’s collective, especially when they are waste collectors, non-existent and invisible to the state and their own families. In Raina’s words, “They have nothing to lose. What we will do is break this thinking and enable them so that they see worth in existing and living.” Subharthi played a complementary role with Raina in this initiative and stood as a rock by her throughout the journey. Both of them deeply recognise and acknowledge the value and the attributes that trans-women bring into leadership. Subharthi emphasises the importance of building an inclusive environment where transwomen’s needs and inputs are heard, collective care is valued, and a strong sense of empathy is inculcated.





Several changes have unfolded since the start of the fellowship. The complexity of working with the group has slowly reduced due to consistent rapport and trust building efforts by Subharthi. Raina and Subharthi began discussing with the group about their access to different types of resources (financial, knowledge, information, etc.) and how to use these resources. An SHG was formed and as the group started saving a part of their income in a bank account opened, they realised how they became the decision makers of how and where to use the hard-earned money that they had started saving. All the group members are saving up to Rs. 200 every month in their bank accounts, leading to a safety net for any emergency expenses, health expenses, and their future. Raina and her team leased land for natural farming activities by the collective. Two collective members are taking care of the land and are farming saag (spinach). The collective after using it for consumption is selling it in the local market. The members of the group who are sex workers have become aware of claiming a life of dignity for the work they do and also decide on their partners as middlemen have been removed. In several conversations with the groups, Raina and Subharthi explained that sex work is a form of labour and that it need not be a place of violence. Those conversations were very difficult in the beginning but over time, through continuous engagement and conversations, they have helped build such an understanding amongst trans women. All this has only been possible because both Raina and Subharthi play a very pivotal thought leadership role in the fellowship.

Sustainability of changes is a challenge while working with trans waste collectors as they are marginalised at multiple levels by their gender identity, caste, education, profession, etc. Due to a lack of family support, financial security, and other resources, they are highly vulnerable during financial crises or health emergencies that might crop up. The EEJ fellow and her team aim to enable the waster collectors to acquire labour cards which in turn can support them in claiming entitlement to different government schemes. They also plan to focus on natural farming practices on the land that has been leased as well as encourage the consumption of fresh vegetables cultivated on the leased plot.

ii. Legal Fellowships

Socio-cultural and patriarchal norms act as barriers to ensuring equal access to justice for women and trans persons from disadvantaged communities. Through the Legal Fellowship Programme, SAWF IN aims to shift this persistent reality. Incorporating a feminist approach to lawyering, this one-of-a-kind legal fellowship aims to strengthen the legal capacities of women and trans lawyers practising in the country's district courts. By enhancing the fellows' understanding of feminist lawyering and deepening their skills in courtcraft, the programme capacitates a cohort of feminist lawyers to extend pro-bono legal support to marginalised women and trans persons seeking access to justice.



Fellows onboarded in 2021 and their Courts of practice:

- Bulia Pulu - Roing, Lower Dibang Valley District and Tezu, Lohit District Courts, Arunachal Pradesh
- Chethana V - Chennai and Kancheepuram District Courts, Tamil Nadu
- Shanchobeni Lotha - Wokha District Court, Nagaland
- Taniya Laskar - Cachar District Court, Assam

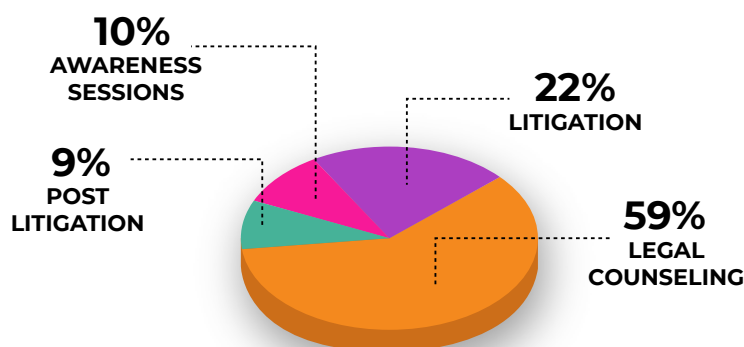


Figure 1: Types of support and engagements undertaken by the 4 legal fellows in 2022-23 (n=147)

Supporting the fellows in strengthening their lawyering skills

Based on the insights from the needs assessment conducted earlier in the year, 5 capacity building sessions were organized by SAWF IN for the fellows. These included sessions on Feminist Lawyering, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practices, using the Evidence Act substantively, developing a deeper understanding of the POSH Act, and ways to address challenges in advancing women's access to justice.

1

Session on "Feminist lawyering" conducted by Adv. Anubha Rastogi, practicing lawyer in Mumbai High court, on 19th Nov. 2023, attended by 8 fellows from current and previous cohort and 2 members from SAWF IN.

2

Session on "Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)" mechanism by Noorjahan Safia Niaz, co founder of Bhartiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) on 2nd Feb. 2023, attended by 6 fellows from current and previous cohorts and 5 members of SWAF IN

3

Session on "Most difficult cases handled and learnings, expert sharing on their experiences in addressing access to justice for women" facilitated by Adv. Nilanju Datta from North East network (NEN) during annual fellows' meet in Guwahati on 4th Mar. 2023.

4-5

2 sessions on "How to use the evidence Act more substantively" and "Deep diving in POSH Act" by Adv. Nandita Deka, practicing lawyer in Guwahati High court and district courts during annual fellows' meet on 5th Mar. 2023.



Curating spaces for reflection and learning

An in-person Legal Fellows' Meet was held in Guwahati, Assam on 4th–5th March 2023. The two-day event resulted in bridging the distance created by online screen time. It led to greater bonding among the fellows over candid chats about their professional struggles especially after the formal sessions of the day. Senior feminist lawyers shared their experiences on areas such as applying a feminist lens in lawyering, using the Evidence Act more substantively, the POSH Act, alternate dispute resolution mechanisms, and ways to create safe spaces for sharing challenges and struggles in handling the most difficult cases. Our fellows participated in an online regional meeting of feminist lawyers organised by a sister fund as part of building a regional network in South Asia. The opportunity to meet with fellows from different countries and contexts helped them discover the similarities in the challenges they face.



iii. Grants

SAWF IN believes that resourcing women-led, community-level actions for building women's access to justice is much needed. It strengthens grassroots organizing and builds leadership and capacities within communities of women, to solve their problems, through collective action. It is an essential strategy for strengthening feminist movement building.

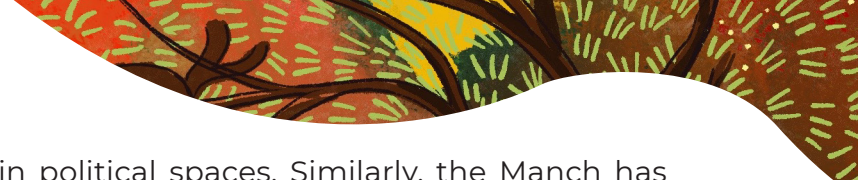
This past year, SAWF IN supported Diya Welfare Society (DWS), the only feminist organisation working in Chitrakoot Block of Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh, with a grant for strengthening her work on access to justice. The organisation has built a niche for itself, working to address violence against women and girls in the region with a feminist lens and providing counselling support, para-legal advice, and assisting survivors to interface with the police. Through their work, DWS is also interrogating widespread social inequalities arising from the intersectional axis of gender, caste, and ability.



Diya Welfare Society is reimagining the lives of women and girls through Diya Mahila Manch, a collective of more than 1,500 women. The Manch capacitates women and girls by building their awareness of ending violence against women and accessing justice.

Apart from taking an active role in intervening in cases of violence against women, one of the most significant outcomes of the Manch has been the increased participation of women in meetings of the Panchayat. Women are beginning to





understand the need to be active in political spaces. Similarly, the Manch has also aided and encouraged them in contesting social stereotypes around girls' education. The core group of para-legal workers have shared that it is very difficult for single women to voice their opinions against such issues but the sense of collective strength from other women has enabled single women to place their opinions on such matters.

“I feel secure when I am in the Diya Mahila Manch, I feel there are other women having similar issues like me and that they are there to support me when I need them.” - A 29-year-old woman, mother of five daughters and no sons, from Harsauli village.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The organisation worked on 65 cases of women and girls surviving domestic violence and gender based violence in the last year.

In the cases of women's right to choose a partner, the core team of DWS has worked with extreme sensitivity. They have effectively put forth their arguments in the community that not letting an individual choose a partner of their choice is an interference in a personal relationship; and that it constitutes a serious encroachment on the right to freedom of choice of two individuals. No individual, family, or other institution should object to a consensual relationship between two adults. This is a significant achievement because in a place like Chitrakoot, which is highly patriarchal and where the status of women and girls is very low, even initiating such a discussion is a bold step.

This past year, DWS has focused on strengthening the Kishori Samuhs (adolescent girls' groups) through which 130 girls have been mobilized in 5 villages. Through regular monthly discussions in the Kishori Samuhs, many cases of sexual violence faced by girls have come to light. The organisation has created a safe space where the girls can share their experiences, ask questions and be curious about different aspects of sexual and reproductive health.

Through regular stakeholder engagements, DWS has strengthened their rapport with etem actors such as Panchayat members, block level officials, the police, government health workers, etc. to create a supportive environment for women and girls. In the past year, they have met Panchayat Pradhans (Head of Local Self Governments) of the villages to raise their awareness about violence against women in the community and enhance their accountability, with an aim to build strong support systems at the village level for women and girls.

iv. Holding spaces for critical dialogues

SAWF IN recognises the need for holding critical spaces, specially for partners and like-minded organisations working in the space of equality and justice, to reflect on the change agenda of feminist organising and to ensure a consistent focus on gender transformative approaches. As a part of our ongoing accompaniment support, we design periodic, reflective spaces for partners and fellows, to bounce ideas, discuss challenges, and explore solutions collectively. This process deepens solidarity and also helps build a shared understanding of gender equality, feminist approaches, and leadership. Some of the ways we held critical spaces for dialogue and discussion included:



- Creating structured and periodic spaces for analysis and reflection - SAWF IN facilitated learning spaces under both the legal and EEJ fellowships, on a monthly basis, that provided a platform for peer-learning, sharing of challenges and progress. Such forums enhanced the understanding of each other's' contexts among the fellows and their shared journeys as entrepreneurs and lawyers.
- Mentorship under the EEJ Fellowship Programme - A set of guidelines was developed under the mentorship programme. STEP (Shakti the Empathy Project) which works on building the capacities of women entrepreneurs, including providing them mentoring support, was onboarded to conduct the mentorship sessions with the EEJ Fellows. Fortnightly sessions were held for a period of three months, to gauge the short-term and long-term goals of the fellows, priority setting, and discussing challenges and mitigation measures.
- Participatory annual reviews - An annual review process was designed to map the journey of fellows under the legal fellowship and EEJ fellowship programme. The review of the EEJ fellowship was carried out internally by SAWF IN and the review of the LFP was conducted by a senior lawyer. Using reflective and participatory tools, the fellows were supported to explore the process and outcomes of the fellowship, their accomplishments and challenges, and their outreach to other individuals and structures in their eco system. The legal fellows also examined how the fellowship has assisted them in building their capacities as women lawyers and ways in which it has deepened their connection with their profession. The review surfaced several insights on the growth of an entrepreneurial mindset among the EEJ fellows and on the many ways through which the legal fellows had established their presence in male dominated district court systems.
- Articulating the theory of change - As part of providing accompaniment support SAWF IN facilitated a workshop on programme designing and developing a theory of change, for DWS in Chitrakoot from 11th-14th December 2022. As a result of the workshop, DWS is aiming to institutionalize monitoring, evaluation and learning approaches, and strategizing on ways to deepen their engagement with key stakeholders to build awareness on gender equality.



Power Walk during a training conducted with DWS core team members in March 2023



Institutional strengthening

a. Strategic Visioning

Given its mandate of building a gender-responsive, just, and equitable resource architecture, SAWF IN sees a strategic role for itself to influence and transform the funding landscape. It aims to embed democratic perspectives, processes, and relationships that respond to the needs of feminist organisations.

SAWF IN's Strategic Plan 2022–2025 aims to guide the organisation for the next three years and lays out how it will leverage its position of leadership in the domain of feminist funding to realise its goal:

Facilitate resource justice by ensuring resources flow increasingly to strengthen feminist movement building and initiatives in India to change power structures that deny justice to women marginalised on various axes (caste, class, gender, religion, sexuality, ethnicity, age, disability, etc.)

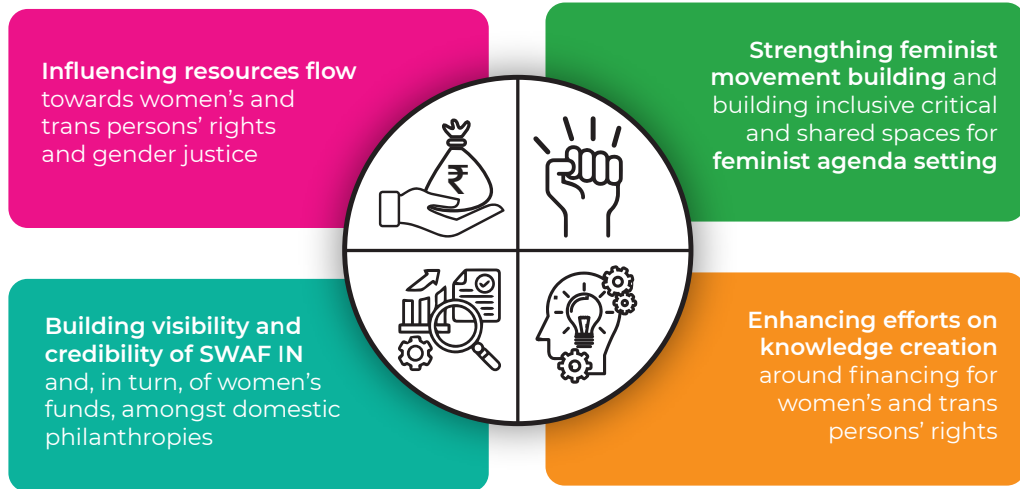
This Strategic Plan draws upon a repository of insights from: six years of SAWF IN's work at the global and South Asia level; internal and external consultative processes held over 6 months; and primary and secondary research undertaken by the organisation (November 2020 to June 2021) entitled, Staking Our Claim: Resourcing for A Feminist Agenda – Voices from the Ground. The Plan is anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly that of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. It refers to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as a transformative framework for gender equality, empowerment, and the full enjoyment of human rights. Finally, it is informed by an analysis of the context of feminist funding in India.

Some of the **key contextual factors** considered are:

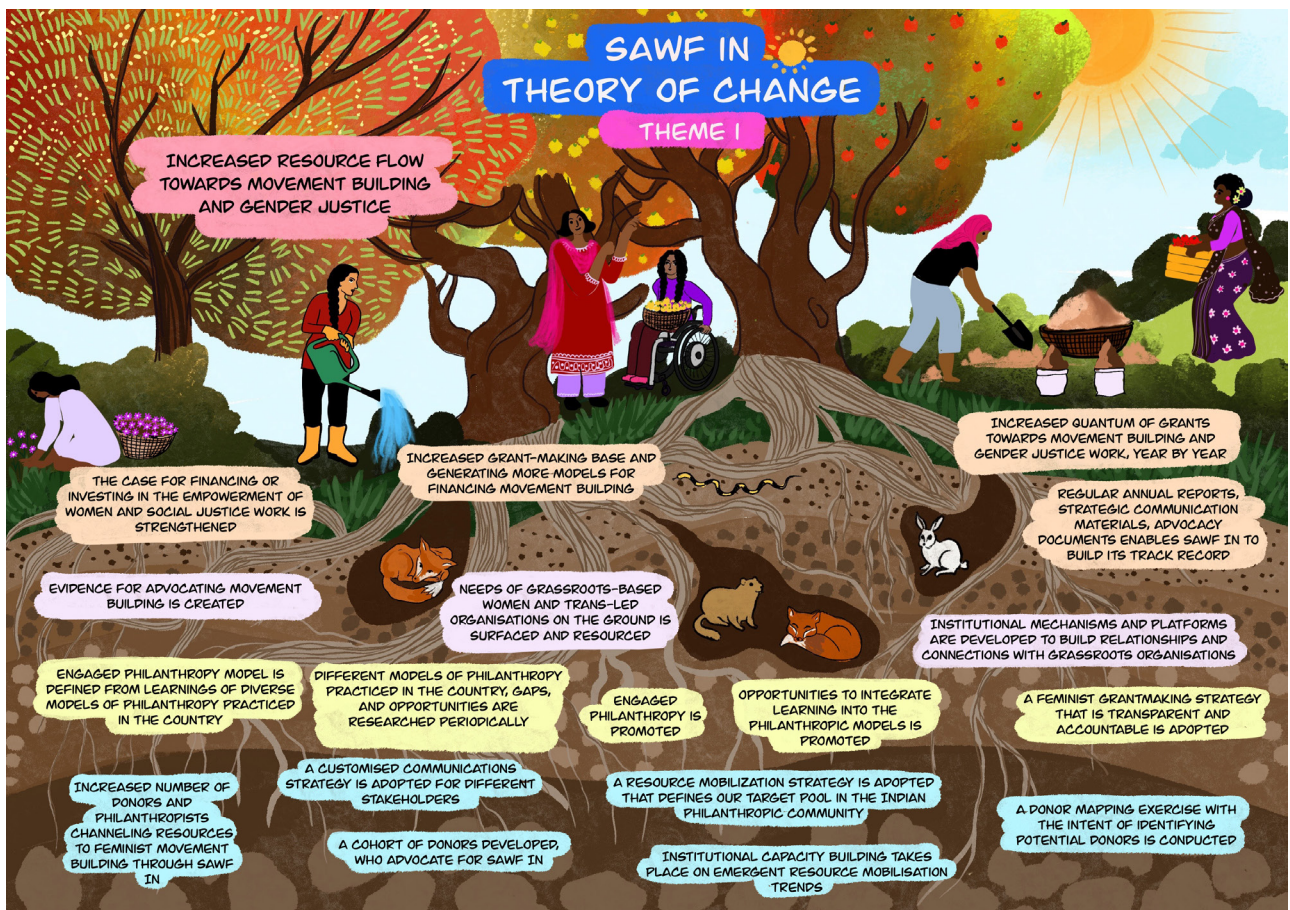
- The intersection of women's economic rights and autonomy with their experiences of violence in all spaces – private, public, worksites and online;
- The regulatory framework for civil society in India and changes it has seen in recent years;
- The political and cultural milieu and its stance on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment;
- The changing role of the State and private sector, particularly in allocating resources for gender equality domains;
- The progress and potential of digitisation; and
- The gendered impact of COVID-19, including the response and relief measures that overlooked the strategic need for transformative change.

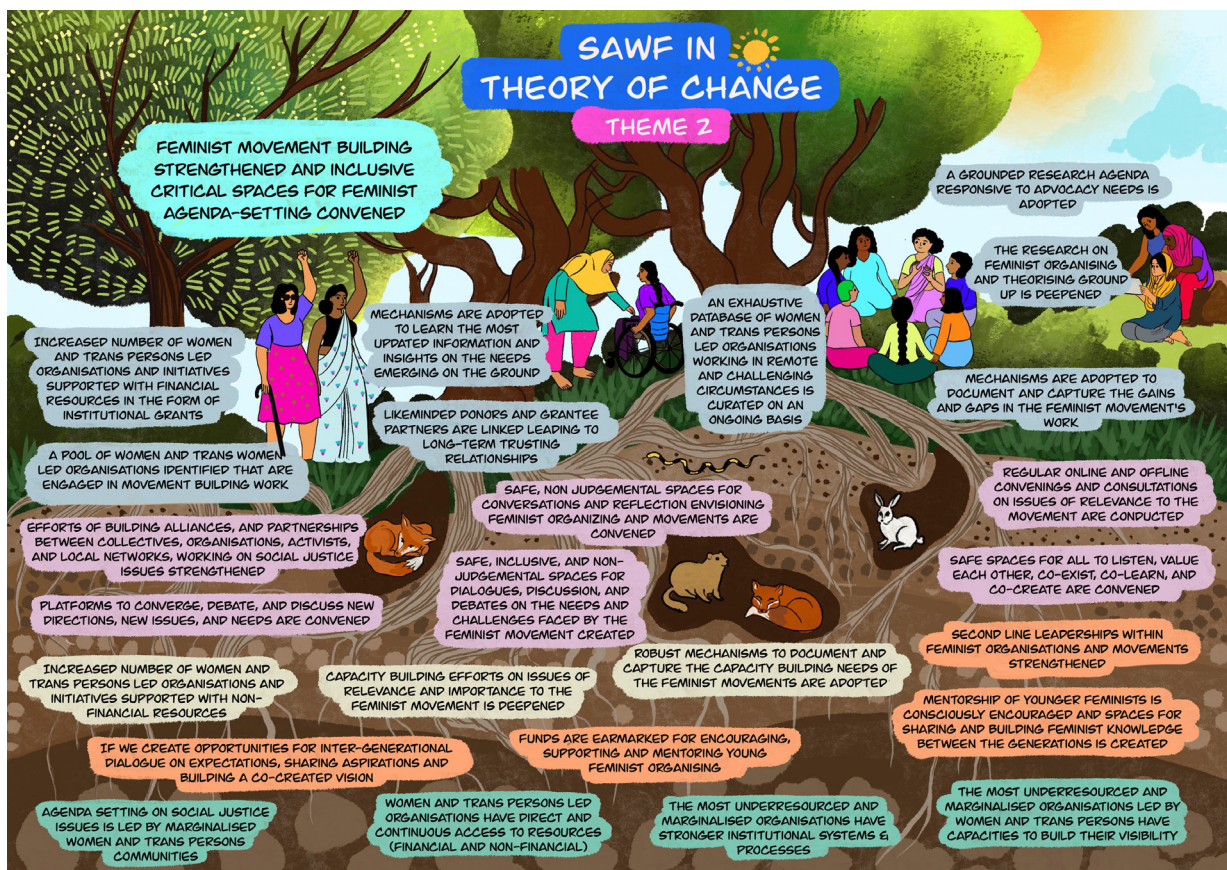


SAWF IN has identified strategic themes and goals for the next three years.



b. Our emerging Theory of Change






c. SAWF IN's visibility in forums

Building Visibility around Resourcing for A Feminist Agenda

- We presented insights of our study *Staking Our Claim: Resourcing For A Feminist Agenda* at the 30th Annual online Conference on “Transforming Global Governance for Social Justice: Feminist Economics and the Fight for Human Rights” organized by International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) held in June 2022.
- We were part of a virtual panel on Gender and Equity in evaluations at the Evaluation Conclave 2022 organized by Community of Evaluators held October 2022 in which we presented on *What will it take to resource feminist movement building more effectively?*
- At the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy (CSIP) Conference on Philanthropy and Giving in India held in April 2022, we presented about the importance of investing in feminist movement building and what it means to fund movement building at the grassroots.

SAWF IN's Board Member, Ms Suneeta Dhar, became the Programme Advisory Committee Member of Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), a regional non-profit women and young people's organization championing the cause of sexual and reproductive health and rights. She was an Expert Resource Person at the Courts of Women on Covid held on 21st January 2023 in Bengaluru, India. She chaired a panel discussion on *What Works for Prevention of Violence Against Women in India* in November 2022 organized by The EVAW Unit, UN Women, ICO in New Delhi.





SAWF IN's Board Member, Ms Tulika Srivastava joined the Board of Women Deliver as Vice Chair. Women Deliver is a leading global advocate that champions gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women.

SAWF IN is a member of the Prospera International Network of Women's Funds (prospera-inwf.org) that is a network of women's and feminist funds across the globe. The Honorary Executive Director of SAWF IN participated in the Prospera INWF XII Biennial in Oaxaca, Mexico in November, 2023, a platform dedicated for designing resourcing strategies for women, girls, non-binary, trans and intersex communities. SAWF IN members participated in the Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting of the Prospera Network, held in Kathmandu, Nepal in September, 2023.

d. Capacity Building

- SAWF IN's volunteers participated in expert sessions on movement building this past year, conducted by senior feminist activists like Chayanika Shah in May 2022 and Vandana Mahajan in December 2022.
- A reflective and experience sharing session was held in May 2022 by Rukmini Datta on understanding CSR in India's philanthropic landscape.
- SAWF IN volunteers indulged in self care sessions during the year including mindfulness practices and Mandala art.



BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings held in 2022-23

The Board met 4 times during FY 2022-23.

Date of Board Meetings	Number of Directors Present
1st June 2022	3
19th September 2022	4
13th January 2023	3
21st March 2023	3

The Annual General Meeting was held on 19th September 2022.

In the year 2022-23, there were no payments, consultancy charges, or salaries paid to the Directors of SAWF IN.

In the year 2022-23, there was no national or international travel undertaken by the Directors or staff members of SAWF IN.



OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

Leiner Shoes Private Limited

Microland Foundation

Priya Paul

Christian Dior Trading India Private Limited

Suneeta Dhar

Anuradha Rajan

Individual donors through Give India

Individual donors through Mumbai Marathon / United Way of Mumbai

Mumbai Marathon



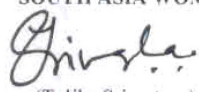
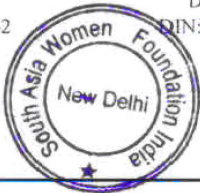
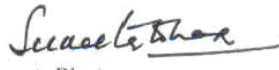
Five of SAWF IN's supporters participated in the Mumbai Marathon held on January 15, 2023. Participating in this event helped SAWF IN to create visibility and raise INR 68,278/- (Sixty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy-Eight only/-) through sale of the charity bibs. We are immensely thankful to all the runners and supporters who contributed to make our first participation in the Mumbai Marathon special.

A note of thanks

SAWF IN deeply thanks the support of individuals, institutions and companies who have contributed towards promoting our work on advancing the rights of women and trans* persons as well as their communities.



FINANCIALS

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023			
(Amount in Rs. Hundreds.)			
Particulars	Note No.	As at 31st March 2023	As at 31st March 2022
I. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
(1) Shareholder's Funds			
(a) Share Capital	3	30.00	30.00
(b) Reserves and Surplus	4	364.62	246.00
(c) Accumulated Fund		-	-
(2) Current Liabilities			
(a) Short-term borrowings		-	-
(b) Trade payables		-	-
(c) Other current liabilities	5	1,389.00	769.00
(d) Short-term provisions	6	488.56	120.62
Total		2,272.18	1,165.62
II. ASSETS			
(1) Non-current assets			
(a) Fixed assets			
(i) Tangible assets		-	-
(ii) Intangible assets		-	-
(2) Current assets			
(a) Cash and cash equivalents	7	2,272.18	1,165.62
(b) Short-term loans and advances		-	-
(c) Other current assets		-	-
Total		2,272.18	1,165.62
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		1 to 16	(0)
This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report of even date.			
For KUMAR MITTAL & CO. Chartered Accountants FRN:010500N  (Amrisha Gupta) Partner M. No. 090553 		By order of the Board for and on behalf of SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA  (Tulika Srivastava) Director DIN:08172862 	
Place: New Delhi Date: 13/9/2023		 (Suneeta Dhar) Director DIN:07147265	



SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

(Amount in Rs. Hundreds.)

Particulars	Note No.	For the year ended 31st March 2023	For the year ended 31st March 2022
Income:			
Grants to the extent utilized			
- Specific Grants		20,686.06	36,279.38
- CSR Grants		30,888.03	
General Donation		1,782.78	550.00
Total Income		53,356.87	36,829.38
Expenses:			
Programme Expenses	8	46,834.85	32,805.55
Depreciation and amortization expense		-	-
Financial Cost		-	-
Admin expenses	9	6,403.40	3,473.83
Total Expenses		53,238.25	36,279.38
Tax expense:			
Current Tax		-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) before exceptional and extraordinary items and tax		118.62	550.00
Exceptional Items		-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) before extraordinary items and tax		118.62	550.00
Surplus/ (Deficit) before tax		118.62	550.00
Deferred Tax		-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		118.62	550.00
Earning per equity share:			
Basic			
Diluted			

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 to 16

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report of even date.

For KUMAR MITTAL & CO.

Chartered Accountants

FRN:010500N

(Amrish Gupta)

(Amrish Gupta)

Partner

M. No. 090553



By order of the Board
for and on behalf of

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA

(Tulika Srivastava)

(Tulika Srivastava)

Director

DIN:08172862

(Suneeta Dhar)

(Suneeta Dhar)

Director

DIN:07147265

Place: New Delhi

Date: 13/9/2023



SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA
STATEMENT OF RECEIPT AND PAYMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

(Amount in Rs Hundreds.)

Particulars	Note No.	For the year ended 31st March 2023	For the year ended 31st March 2022
Opening Cash and Bank Balances:			
Cash at Bank		1,134.87	9,465.25
Cash in Hand		30.75	30.75
Sub Total		1,165.62	9,496.00
Receipts:			
Grants to the extent utilized			
- Specific Grants		20,854.00	27,220.00
- CSR Grants		31,088.03	
General Donation		1,782.78	550.00
Sub Total		53,724.81	27,770.00
Total (A)		54,890.43	37,266.00
Payments:			
Programme Expense :			
Sub Grants		5,600.00	3,650.00
Economic and Environmental Justice Fellowship programme		13,800.00	
Legal Fellowship programme		8,760.00	25,966.88
Payments to Advocates/ resource persons toward providing the free legal support to programme beneficiaries			
-Consultancy Expense		2,400.00	1,280.00
-Programme Travel		10,579.60	1,470.07
-Subscription Fee		364.62	318.60
Grant Making & Fellowship Expenses		2,939.31	
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning		611.32	
Honararium		1,470.00	
Sub Total		46,524.85	32,685.55
Admin Expense:			
Audit Fees		649.00	590.00
Administrative Expense		402.76	43.40
Board Meeting Expense		912.42	711.31
Staff Cost		3,300.00	1,668.33
Website maintainance		238.24	375.24
Resource Mobilisation		137.88	
Registration Fee		169.00	
Communication Expenses		284.10	26.55
Sub Total		6,093.40	3,414.83
Total (B)		52,618.25	36,100.38
Net Balance (A-B)		2,272.18	1,165.62
Represent By-			
Closing Cash and Bank Balances:			
Cash at Bank		2,241.43	1,134.87
Cash in Hand		30.75	30.75

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 to 16

For **KUMAR MITTAL & CO.**

Chartered Accountants

FRN:010500N

(Amrish Gupta)
 (Amrish Gupta)
 Partner

M. No. 090553



By order of the Board
 for and on behalf of

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA

(Tulika Srivastava)
 (Tulika Srivastava)

(Suneeta Dhar)
 (Suneeta Dhar)
 Director

DIN:08172862

(Suneeta Dhar)
 (Suneeta Dhar)

Director
 DIN:07147265



Place: New Delhi

Date: 13/9/2023



SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA
CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2023

(Amount in Rs Hundreds.)

Particulars	For the year ended 31st March 2023	For the year ended 31st March 2022
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Grant/ Donations	53,724.81	27,770.00
Less: Payments towards Operations	52,618.25	36,100.38
Net Cash used in Operating Activities (A)	1,106.56	(8,330.38)
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities (B)	-	-
Cash Flow from Financing Activities		
Proceeds from issue of Share Capital	-	-
Proceeds From General Donations	-	-
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities (C)	-	-
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents(A+B+C)	1,106.56	(8,330.38)
Cash and Cash Equivalent at the beginning of the year	1,165.62	9,496.00
Cash and Cash Equivalent at the end of the year (Cash & Bank Balance)	2,272.18	1,165.62

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 to 16

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report of even date.

For KUMAR MITTAL & CO.

Chartered Accountants
FRN:010500N

(Amrish Gupta)
(Amrish Gupta)
Partner
M. No. 090553



By order of the Board
for and on behalf of

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN FOUNDATION INDIA

(Tulika Srivastava)
(Tulika Srivastava)
Director
DIN:08172862

(Suneeta Dhar)
(Suneeta Dhar)
Director
DIN:07147265



Place: New Delhi

Date: 13/9/2023



Registration details

Registered under Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 vide CIN: U74140DL2015NPL284509

Registered under 80G and 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961

Registered under CSR-1 of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India for undertaking CSR activities (reg. no CSR00007446)

PAN no.: AAWCS6337H

Registered Address

2, Aurangzeb Lane, Delhi – 110011

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Mobile: +91 77381 53988

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Instagram



LinkedIn



