



**Women's  
Bank**

Finn Church Aid

Annual Report 2021

**Women  
working for  
change.**





# Impactful work towards equality

Women's Bank is a Finnish organisation  
that has raised

20.1 M€

in support of women since 2007.

In 15 years, Women's Bank has enabled

92,000

women to have an opportunity to earn a  
living and

460,000

children and other family members to gain  
a more secure life.

**COVER PHOTO:** With support from Women's Bank, Robinah Nakitende, 40, set up a vegetable and fruit shop in the Wakiso slum of Uganda's capital Kampala. "Work gives me peace of mind," says the mother of four.

PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN

**BACKGROUND PHOTO:** Anita Owaruhanga, a nurse living in a rural area in south-west Uganda, is building a larger clinic to replace the old one with support from Women's Bank. PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN



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# Women's Bank is our shared success story

“We create opportunities,  
but it is the women who  
make change happen.”

**IN 2007**, I travelled to Liberia, West Africa, with a group of Finnish women from diverse professional backgrounds to learn about the work of Finn Church Aid. While there, we met President **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**.

“You have seen poverty, misery and inequality,” she said to us, “but I want you to talk about hope.” And although the country was recovering from a painful civil war, hope was indeed burning brightly in the eyes of the people we encountered.

The women we met dreamed of being able to read and write, and to gain an occupation. They dreamed of starting their own business, forging a lasting peace and not having to be afraid. They also dreamed of women's networks that would lend them strength and support.

The women and their strong will to act made a powerful impression on us. Women's Bank was born out of a decision to team up with them to create lasting change.

Since then, we have been creating opportunities for women. We have helped them gain an occupation or start a business and change their lives for the better. Now we're seeing results in the 17 countries we've been working in. In 15 years, we have reached 92,000 women and helped 460,000 family members to live a more secure life.

Working women have a transformative impact on economies. Last year, women started thousands of new businesses. Read more on **pages 14–15**.

Families, too, are changing and becoming more equal. Madina Nabaggala's bakery in Uganda has grown into a family business, providing employment for her husband and teaching their children about work and entrepreneurship. Read their story on **pages 10–11**.

Women in our programme countries are now able to save more of their income per year than we are able to raise in Finland. And what's more, last year women's saving and loan groups and cooperatives accrued an impressive capital of more than 2 million euros.

For these reasons, Women's Bank is essentially a show of strength by every woman in Liberia, Uganda, Nepal, Myanmar and in all our programme countries. We create opportunities, but it is the women who make change happen.



PICTURE: PERKA HANINLA

We wish to thank every donor and volunteer who help to turn hope into reality. Women's Bank has grown into a popular movement, raising more than 20 million euros to help women gain an occupation and learn about running a business. Last year, our fundraising result was up a staggering 14 per cent from the previous year. In total, we raised 1.8 million euros to support the work of women.

So, when you hear about crises and misery around the world, we ask you to share a story of hope instead. Thanks to you, Women's Bank brings hope to tens of thousands of women across the globe. ●

**Anni Vepsäläinen**  
Chair of Steering Group



# Women's work pays off

**WOMEN'S BANK** was born out of a dream that we have since pursued persistently. Our work continues to be driven by a desire to create a more equal world.

We support vulnerable women and girls by helping them gain access to education and income opportunities because they have the right to choose their future.

Last year, we improved the position and livelihoods of nearly 32,000 people in seven countries and supported 131,000 family members to live a more secure life.

The Women's Bank's saving and loan groups and cooperatives once again offered women the opportunity to raise loans at below market prices and largely without collateral.

We evaluate the sustainability of our work according to the strictest possible criteria. We are proud that 85 per cent of the women we support today have a better livelihood.

In the face of global crises, we think women's work and their contribution to peacebuilding and solving the climate crisis are crucial. We also need women professionals in many fields.

Gender equality will improve the wellbeing of children, families and entire communities. ●

In 2021, **Women's Bank** has supported

**31,671**

people to improve their position and livelihoods.

**131,089**

family members to live a more secure life.

**3,588**

community members to access training sessions about women's rights.

## Women's savings and loans

Saving and loan groups

**559**

Cooperatives

**44**

Members in total

**26,546**

Capital in saving and loan groups and cooperatives

**2.06 M€**

Borrowers

**12,145**

Loans typical range

**35–400 €**

# Opportunities drive change

**A FEW YEARS AGO**, Daw Thein Kywe, 49, decided to join the Women's Bank Saving and Loan Group in her home village in Rakhine State on the west coast of Myanmar. It was a decision that changed her life.

Inspired by the saving and loan group, she began to set aside 3,000 Myanmar kyat (2 euros) a month, and her savings started to grow. Learning entrepreneurial and soap-making skills encouraged her to use her savings to start a soap business with the other women in her village.

For the first time in her life, she had access to regular income. But that wasn't the only thing that changed.

"I started to believe in myself and my abilities. And I wasn't the only one – other members of the women's group also felt they now had the courage to speak their mind and start their own businesses."

Now Daw Thein teaches soap-making and sales skills to other women's groups.

Most recently, having attended a training session on accounting, Daw Thein has become the auditor for the women's group and for her entire village development committee. ●



# A show of strength by our volunteers

**IN 2021**, Women's Bank achieved its third highest fundraising income in its 15-year history. This is nothing short of amazing considering that the Covid-19 pandemic particularly challenged our volunteers' fundraising efforts. But Women's Bank's local groups still managed to increase their fundraising contributions from the previous year.

Women's Bank Walk campaign raised more than 35,000 euros from June until the end of October. That will turn into more than a thousand jobs for women, and the same number of opportunities for better livelihoods for vulnerable women.

The campaign saw lively walking events taking place across Finland and abroad from as far north as Rovaniemi, Finland, to as far south as Rhodes, Greece, with Athens as this year's newcomer to our merry group of walkers.

Women's Bank Golf summer tournament events achieved their best result ever, raising a staggering 55,000 euros. Despite the pandemic, the golf tour was completed almost as planned, with the campaign bringing in nearly 30 per cent more donations than in the previous year.

This means that more than 1,800 women will gain an occupation and an opportunity to have a better life. The Women's Bank Open was played on 24 golf courses with around 1,100 players and more than 900 players participating in the sponsored on-course contests.

The Women's Bank Open has become a well-known event among Finnish golfers, attracting long-term collaboration with many clubs.

The tour is organised by Women's Bank's golfing volunteers who are committed to improving the position of women.

The Women's Bank Read tour also had another successful year, starting early in October 2020 in Helsinki and, due to the pandemic, not ending until November 2021 in Hämeenlinna.

But the Women's Bank Read tour also raised more donations and visited more places than ever before, generating 20,000 euros across 17 locations.

Local groups also achieved fantastic results, with Christmas bazaars especially attracting a large number of customers.

This great result for the whole year is a testament to the power of volunteering!

And we are always happy to welcome new volunteers to Women's Bank's teams. We offer many great opportunities to get involved, and our volunteers come from a huge range of backgrounds. For some of them, volunteering provides a great opportunity to use their



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professional skills to help build a more equal future.

Get involved through your local group or our national teams or campaign groups. Our nationwide teams include a group for young adults, Next Generation.

Find out more about our activities at [naistenpankki.fi/en/join-us](https://naistenpankki.fi/en/join-us). ●

**Text:**  
Kaisa Majava  
Co-chair of the management team



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1. Last year, Women's Bank Walk organised a yoga session before the walk in Tervasaari, Helsinki.  
PHOTO: MAIJA PARTANEN

2. The popular Women's Bank Golf campaign celebrated ten years of golfing for women's occupations.  
PHOTO: WOMEN'S BANK ARCHIVES

3. Minna Lindgren (left) was the author of Women's Bank Read, the literary tour promoting women's occupations. Reetta Meriläinen (right) is one of the campaign's leaders and a Women's Bank activist. PHOTO: LIISA KAPANEN

4. The Women's Bank volunteer management team and unit came together to plan activities for spending a fun summer's day together. PHOTO: MAIJA PARTANEN

In 2021  
**3,000**  
volunteers in more than 40 local groups across Finland.

“ We offer great opportunities to get involved, and our volunteers come from a range of backgrounds.”



# Results of Women's Bank's work in 2021

## Central African Republic

**1,377** women benefitted from our work.

**THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** is a politically unstable country where violence keeps disrupting the daily lives of ordinary people. Launched in 2018, our project to empower women in the Bozoum area ended in 2021. We strengthened women's financial independence and participation in peacebuilding with a focus on supporting particularly vulnerable women, such as single parents, older people and people with disabilities. We offered training in subjects such as farming, business and literacy skills, and supported women in starting small businesses. ●

**397** members in 38 saving and loan groups.

**570** women attended entrepreneurship training.

**45** women's agricultural cooperatives or joint ventures.

## Uganda

**10,516** women benefitted from our work.

**UGANDA** is Africa's largest refugee-hosting country with more than a million refugees, most of them women and children. We support women's entrepreneurship in refugee settlements, in the slums of the capital Kampala and in Mityana, where we run a chicken farm as a social enterprise. Our saving and loan activities and vocational skills training enable thousands of women to earn a living. Last year, we set up new 11 women's saving and loan groups in connection with the chicken farm. Women's monthly savings immediately hit record highs of up to 35 euros a month. We have been working in Uganda since our establishment in 2007. ●

**10,588** members in 398 saving and loan groups.

**343,511** euros in capital for the groups.

**1,926** businesses.

## Jordan

**195** women benefitted from our work.

**JORDAN** is the second largest refugee-hosting country per capita in the world. Finding employment is particularly difficult for young women, mainly due to cultural practices and Jordan's weak economy. Women's Bank's work in Jordan began in 2019 and ended last year. We supported both Jordanian women and Syrian refugee women in starting their own businesses. In total, we offered entrepreneurship training to 195 women. Women have set up 41 businesses in the food, beauty and clothing sectors. ●

**107** euro average increase in women's monthly earnings.

**92** women received start-up financing and entrepreneurship training.

**986** family members have a more secure life.

## Nepal

**10,066** women benefitted from our work.

**LAST YEAR**, Nepal suffered from heavy monsoon rains and the Covid-19 pandemic. Strong cooperative funds in particular served as a buffer for women's livelihoods. In the Sindhul region, women's income levels have risen by almost 10% and no family is dependent on external aid anymore. In Lalitpur, women's monthly savings in the cooperative fund more than doubled in the two years of the pandemic to nearly seven euros. The results indicate that long-term work to improve women's livelihoods creates sustainable structures. We have been working in Nepal since 2008. ●

**7,730** members in 20 cooperatives

**115,882** euros in capital for cooperatives.

**631** companies, 176 of which were founded last year.

## Myanmar

**1,611** women benefitted from our work.

**MYANMAR'S** countryside is very poor and its society is highly unstable. Last year, a military coup further complicated the situation. Still, our activities continued in Rakhine and Kayin states. Due to the circumstances, we trained local volunteers remotely to hold entrepreneurial, marketing and vocational skills training sessions for women. Women's saving and loan groups and joint ventures we supported were again instrumental in ensuring women's livelihoods. Women also took a more active role in local decision-making bodies, reflecting their improved status in society. ●

**1,173** members in 83 saving and loan groups.

**588** women participated in entrepreneurship and vocational training.

**116** new businesses were created.

## Kenya

**170** women benefitted from our work.

**IN KENYA'S** capital, Nairobi, we launched a new project focusing on the circular economy, which got off the ground in late 2021. Its aim is to provide employment and business opportunities for women living in the slums. We focus on waste collection, recycling and reuse. When we provided women with training in plastics sorting, their income from a kilogram of plastic increased from 17 cents to 20 cents in three months. ●

## Cambodia

**7,692** women benefitted from our work.

**CAMBODIA** is one of the countries most affected by climate change in the world. In poor rural regions, people rely on agriculture for their livelihoods but one flood or drought can wipe out everything. We support women's access to permanent livelihoods, particularly through saving and loan groups and cooperatives. We train women in the use of climate-resistant farming techniques and crop varieties. We also offer vocational education and training to young people. We have been operating in Cambodia since our inception in 2007. ●

**5,545** members in 17 agricultural cooperatives.

**45** young women enrolled in vocational education.

**292** women received training in climate-resistant farming methods.



# Madina’s family bake their way out of Kampala slums

**CLAY PATHS** crisscross a densely built area of low-rise housing and market stalls. Walking on the streets of the Ugandan capital Kampala, our feet raise clouds of red dust and acrid smoke from burning rubbish irritates the throat.

Some boda boda motorcycle taxis fly past us, but most people walk because it's the cheapest and easiest way to get around. Life is tough for nearly half of Kampala's 3.5 million residents who live in the unofficial settlements on the outskirts of the city.

In the Kawempe slum we head towards a house whose front yard catches the eye for being so neat and tidy. A shyly smiling woman steps out and spreads a flowery cloth on the porch. We are then surrounded by a lively group of children and young people chatting and laughing. Each seems to be working on some task or another. They are followed by a man who welcomes us with open arms.

It is time to meet the family of champion baker Madina Nabaggala, a member of a women's group supported by Women's Bank and its partner organisation Development and Relief Initiative.

## Madina Nabaggala, 43

**“A FEW YEARS AGO**, I heard about the women's savings and loan group which Women's Bank had set up in the area to help women earn their own living. I went along and became the group's chair.

First, we started a joint soap company, which provided us all with an income. At the same time, we studied accounting and saving and were given the opportunity to raise small loans to start our own businesses. At weekly meetings, we learned many professional and business skills. I've always loved baking, so I wanted to learn how to do it better.

I baked my first big cake for my husband's birthday party. It was a vanilla cake, and all our guests loved it. I started getting customers, and now we are selling up to four cakes a week. One cake costs 35,000 shillings (7.50 euros). We are not short of anything anymore, and I've been able to buy clothes and blankets for the kids.

I think it's very important for a woman to have her own livelihood because she can then take care of her children and decide for herself how to spend the money. This work has made me independent.”



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1. “I’m saving up to get an oven because it is challenging to bake on a charcoal grill,” says Madina Nabaggala. With her income, Madina has been able to pay for the vocational training of her daughter Hairat Nabatanzi (left). PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN

2. Helping her mother to run a bakery taught Hairat Nabatanzi how to set up her own small business. PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN

3. “I’ve started doing housework that used to be my wife’s job. For example, I cook and inspire other men in our neighbourhood to do the same,” says Hassan Katende. PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN

## Hairat Nabatanzi, 18

**“WORDS AREN’T ENOUGH** to describe how proud I am of my mother. She works hard, and I’ve learned a lot from her about running a business.

I’ve started my own little business, too. I make and sell pumpkin flour, especially for baby food. My own income makes me feel like a queen! I’ve been able to buy myself a mobile phone and help my family.

I am not spending all my money but saving and investing some, for example to buy more ingredients. I sell flour during the week, but at weekends I organise events.

My mother raised a loan from the women's group so I could attend event organiser training. My studies took a year, and I learned things like how to make decorations.

Now, in addition to selling cakes, we can also offer party decorations! It feels really great.

I think I have inherited my resourcefulness from my mother.”

## Hassan Katende, 49

**“AT FIRST**, I had no faith in these women's businesses. Every now and then, someone promises to empower women, but nothing happens. This place is a slum, and in the end we always get left out of everything.

Then I saw my wife's bakery start making money. We were able to eat three meals a day and live more comfortably. At the end of the first year, Madina was allowed to withdraw all her savings and she bought us pans and a fridge-freezer and paid for the children's schooling.

Now I'm helping my wife to bake cakes. And it has been great to see how we have become closer as a family. I've started doing housework that used to be my wife's job. For example, I cook and inspire other men in our neighbourhood to do the same.

The women's group is the best thing that ever happened to us! It has taught me how to work, too. We're always finding new ways to generate income. For example, we have started selling popsicles made in the freezer.

I've managed to save for a new motorcycle, so now I can offer taxi rides. We also teach saving and financial skills to our children. They have their own box for saving money every week.

I'm so grateful you didn't just come and give us money, you offered us information. I just wish men had their own savings and loan group.” ●

Text: Eija Wallenius



# Work brings security and hope to women

Finn Church Aid workers involved in Women’s Bank projects describe how they support women to earn a living and how important this work is to women.



Women's Bank Program Officer Florah Tumwebaze is delighted that more and more women are earning their own living. PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN



Women's Bank Program Officer Susan Awandu (in the middle) spoke to women at a waste management centre in Nairobi. PHOTO: ELIZABETH ORIEDI



“Women should have a greater say in their own lives,” says literacy teacher Damaris Sarape (left). PHOTO: FREDRIK LERNERYD

## Uganda

Earning an income helped many women in our projects send their children back to school when they reopened. The rise in living standards is also reflected in families being able to buy consumer goods such as a television or radio for their home. Women are also better able to keep track of the income and expenses of their families and businesses. The attitudes of a patriarchal society and the concentration of power among men make it difficult for women to participate, act independently and have the right to use the money they earn. We provide training for men to better understand the importance of women's paid work and income, both for the women themselves and the whole family.

Florah Tumwebaze, Program Officer

## Kenya

In our country, it's largely men who work in waste management and the circular economy, not least because such jobs are often very heavy. We create suitable jobs for women, for example for sorting waste materials and using the machines in waste management centres, and we train women for these tasks.

Susan Awandu, Program Officer

” Through education, women have become more financially independent and aware of their own rights.”

Florah Tumwebaze, Program Officer, Uganda

## Central African Republic

Last year, women who earned a living could contribute to the cost of building a new home, send their children to school and pay for health care. Earning an income also made a difference to women's mental state. Women were able to take on a bigger role in their families and feel important in their own communities. Our training sessions have again helped reduce illiteracy in the communities.

Marcel Damba, Country Director

## Jordan

Last year, women learned to use social media to market their businesses. However, there is a severe shortage of affordable IT services that women need for their businesses. A new project for us was to support women entrepreneurs’ cooperation with bazaars to increase their income.

Bashar Badran, Project Manager



Sanaa Abu Hassan (in the middle), mother of three, has set up a photo and print service. PHOTO: OSAMA NABEEL



Jayanti Devi earns her living from farming. PHOTO: PRASHANT BUDHATHOK



Sok Linny is involved in a women's agricultural cooperative and raises chickens. PHOTO: JENNA SOIKKELI



Daw Tin Tin Win is a member of women's saving and loan group. PHOTO: ARKHEE, MATCHLESS PRODUCTION

## Nepal

We have provided vocational and business training for the most vulnerable women and have seen what a difference it has made. Education has helped women, whose lives were previously limited to housekeeping and farming, become more financially independent and aware of their own rights. They have started to make decisions for their households and have been able to access public services.

Subarna Pandey, Program Officer

## Cambodia

Women have learned new climate-resilient cultivation methods and managed to get better harvests. They also cultivate a more varied range of vegetables, giving the family more nutritious food. Even though there have been both droughts and heavy rains in our area, the women have been happy about their increased incomes.

Makara Vong, Program Manager

## Myanmar

The Covid-19 pandemic and a military coup hampered our operations last year. Travel restrictions made it difficult for many women to work and earn enough income. There was little demand for agricultural products and prices were half of what they are normally. Because of these challenges, our support for women was especially important. With our support, women have set up a wide range of businesses. For example, they make shampoo, soap and sandals or sell cashew nuts, rice and fermented bamboo.

Lin Min Aung, Programme Coordinator



# Empowerment through business

**HOME CONTINUES** to be the main workplace for a large number of women in developing countries. While women are primarily responsible for cooking and caring for the family, some of them are able to create opportunities to earn some extra income.

Most women start up a small business to gain financial security, with no greater ambition. Women's businesses are typically run from home, they do not require major investment, and are based on traditional skills that are in demand in the community.

Businesses often start from humble beginnings: a small shop, flour mill, bakery or small-scale crop processing. Joint ventures and collectives with other women also provide a safe way to build up business experience.

Studies show that women entrepreneurs tend to avoid risk. They prefer to keep things small and earn a secure income that will provide stability for their families. Small businesses run by women are vital for keeping the family finances in balance.

For those women who are eager to grow their businesses, lack of finance often becomes a barrier.

With help from Women's Bank, **Naome Nabaggala**, 52, was able to overcome those barriers and build a successful business. Living in the slums of Uganda's capital Kampala, Naome used to sell bricks to make a meagre living. After joining the Women's Bank Saving and Loan Group, she gained business skills and learned how to save and invest.

Now, a few years later, Naome runs a successful general store with an in-store bakery and newly-built commercial premises which she rents out. And that's not all – she also raises chicken.

"It's all thanks to loans I can raise in the women's group," Naome explains.

With her income, she is able to support her 13 family members and still save money.

"Being able to make my loan repayments makes me feel great, every time! I am a strong and independent woman," Naome says, beaming.

Women's Bank saving and loan groups and cooperatives have given women much-needed latitude in times of crisis. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the cooperatives and groups attracted new members, borrowing picked up, and – somewhat surprisingly, savings increased.

Savings activity shows that women are skilled in managing their finances proactively and in earning a steady income.

The coronavirus pandemic also showed that women can flexibly switch from one business sector to another. Women are quick to apply

their entrepreneurial skills to try out new ideas.

Working women have a far-reaching impact on society. Contributing to the family's finances gives women more decision-making power within the family and creates role models for future generations. Women entrepreneurs have acquired many skills, earning the respect of their communities and building networks outside the home, all of which provide them with economic and social opportunities.

Naome Nabaggala is a case in point. She has joined a regional health team and is now responsible for women's and children's health in the region.

"I distribute free malaria medications and other basic health supplies," she says.

Women's participation ensures that societies can use their full potential to pursue progress. Giving everyone an opportunity is the key to betterment. ●

Text: Ulla Sarasalmi and Eija Wallenius



"At first I was worried that no one would come to my store. But customers came! I learned to listen to them, and stocked my store with items they asked for and needed," says Naome Nabaggala, who started a general store a few years ago with Women's Bank's support. PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN

In 2021,  
**Women's Bank** helped

**8,622**

women to participate in business training.

**2,847**

businesses or entrepreneurs to access other development services.

**85%**

of women to earn a better living.



# Helping girls and women in the climate crisis

**WHAT DO DRIP IRRIGATION,** recycling and black soldier flies have in common? They are all part of the efforts promoted by Women's Bank to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

In Cambodia, we train women to cultivate climate-friendly crops and use water-saving irrigation methods.

In Kenya, women learn to make money with recycled materials and tackle environmental issues affecting the urban slums.

In Nepal, we are testing the production of black soldier fly larvae for animal feed. Every Women's Bank project promotes practices that protect the climate and the environment.

In crises, innovative solutions are called for everywhere.

The climate crisis threatens the rights of girls and women in many ways because women represent the majority of those living in extreme poverty, most of them in rural areas.

"People living in poverty don't have the opportunity to adapt to change. They are also usually heavily dependent on natural resources, says Finn Church Aid's climate expert Aly Cabrera.

Climate change is increasing the amount of work women and girls are expected to perform when chores such as carrying water and cooking take more time. Women already perform three times as much unpaid work as men.

That is time away from studying and paid work which tend to improve a person's social status. Poverty also drives families to accept child marriages for their daughters.

But it is girls and women who are needed to resolve the crisis. They are the experts of their own circumstances, and we need their contribution to come up with sustainable solutions for the world's problems.

How can we make the voices of girls and women heard?

Education is crucial as it opens up opportunities to change the direction of one's life and, ultimately, that of society. However, girls continue to have less access to education than boys globally. In sub-Saharan Africa one in four young women cannot read.

Women's Bank supports the most vulnerable girls with vocational education and training scholarships. In recent years, we have promoted women's literacy education in the Central African Republic. However, women's education plays a key role in every project we undertake.

This work is paying off. Thanks to our climate-friendly farming training, women have not only increased their crop volumes, but also diversified their families' diets.

We have witnessed how the position of women in families and societies has improved, especially through work and skills.

Women who have gained an occupation have not only broken through the glass ceiling at work, but, as their self-confidence has grown, have also become involved in local politics, enabling them to address environmental issues and influence decision-making.

This change in the position of women will have a direct impact on the prospects of the next generation.

"Girls have new role models in their mothers who work in gainful employment and believe in their chances of success," says Ulla Sarasalmi, Finn Church Aid's Senior Livelihoods Adviser.

Together, girls and women are changing the world. ●

Text:  
Elja Wallenius

In 2021

722

women participated in climate change training.

## Women's Bank

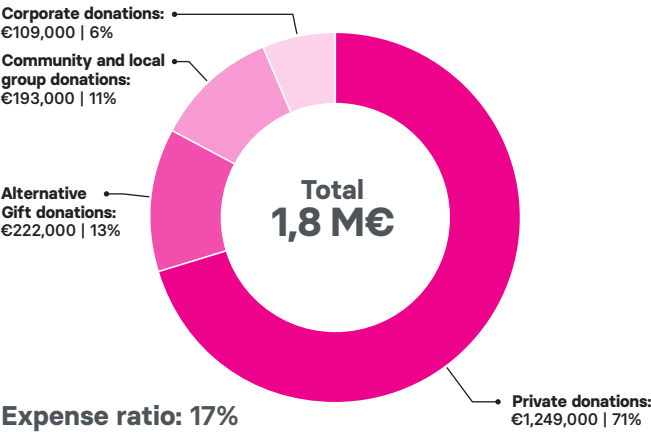
1. Enables girls' access to education.
2. Improves women's skills.
3. Empowers girls and women.

Yabengue Carole is the leader of the Lakanza women's group in the Bozoum region of the Central African Republic. Women in the region rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. PHOTO: PATRICK MEINHARDT



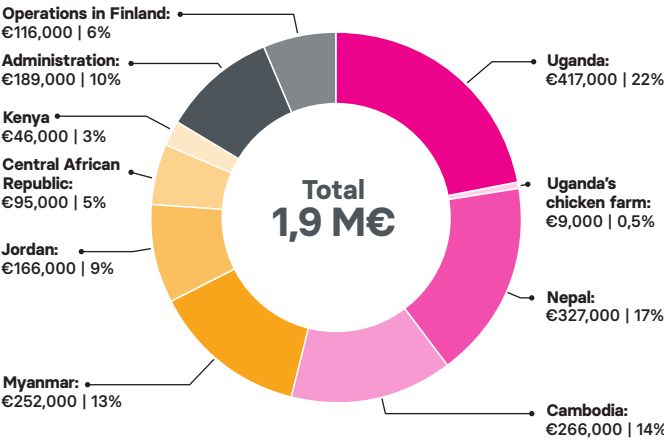
# Financial year 2021

## Fundraising expenses 2021



**WOMEN'S BANK** fundraising income was up 14 per cent from the previous year to 1.8 million euros. In 2021, 83 cents of every euro donated was spent on our work worldwide. Only 17 cents were spent on administrative and operational expenses.

## Operating costs 2021



Women's Bank operates entirely with donated funds. We rely on private charitable giving, especially our 3,500 monthly donors who guarantee the continuity of our work. ●



Mother of Hillary Katende, 9, and Nakaweice Joweria, under 1, runs a small bakery that provides for the whole family. Read their story on pages 10–11. PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN.

# Supporting women's work since 2007.

2007

**WOMEN'S BANK** is established on 24 May. The first village bank project kicks off in Cambodia. In the same year, a project to support women entrepreneurs begins in Ethiopia and a project to help HIV positive women is launched in Uganda.

2009

**CELEBRATING** the first million raised by Women's Bank supporters. Thanks to our donors, Women's Bank can help more women gain an occupation and earn a living.

2012

**OUR VOLUNTEERS** win the Outstanding Volunteer category of the Global Fundraising Awards. Today we have over 3,000 volunteers working in 42 local groups in Finland, Germany, Croatia and Spain.

2016

**SKILLS DONATION** programme is launched, leveraging the knowledge and skills of Finnish professionals in our projects. Kirsi Itkonen is our first volunteer to visit Nepal to evaluate and support the establishment of cooperatives.

2017

**WE CELEBRATE OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY** with pride and joy, having raised a whopping 10 million in support of women. We have supported women in Liberia, Peru, Sierra Leone, Angola, Haiti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, Nepal, Palestine, Guatemala, Myanmar, Central African Republic and Jordan.

2019

**OUR FIRST SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**, the Chiggi chicken farm, is established in Uganda, providing work and livelihoods for local women.

2022

**AT 15 YEARS** we are going stronger than ever, having raised 20 million euros in total. Thanks to our supporters, 92,000 women have been offered employment opportunities, giving them more influence over their own lives and helping 460,000 children and other family members to gain a more secure life. Thank you for helping to make change happen.

Naume Kyomuhendo is the chairperson of the Mukole Amaan Women's Saving and Loan Group in the Kamwenge region of south-west Uganda. PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN





# Take action for equality

**ESTABLISHED IN 2007** in Finland, Women's Bank supports the vocational training, entrepreneurship and equal rights of women in Africa and Asia.

All Women's Bank's programmes are executed by Finn Church Aid, the largest international aid organisation in Finland. We are a politically and religiously non-aligned organisation.

Our support has directly reached 92,000 women in 17 countries, which has enabled 460,000 family members to live a more secure life.

Our work is made possible by a large number of donors, volunteers, companies and partners. We share a common interest in creating a more equal future, one step at a time. You are most welcome to join Women's Bank's volunteers. Every action counts. Donate now.

## Support women

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### Women's Bank account numbers

**Nordea:** FI63 1745 3000 1321 02

**OP:** FI47 5789 5420 0246 76

## Thank you

Together, we can change the world.

## Customer service

**Women's Bank / Finn Church Aid**

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