



**Women's
Bank**
Finn Church Aid

Women's Bank work and results

Impactful work towards equality

Women's Bank is a Finnish organisation that has raised

25,2 M€

in funds to improve the position of women since 2007.

Women's Bank has enabled a total of

94 000

women to acquire vocational and entrepreneurial skills.

Of the women supported by **Women's Bank**

90 %

have gained a better livelihood.

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Nurse **Anita Owaruhanga**, 32, runs her own clinic in south-western Uganda

with support from Women's Bank.

PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN



Action turns hope into reality

WOMEN'S BANK'S work continues to be hugely impactful. In 2023 alone we supported nearly 14,000 women in five countries. Including family and other community members, more than 76,500 people benefitted from our work. Thank you to each and every one of our supporters!

Together we create opportunities for women in developing countries to earn their own living. Employment brings security, stability and hope. It also strengthens women's abilities to have a broader impact on society.

In many of the saving and loan groups, cooperatives and entrepreneur networks we support, women also support each other. As women succeed on their journey, they help to build the success of those that follow, creating a sustainable, positive cycle.

Women's Bank work relies entirely on donated funds, and we are proud that Finns have chosen us to support women globally. In 2023 we raised a whopping 3.4 million euros.

Nearly 85 percent of those funds were channelled directly to our ongoing aid work with a minority used for essential administrative and fundraising expenses. This guarantees the reliability and continuity of our work.

A warm thank you goes to our donors, volunteers, employees at Finn Church Aid and its partner organisations, as well as all the incredible, tenacious women whose livelihoods we strive to guarantee.

Hope and joy are among the key values of Women's Bank. We believe that action turns hope into reality.

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**We are proud
that Finns have chosen us
to support women globally.**

Whilst the reasons for joy can appear mundane, they are also fundamental and profound: children can go to school, families eat healthy food or an entrepreneur is able to make a new investment in her business.

This is when the future looks hopeful!

The power of our unique network comes from each of us, from the joy of working together, ingenuity and tenacity.

We hope you enjoy reading about the results of our work.

Saara Lehmuskoski
Chair of the
Steering Team



PHOTO: VILLE MAALI

Employment empowers women

WE CREATE opportunities for women to earn a living and start a business in African and Asian countries. We offer vocational training and versatile support for entrepreneurship as well as provide information about women's rights and opportunities to make a difference.

As a result of our work, women's financial position has improved and their decision-making power in families and communities has increased. By supporting Women's Bank, you help us build a more equitable and sustainable world. ●

In 2023, support provided by **Women's Bank** enabled



13,900

women to improve their position and livelihoods.



62,600

family and community members to benefit from the work.



6,801

women to take part in vocational skills and entrepreneurship training.



9,049

women to take out a loan to improve their livelihoods.

PHOTO: ANTTI YRJÖNEN



The winds of change are blowing

NIRMALA DHAMI, 27, has been watching the slow destruction caused by the climate crisis in the westernmost corner of Nepal with concern. The snow line on the mountains has receded and the water supply has become uncertain.

That is bad news for families who depend on agriculture. Growing vitally important wheat and corn is no longer possible.

With support from Women's Bank, Nirmala is switching to more successful crops, such as potatoes, onions and chilies. However, her goal is to also learn a completely new occupation and become a seamstress!

– Our daughter is now in kindergarten and I hope that with the additional income we can send her to a good school, Nirmala says.

She is part of a women's group where women learn vocational skills and contribute to a joint fund, from which each of them can take out a loan to start a business.

Information about gender based violence, women's fundamental rights and equality is also shared in the group. This is necessary because the position of women is weak in the country.

The winds of change are blowing.

– It is important for women to get out from within the four walls of their homes and to have the opportunity to act as part of the community and influence their own livelihoods, Nirmala says. ●

Results of the work of Women’s Bank in 2023

Women’s saving and loan groups
and cooperatives raised

2 M€

in capital.

The average loan taken by each woman was

57 euros

for business development.

We provided

8,157 entrepreneurs

support to develop their businesses

Businesses established by women employed

1,920 women.

1,191 women

received training in climate
and environmental skills.



“Now, my children have
enough food and a decent
roof over their heads”,
says Irene Namagala,
49, from Uganda.
PHOTO: HUGH RUTHERFORD

How your donation supports women

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, women can gain an occupation, start businesses and form networks. In addition, you will be supporting women in adapting to climate change and acting against gender-based violence. ●



Support women's work.

- Text **NAISELLE30** to **16499** to donate 30 euros
(Finnish mobile operators only)
- Donate via MobilePay to **41109**
(Finnish mobile operators only)
- Donate online at naistenpankki.fi/en/donate
- By bank transfer to **Women's Bank:**
OP FI47 5789 5420 0246 76

Contact us:

020 787 1201 naistenpankki@kua.fi

Follow us on social media:



Thank you 



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I think that we should each do what we can. The result is always greater than the sum of its parts when we work together.

Kaisa Viljanen
Women's Bank volunteer



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The world needs the wisdom of women. By supporting women's livelihoods, we create a better future for our children and the environment.

Oskari Salmi
Women's Bank donor

Money collection permit RA/2019/723, valid 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2024 in Finland (except in the Åland Islands), issued by the National Police Board of Finland.

Money collection permit ÅLR 2023/6499, valid 1 January to 31 December 2024 in the Åland Islands, issued by the Government of Åland.

COVER: Sylvia Namugenyi, 32, from Uganda set up a shop and a hair salon with support from Women's Bank, which now guarantee her family's livelihood and her children's schooling. **PHOTO:** HUGH RUTHERFORD

Read Sylvia's story online, scan the QR-code.

