



WAVE FOUNDATION

DECEMBER 31ST, 2024

Monthly Newsletter

Dear Friend,

As we reflect on the year 2024, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the incredible strides we've made together in the advocacy for women empowerment. With your unwavering support, 2024 has been our most impactful year yet!

Your generosity has allowed us to educate more communities about FGM/C in Nigeria, host empowering webinars, attend in-person global events—including the United Nations Civil Society Conference, the first hosted in the Global South at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya ([UN Press Release](#)).

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Our leadership in the Exhibits Subcommittee played a key role in planning and showcasing initiatives that foster global collaboration, making the conference a success. This historic event highlighted our dedication to advancing sustainable development and strengthening international partnerships. But this is just the beginning—there is so much more work to be done.



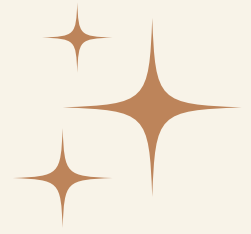
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What We Accomplished in 2024



With your support, we've achieved incredible milestones this year, including:

RAISING AWARENESS

- Partnered with NTA International to produce FGM-awareness jingles in Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, and English, reaching over 200 million Nigerians.
- Created and aired a powerful documentary on the health and economic implications of FGM, sensitizing communities across Nigeria.
- Organized webinars on diverse topics, including women's participation in politics, empowerment, climate action, and social justice, fostering dialogue and education globally.

- Leveraged social media platforms to raise awareness, share impactful stories, and engage audiences on issues related to gender, development, and advocacy.
- Participated in the Annual Walk to End FGM in Washington, DC, raising awareness and fostering solidarity.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

- **January:** Participated in person at the Town Hall Meeting with the President of the General Assembly at the United Nations in New York.
- **February:** Engaged actively in person at the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum at the UN in New York.
- **March:** 3 members of WAVE Africa attended the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN in New York in person.
- **April:** Participated in person at the 4th Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution in Ottawa, Canada.
- **May:** In May 2024, we proudly played a pivotal role in the United Nations Civil Society Conference, hosted for the first time in the Global South at the UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya ([United Nations Press Release](#))

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MOVEMENT BUILDING CONT'D

Our leadership in the Exhibits Subcommittee was instrumental in the planning and execution of the conference's exhibits, which highlighted diverse civil society initiatives from around the world. This effort significantly contributed to the success of the conference, fostering a vibrant environment for knowledge-sharing and collaboration.

As a historic platform for civil society organizations, the conference enabled global dialogues on pressing issues, reinforcing our commitment to fostering international partnerships and advancing sustainable development goals.

- **July:** Co-organized a virtual side event during the High-Level Political Forum with Do the Dream Initiative, featuring prominent speakers.
- **September:** Participated actively in person at the Action Days and the Summit of the Future at the UN in New York and engaged in the United Nations General Assembly.
- **October:** Attended in person the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings in Washington, DC, contributing to discussions on debt relief, women's empowerment, and youth employment.
- Expanded our reach by establishing operations in East Africa and appointing a permanent representative at the UN in New York.
- Attended the first global conference on FGM/C in the U.S. since 2016, uniting activists to strategize for grassroots impact

ADVOCACY WINS

- Mobilized 27 civil society organizations in Nigeria to endorse a submission to the National Assembly, advocating for:
 1. Explicit constitutional bans on FGM.
 2. Protections for whistleblowers.
 3. Trauma-informed support for survivors.
- Played a pivotal role in discussions during the election of officers for the Civil Society Policy Forum at the World Bank, ensuring civil society voices are heard on global development issues.
- Endorsed a CSO to co-lead the **G20 in 2025**, amplifying advocacy at the international level.
- Engaged in meetings with the UN Committee on Financing for Development to advocate for sustainable development financing strategies in the global south.

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LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT'S NEXT?

As we move into 2025, we remain committed to increasing our impact:

- **Expanding Advocacy:** Push for stronger legal protections and the introduction of laws banning fgm in Nigeria
- **Empowering Communities:** Develop advocacy toolkits to guide local activists.
- **Enhancing Training:** Provide more expansive training for youths, students, caregivers, professionals, advocates, and community members.
- **Building Safe Spaces:** Establish a community center and safe space for survivors and girls at risk.
- **Innovating Resources:** Create tools to reframe the global conversation around women empowerment
- **Strategic Planning:** Roll out an ambitious new 3-year plan to amplify our mission.
- **Partnerships:** Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. By building strong coalitions and fostering synergy with like-minded organizations, communities, and stakeholders, we amplify our collective impact.

Join Us in Making a Greater Impact

Your support has been instrumental in achieving these milestones. But there's more to be done, and we can't do it without you.

Donate today to help us continue this vital work and make 2025 even more impactful. Together, we can create a world where everyone is valued.

With gratitude,

Lola

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