Equality for Women, Peace for all.

2019 Annual Report
About GNWP

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) is a coalition of women’s groups and other civil society organizations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe and the Middle East and Arab World, mostly from conflict-affected countries. The GNWP Board, management and staff are experts in advocating for women’s leadership to be at the core of all efforts in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and sustaining peace. It has demonstrated impact in bringing local voices to influence global policies on women’s rights, peace and security; and in translating global policies into practical actions that improve the lives of local populations.

GNWP is managed by an International Coordinating Team, based in New York, where it is registered as a charity.

Our vision is an equal, just and peaceful world in which women’s and girls’ rights are promoted and protected, and they are recognized as peacebuilders and decision-makers.

Our mission is to empower women and amplify their voices to build sustainable and inclusive peace and to prevent conflict.

We work to fulfil this mission through the following strategies:

Full cycle: Bridging the gap between global policies and local action on woman and peace and security

Local voices in global spaces: Grassroots women influence international policy-and decision-making

Elevating young women as leaders and agents of peace

Learn more about us at: www.gnwp.org
The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2019! From 10 women’s rights groups who came together in Liberia to participate in the International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership, Development, Peace and Security in March 2009, it has grown to more than 100 grassroots feminist and women’s rights organizations and networks in over 40 countries.

There are many reasons to celebrate in our work with women and youth peacebuilders through the years but let me focus on our work in 2019. Under our Young Women for Peace and Leadership (YWPL) program young women and LGBTQ youth in the Philippines successfully campaigned for the approval of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, the legislation on the peace agreement between the Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. In Indonesia, the young women’s campaign against child, early, and forced marriage significantly contributed to the amendment of the Marriage Act that raised the age that girls can get married with parental permission from 16 to 19. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), young women have reached 5,000 people in their media campaign to prevent sexual violence.

Our program in Bangladesh that brings young women from host communities and Rohingya refugees together, as well as our partnership with South Sudanese women’s rights groups, allowed us to incorporate humanitarian approaches in our program development and implementation. In Bangladesh, we are collaborating with UN Women and our local civil society partners to bring a peacebuilding lens and strengthen the gender perspective in addressing the Rohingya crisis. In South Sudan, we have identified new projects to continue to support our women and youth partners – most of whom have fled to Ugandan refugee camps – in their peacebuilding and women’s empowerment efforts. Given the increasingly harsh impact of climate change on conflict-affected situations, rising health challenges, and the weakening of public health care systems around the world, GNWP will further strengthen its work on the nexus of WPS, Youth and Peace and Security (YPS), and humanitarian action.
2019 was the eve of a momentous year in the global policy arena. 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+25), the most comprehensive global agenda on women’s rights and gender equality; the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325; the 5th anniversary of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, and Peace and Security; the 5th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals; and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. As part of the preparations for 2020, GNWP co-organized the panel discussion “The Road to 2020: Accelerating Action on Women, Peace and Security” with UN Women, other civil society groups and the Permanent Missions of Canada, Namibia, Uruguay. The event, which was held in conjunction with the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, drew an extremely large audience, composed of civil society, UN and Member States. It was evident from the numerous and diverse stakeholders in attendance that they all share a common goal: to close the implementation gap in the WPS agenda.

In July 2019, UN Women convened NY-based civil society groups to present the plans to commemorate Beijing +25 through the organizing of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF). GNWP actively participated from the get go. It organized the civil-society led Action Coalition on WPS and YPS to ensure that these two agendas are central to the GEF processes and outcomes.¹

GNWP is proud and grateful for our collaboration with the NYU Center for Global Affairs and the Georgetown Institute for WPS. Together with NYU, we created a practicum, as part of which we supported NYU students² in conducting a research that examines the link between women’s participation in peace processes, gender sensitive provisions in peace agreements, and women’s economic and political inclusion post-conflict. We will use the findings and recommendations from the research to continue our advocacy for the meaningful participation of women in peace negotiations and implementation of peace agreements. We worked with GIWPS to provide qualitative analysis to contextualize the findings of the WPS Index in Colombia, South Sudan and Ukraine.

¹ The participating organizations in the civil-society led Action Coalition on WPS and YPS are listed in the Advocacy Paper on connecting WPS and YPS to the Beijing +25 process: https://gnwp.org/publications/wps-yps-advocacy-paper/
² The students who conducted the research are: Jillian Aballe, Emma Grant, Foteini Papagiorti, Dorie Reisman, and Nicole Smith. They were supervised by Professor Anne Marie Goetz.
The Security Council adopted two new WPS resolutions in 2019. As GNWP stands firm in its commitment to implement the WPS and YPS agendas effectively, we welcomed the adoption of the UNSCR 2493 in October 2019, which requested further information on the progress and setbacks in the WPS agenda as well as addressed new and emerging challenges. We appreciate the adoption of Resolution 2467 in April 2019, because it underscored the need for a survivor-centered approach in preventing and responding to sexual violence in conflict-affected situations. However, we cannot help but emphasize the “resolution-fatigue” that many of our grassroots partners have been expressing for years. They demand better implementation that leads to inclusive and sustainable peace not during the 20th or 25th anniversary of Resolution 1325 but NOW!

As I reflect on the past decade of GNWP’s work and impact, I thank our donor-partners for their continued support. It enables us to expand our work in local communities affected by violent conflicts and create opportunities for women and girls to speak directly to policy makers, and demand the change they want to see.

After ten years of feminist and locally-driven activism, GNWP remains at the center of WPS advocacy, and firm in its commitment to co-leadership with young women. Our extensive knowledge of policy-making and implementation on the ground has helped us drive changes in the international WPS and YPS community. As I look forward to the next decade, I am fully aware of the need to stay proactive, and to take bold steps to further bolster GNWP’s leadership in global-local and local-global implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas.

Mavic Cabrera-Balleza
Chief Executive Officer
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
The Global Context in 2019

2019 was the eve to a number of significant policy milestones and anniversaries. 2020 would mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations; the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women and Peace and Security (WPS), and the 5th anniversary of UNSCR 2250 on Youth and Peace and Security (YPS).

As outlined in the 2019 Secretary-General’s report, the full implementation of the WPS agenda still faces a myriad of challenges:

▶ Women continue to face barriers in political participation, with only 24.3 percent of the global share of parliamentary seats held by women in 2019, record levels of political violence targeting women, and the rise of misogynistic, sexist, and homophobic speech by political leaders.

▶ Despite evidence that women’s access to economic resources and opportunities is linked to their meaningful participation and leadership and reduces their vulnerability in conflict and fragile settings, in 2019, only 0.2 percent of total bilateral aid to fragile and conflict-affected situations was directed to women’s civil society, and only 22 percent of National Action Plans included a budget for implementation; and nearly 40 percent of national economies limited women’s property rights and their freedom of movement.

▶ While the WPS resolutions constitute an agenda to end and prevent conflict, total world military expenditure reached 1.8 trillion US dollars. Women make up under 5% of military personnel in peacekeeping missions; and over 50 state parties to conflict have committed patterns of rape and sexual violence; and nearly 132 million people, the majority of whom are women, young women and girls, are in need of humanitarian aid and protection, yet only 28 percent of humanitarian overviews articulate the differentiated impacts on women, young women, and girls, and an estimated 35 million of them are in need of lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services.

In the face of these gaps, and at the doorstep of the 20th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325, 2019 was a year of strong advocacy, some progress, and persistent challenges in our work to close the implementation gap of the WPS agenda.

New resolutions – same implementation gaps?

In 2019, two new resolutions on WPS were adopted. During the Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, in April 2019, the Security Council, under Germany’s presidency, adopted UNSCR 2467. The negotiations around the resolution were fraught, with controversy arising in particular around the issue
of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). While the resolution calls for a survivor-centered approach to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict, it excludes specific language on SRHR, safe access to abortion, and women human right defenders. The resolution was adopted with two abstentions from Russia and China, breaking the unanimity that characterized all the previous WPS resolutions.

On October 29, 2019, under South Africa’s presidency, **UNSCR 2493** was unanimously adopted. This resolution focuses on the implementation of the WPS resolutions. It also calls for the creation of a “safe and enabling environment” for civil society and human rights defenders, better financing of the WPS agenda and ensuring women’s stronger leadership in humanitarian responses.

At the national level, there has been some progress in terms of policy adoption, as evidenced by the increase in the number of National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS. By December 2019, **eighty-three** Member States had launched their NAPs. Several countries where GNWP conducts its Localization of UNSCR 1325 program, including Nigeria, Uganda, and Ukraine have adopted local action plans on WPS. 2019 also saw the appointment of **Jacqueline O’Neill as Canada’s WPS Ambassador**, adding to the number of WPS envoys and ambassadors appointed at national and regional levels. A Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediators Networks was launched with the goal of increasing women’s meaningful participation in peace processes.

However, for civil society working on WPS, the focus as we near two decades since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 must be on the remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the WPS agenda, and concrete ways to address them. In October 2019, GNWP along with other members of the NGO Working Group issued an **Open Letter to Permanent Representatives to the UN** recognizing that “the impending anniversary of the WPS agenda must not be a cause for celebration, but a call to action that addresses the gendered impact of conflict and reaffirms the rights of all women and girls living in conflict-affected communities.”

**Beijing +25: Calling for inclusion of women and youth peacebuilders**

2019 was also the year when the international community began preparing for the 25th anniversary of the Fourth UN World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) (Beijing +25). The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is an international blueprint to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment and reaffirms agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.
In 2019, a number of national and regional reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action were held. These include national reviews conducted by governments in consultation with civil society, regional review conferences organized by UN regional economic commissions. At the international level, UN Women in partnership with the Governments of France and Mexico coordinated consultation mechanisms, which will lead preparations for the Generation Equality Forum – the commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – in 2020.

However, grassroots women and youth peacebuilders have been excluded or marginalized in most of the national, regional and global Beijing +25 processes. As a result, WPS and YPS priorities have not been sufficiently recognized nor included in the outcome document of the different reviews. GNWP was able to validate this through its active engagement in Beijing +25 processes and structures at the global level; and consultations with its members who participated in national and regional processes. To address this, in December 2019, we launched the Beijing +25 WPS-YPS Action Coalition – as described in the Highlights section below.

Women and youth leading the charge for political change

2019 began and ended with women and youth from around the world, from the streets of Algeria to Colombia, from Lebanon to Chile to Hong Kong, leading protests against social and economic inequalities, and corrupt institutions; and demanding democratic change. The grassroots-led mobilizations were a cause for hope towards positive change for women's empowerment, youth empowerment, and gender equality.

In Kerala, India, women joined hands to form a symbolic wall stretching more than 300 miles to protest the illegal prohibition of women to enter the traditionally men-only Sabarimala temple. In Sudan, Lebanon, and Iraq, women were at the forefront of social revolutions calling for equality and gender-responsive political change. The revolutions made waves in the media, as evidenced by a viral photo of woman leader activist Alaa Salah wearing traditional white attire standing on a car and leading the demonstration. Alaa Salah became the civil society briefer during the annual Security Council WPS Open Debate held on the 19th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. In Algeria, where half of the population is under 30 years old, hopeful and energetic youth have been driving the protest movement for democratic change and free elections, leading to the downfall of President Bouteflika. In Nigeria, Ghana, and other parts of West Africa, the #MeToo movement continued to gain momentum as women came forward about sexual abuse, harassment, and rape, as evidenced by the documentary “Sex for Grades.” In Chile, the chilling social anthem “the rapist is you,” which
denounced rape culture and sexual and gender-based violence, quickly spread around the world, made waves in the media, and inspired similar protests in cities like Paris, Tunis, and Mexico City. Millions of youth from around the world organized a global strike calling for meaningful action to address the climate crisis looming over humanity.

Positive changes with regards to gender equality and women's rights were also noted different parts of the world. In Canada, the government acknowledged its genocide of indigenous women, who have been missing and murdered at alarming rates. Taiwan legalized same sex marriage, a historic first for Asia. The German State of Lower Saxony introduced guidelines aimed at fostering gender equality through the language used in the official communication. Indonesia outlawed child marriage; and Finland elected the world's youngest Prime Minister who formed an entire women-led government. At the global level, the International Criminal Court opened a hearing for the crimes against humanity committed by the government of Myanmar to the Rohingya Muslims.
National ownership, local leadership. In 2019, 900 mayors, local councilors, indigenous leaders, women and youth leaders, journalists, police and military officers learned about UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW and committed to implementing them in their cities, towns and villages. They also formed coordination mechanisms between national and local government agencies and civil society to ensure that the realities of local communities inform national policy-making.

GNWP collaborated with civil society, governments and UN entities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Georgia, Moldova, Nigeria, the Philippines, Ukraine and Yemen to ensure national ownership and local leadership.

Young women teach literacy and build sustainable peace. In 2019, nearly 5,000 young women in Eastern DRC, Bangladesh and Indonesia developed their literacy, leadership and peacebuilding skills so they can better promote peace and prevent conflict in their communities. Over 2,000 local youth participated in peaceful dialogues and discussions in Lanao, Mindanao and Visayas, and pledged to vote responsibly in the midterm elections.

The community dialogues, literacy classes and peacebuilding activities were organized by the Young Women for Peace and Leadership and Girl Ambassadors for Peace trained by GNWP.

Making the media work for WPS. In 2019, at least 350,000 people increased their understanding of WPS, sustainable peace and gender equality through articles, radio broadcasts and TV programs produced by GNWP and its partners, as well as the journalists we work with. GNWP produced and circulated 29 articles on its projects and activities to over 2,700 recipients including representatives from governments, civil society, the UN, the African Union (AU), the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), media and academic institutions. In Nigeria, following a training on media and WPS for journalists, articles about WPS (referencing the GNWP workshop) appeared in the Sun newspaper, with the approximate readership of 130,000, as well as in a number of online newspapers.

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In 2019, **120,000 users** were able to access the latest information and research on WPS through our social media platforms. The number of our Twitter followers increased by nearly 20 percent between December 2018 and December 2019. GNWP currently has 5,300 Twitter followers and our Facebook page now has 4,973 subscribers with an average reach of over 2,000 users per post. We also have over 500 Instagram followers, who regularly engage with our posts.

**Global policy makers meet civil society influencers.** More than 2,000 people heard the perspectives of grassroots women, exchanged experiences, and reflected on the priorities for the implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas during GNWP’s advocacy events. In New York, GNWP organized various panel discussions and bilateral meetings at the UN during the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the 19th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. These events brought together 550 in-person participants, and over 1,500 online. GNWP also organized bilateral and close-doors discussion. For example, during the 63rd CSW, GNWP organized a meeting between the South Sudan Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States) and women from South Sudanese civil society. In December 2019, GNWP arranged meetings between young women peacebuilders from DRC and Indonesia and the organizers of the Generation Equality Forum, to advocate for a meaningful inclusion of WPS and YPS in the Beijing +25 process and outcomes.

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3 Oblasts are Ukraine’s primary administrative units—the country has 24 in total.
In 2019, GNWP continued to promote the full cycle implementation of the WPS resolutions. The full cycle WPS implementation is a methodology that ensures all phases of implementation are inclusive and participatory beginning from advocacy for a National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS, drafting of a NAP, costing and budgeting, implementation through Localization, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

GNWP supported government and civil society actors in developing, implementing and monitoring National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS. In Chad, we conducted a comprehensive mapping of peacebuilding actors and initiatives, as well as progress and gaps in WPS implementation; and WPS implementation priorities in the country. The mapping reached 250 people – including national government and civil society, as well as local women and men, religious and traditional leaders and other stakeholders in four regions in Chad. Its findings will inform the development of Chad’s first NAP on WPS.

Throughout the year, GNWP continued to advocate with governments to ensure appropriate Costing and Budgeting of NAPs, and disseminated its methodology and manual on NAP Costing and Budgeting when supporting NAP development processes.

With regards funding for the WPS agenda, GNWP continued to support the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in its capacity as initiator of the fund and a founding Board Member. Between January-March 2019, GNWP
coordinated the selection of the new civil society members of the WPHF Board. WPHF is the only global financing mechanism dedicated exclusively to supporting women’s participation in peacebuilding and humanitarian action. It allocates 50 percent of its funds to civil society groups working in local communities directly affected by conflict or humanitarian emergencies.

We also finalized and launched the updated Civil Society 1325 Scorecard – an intuitive, easy-to-use visual tool that helps civil society collect monitoring information on the status of WPS implementation in its country, and translate it into a powerful advocacy messages. To popularize the Scorecard, we conducted monitoring and evaluation trainings for local and national government and civil society from Burundi and DRC.

In 2019, GNWP held Localization workshops in Colombia, Nigeria, the Philippines and Ukraine. GNWP’s Localization of UNSCR 1325 strategy has been proven and internationally recognized as an effective tool for the implementation of WPS resolutions. It was cited as a good practice in UN Secretary-General’s reports on WPS to the Security Council 8 years in a row; and has yielded tangible results – such as increase of women’s participation in local governance and traditional conflict resolution structures; increase of women’s economic independence; increase in sexual and gender-based violence reporting; and adoption of laws and policies prohibiting harmful practices, such as early, child and forced marriage. In Colombia and the Philippines, the Localization workshops focused in particular on the implementation of the peace agreements in both countries. The workshops resulted in the integration of the gender-sensitive provisions of the peace agreements, as well as WPS language in local legislation and policies.
Localization of UNSCR 1325 in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

“Localization helps break the taboo that surrounds the concept of gender. It brings together key actors, and raises awareness about the human impacts of conflicts in our countries.”

- Knarik Mkrtchyan, civil society activist from Armenia

Between 2017 and 2019, more than 350 local authorities and grassroots civil society representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine participated in GNWP’s Localization of UNSCR 1325 program. GNWP’s Localization program significantly increased the government officials’ and civil society knowledge on the WPS resolutions as well as their understanding of women’s roles and needs in the context of conflict in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, and led to concrete changes in the lives of women living in conflict-affected communities.

Conflicts in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus are often described as “frozen.” However, many of the conflicts in the region have been characterized by low-intensity violence that span more than a decade. Despite the ongoing peace negotiations or settlement efforts, the violence and insecurity continue to affect local populations every day. GNWP’s Localization activities, organized with support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and in partnership with national and local civil society, governments and UN Women country teams, helped address some of these impacts, as well as the underlying causes of conflict.

4 Localization of UNSCR 1325 is an innovative, people-based and bottom-up strategy pioneered by GNWP. It is based on evidence that local ownership and participation leads to more effective policy-making and policy implementation. It convenes governors, mayors, councillors, community and traditional leaders, religious leaders, women and youth leaders, teachers, the security sector and all other key local actors — to analyze the roots and impacts of conflict in their communities and translate global and national policies on WPS into concrete and necessary actions on the ground. This helps guarantee effective implementation of WPS resolutions at the local level, and ensure gender-sensitive, conflict-sensitive and inclusive local governance.
For many of the participants in Localization workshops, the Localization workshops were the first time they heard about WPS. It gave them the opportunity to confront their own gender biases and stereotypes and reflect on the different ways in which conflict affects women and men in their local area; and the roles women play in peacebuilding in their community. Working together, local authorities, women and youth groups, representatives of security sector, teachers and social workers analyzed the conflict dynamics in their local area through a gender lens and identified the most important challenges faced by the local communities, and the concrete actions needed to address them in a gender-responsive manner.

Localization yielded concrete and tangible results, which made a difference in the lives of local women living in areas that have been affected by the ongoing and “frozen” conflicts. For example, in Georgia, Localization workshop participants in Zugdidi raised the need for public transportation from Ganmukhuri to Zugdidi. The Prime Minister’s Office on Human Rights and Gender Equality responded to their request and coordinated with other relevant Ministries to establish a public bus that regularly travels local people from Ganmukhuri to Zugdidi. As a follow-up, there is now a plan to establish similar buses in Gori municipality. While seemingly small, this action had a big impact on the lives of local women. “Lack of accessible and safe transport is a key barrier to women’s participation in decision-making. If there are no public buses, they cannot travel to work, so they are economically independent, and they also cannot access consultations and decision-making processes”, emphasized Julia Kharashvili from the IDP Women’s Association “Consent”, who implemented Localization with GNWP.

Localization has also contributed to strengthening the cooperation between local women and local authorities, allowing them to more effectively advocate for their priorities. In Kherson, Ukraine, after the workshop, local civil society continued to meet regularly with the oblast and rayon authorities to work on the Oblast Action Plan on WPS and ensure its implementation and effective monitoring. In Moldova, a representative of the Bureau of Reintegration, the State institution responsible for NAP monitoring noted that “the project improved the communication between government and civil society. It helped us develop cooperation in good faith.”

GNWP continues to work closely with its local partners to follow-up on the achievements of the Localization and make sure they are sustainable. In 2020, we plan to train more local authorities to strengthen their capacities to implement and monitor WPS at the local level, and support more local women in their work to influence decision-making, build and sustain peace!
Implementation of peace agreements in Colombia and the Philippines

“We’ll never be seen as changemakers if others don’t see, read or listen about the work that we, as women, do in our communities.”

- Participant of a Localization workshop facilitated by GNWP in Cauca, Colombia

Building on its experience of implementing Localization in 16 countries, GNWP with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) has been using the strategy to contribute to the effective and inclusive implementation of peace agreements in Colombia and the Philippines. The Localization activities, held throughout 2019, fostered strong local ownership and shared understanding of the peace agreements in both countries, and in particular their gender-sensitive provisions. This is a first step towards ensuring a peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable transition.

Despite many differences, Colombia and the Philippines share a long history of conflict, with multiple armed actors present still operating. They have also both been celebrating for the adoption of peace agreements with strong participation of women in the recent years. However, the implementation of the peace agreements is slow in both contexts.
Through national and local Localization activities implemented in 2018 and 2019 in partnership with the Center for Peace Education at Miriam College and Balay Mindanaw Foundation (the Philippines) and Red Nacional de Mujeres (Colombia), GNWP has provided local women with opportunities to directly participate in the development of local legislation and policies. This has led to the adoption of local laws and policies that promote sustainable and inclusive peace and the implementation of peace agreements. The workshops brought women activists together – including indigenous, rural and young women in both countries, and Afro-Colombians and former FARC combatants in Colombia – with local authorities and representatives of local councils. Together, they worked to draft concrete local policies and provisions to be included in local development plans. This ensures that women’s voices are not only heard, but that their priorities and needs are institutionalized, thus guaranteeing their implementation.

As a result of the workshops, in the Philippines, more than 10 ordinances and resolutions were drafted by local authorities, civil society and other key national and local actors to institutionalize the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte and Lianga, Surigao del Sur. In Colombia, women similarly drafted gender-sensitive and peace-sensitive provisions to be included in local development plans. They held advocacy meetings with the newly-elected officials to present their demands and raise awareness about WPS, the peace agreement and the importance of women’s participation in peace negotiations.

Local women are key actors building peace in their communities in both Colombia and the Philippines. Through the workshops, local women were also given an opportunity to showcase the work they do to contribute to peacebuilding in their communities, and demand a recognition and support for it from local authorities. In Colombia, women in Cauca and Tolima presented more than 40 women-led Track 2 peace initiatives, which contribute to the effective implementation of the peace agreement. GNWP continues to work closely with its local partners to help the women strengthen and expand these initiatives.
As part of its global-local, local-global strategy, GNWP facilitated the participation of women activists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, DRC, Indonesia, Mali, Sweden, South Sudan, and Ukraine in the Commission on the Status of Women and the 19th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325.

GNWP also continued its strong engagement with the CEDAW Committee and advocacy for strengthening the synergies between CEDAW and WPS. In March 2019, GNWP, in partnership with Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the CEDAW Committee and UN Women held a panel discussion on the side-lines of the seventy-second session of the Committee. The discussion was attended by CEDAW Committee members, representatives of the State Parties, and civil society. It reinforced their commitment to strengthening synergies between CEDAW and WPS and led to a commitment from CEDAW Committee Members to more systematically include questions about the Localization of UNSCR 1325 in its constructive dialogue with State Parties. In November 2019, GNWP in partnership with International Service for Human Rights and the Centre for Reproductive Rights held a closed roundtable with CEDAW Committee members on the role of women human rights defenders in preventing conflict and building peace, and the measures needed to ensure their protection.

In 2019, GNWP continued to use research to bring local women’s voices to global policy discussions and provide concrete evidence to advocate for gender-sensitive policy-making. The global research on local women and civil society’s perceptions of sustaining peace reached over 1,500 women and men in 60 countries. To build on the findings of the research and bring the voices of local women into global discussions, GNWP – together with the Dag
Hammarskjold Foundation (DHF), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and the International Peace Institute (IPI) – has been holding a series of expert roundtable discussions, which will inform the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review in 2020. GNWP also conducted research on interlinkages between corruption, human rights and Women and Peace and Security. The research included a global policy analysis, as well as case studies conducted in Nepal and Nigeria, and emphasized the distinct impacts of corruption on the human rights and security of women. It will be published in 2020. Research conducted by NYU students as part of the partnership between GNWP and the NYU Center for Global Affairs shed light on the connections between gender sensitive provisions in peace agreements and women’s political and economic participation post-conflict. Finally, we have also collaborated with the Georgetown Institute on WPS (GIWPS) to provide qualitative analysis to contextualize the WPS index produced by GIWPS.

In December 2019, GNWP launched the Beijing +25 WPS-YPS Action Coalition. The primary purpose of the Coalition is to ensure the integration of the WPS and YPS agendas in the Beijing +25 processes and outcome documents. The Coalition also aims to raise the awareness of civil society organizations, in particular grassroots organizations working in conflict-affected countries and territories, about the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the various processes related to its 25th anniversary. When it became apparent that WPS and YPS have been left out from the Action Coalitions identified by the Generation Equality Forum organizers, we geared our advocacy towards calling for an official, dedicated Action Coalition on WPS and YPS – more on this in our 2020 report!
Strengthening the synergies between WPS and CEDAW with Yemen-based Human Rights Defenders

“The conflict in Yemen impacts men and women differently, it’s important to reflect that in our reporting”

- Yemeni human right investigator who participated in the training on CEDAW, WPS and human rights reporting facilitated by GNWP

On November 16-18, 2019, GNWP held a 2-day training in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to support human rights investigators from Yemen to build critical skills to reflect women’s distinct rights and needs – and the differential impact that the conflict has on them – in their reports. As one of the participants of a training stated, “the conflict in Yemen impacts men and women differently, it’s important to reflect that in our reporting.”

The civil war in Yemen, which began in 2015, has plunged the country into what the United Nations has categorized as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, with 24 million people, or close to 80 percent of Yemen’s population needing urgent humanitarian assistance. Women have been disproportionately affected by conflict, and as a result, women and girls’ human rights in Yemen are under threat. Human rights monitoring and investigations are a core aspect of efforts in peace and reconciliation and achievement of sustainable peace. The awareness of specific patterns and norms related to gender-based discrimination and violence is

Figure 4: Human rights investigators analyze their reports to identify ways to strengthen gender-sensitive analysis.
crucial in acknowledging, investigating, documenting, and monitoring the differential impacts of conflict on women and girls and historically marginalized groups. However, human rights investigators in Yemen often lack the specific skills and capacities to integrate a gender analysis into their investigations.

As a result of the November 2019 training, participants representing Mwatana For Human Rights, a leading human rights organization in Yemen, have committed to strengthen the integration of gender-sensitive analysis in their human rights reporting, and to disseminate the information learned from the training with their Yemeni colleagues.

The training, which was organized in partnership with Mwatana Organization for Human Rights with the support from the Swiss Development Cooperation, provided an opportunity for participants to conduct hands-on exercises and in-depth conflict analyzes with a gender and human rights lens, as well as to participate in collaborate expert presentations on International policy instruments – namely, the WPS resolutions, the CEDAW framework, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the on-going Beijing +25 process.
Francy L. Jaramillo
Piedrahita, Colombia

“As women we face many challenges living in a patriarchal society. We have to mobilize, both personally and collectively, to create a better and more just society free of violence.”

- Francy L. Jaramillo Piedrahita, Colombia

Francy L. Jaramillo Piedrahita is a Colombian woman activist, human rights expert, and member of the Red Departmental de Mujeres (Departmental Women’s Network) in the Cauca department of Colombia. Since 2012, she has been a GNWP partner and champion for the implementation of the Localization of UNSCR 1325 strategy in Cauca. Francy’s work has contributed to the adoption and implementation of a local action plan on UNSCR 1325 in the city of Popayan, as well as of the sectoral plan for the LGBTI population Cauca – a unique tool to protect the rights and address the needs of LGBTI’s persons. Moreover, the Localization activities implemented by Francy and the Red Departmental de Mujeres in partnership with GNWP empowered the women of Cauca to demand that the Colombian government adopt measures to ensure the meaningful participation of women in the implementation of the peace agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

The skills and knowledge she has gained through this collaboration have been lauded and publicly recognized. At the request of the Office of the Governor, Francy now serves as a High Advisor on Women’s Equality in ten municipalities in Cauca, and as a consultant on gender-based violence prevention across the department.

In October 2019, she shared her achievements and experience during a panel discussion on the Localization strategy and the Sustaining Peace agenda, organized by GNWP in partnership with UN Women, United Methodist Women, and the Permanent Missions of Canada and Ireland during the 19th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325.
Being able to highlight the challenges that local women in Colombia face and discuss the impact of her work with global policymakers “was a very valuable personal experience,” says Francy. “It has given me the opportunity to compare the situation in Colombia with other countries. This gives me the motivation and inspiration to continue my work on the ground. Having to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers as I interact with other peacebuilders and global policymakers has also helped me grow as a leader.”

Francy continues to champion the local implementation of the WPS resolutions and the peace agreement in Cauca – one of the departments most affected by conflict and by the waves of killings of human rights defenders. In 2019, she participated in workshops to integrate peace provisions into Cauca’s local development plans. She is currently leading advocacy efforts to ensure that these provisions are included in the actual plans, which will be adopted in 2020.\footnote{The adoption was initially scheduled for March 2020, but has been delayed due to the global outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).}
Featured Publication

Building and Sustaining Peace from the Ground Up

1,600 women and men from 50 countries participated in the research – 50 percent under the age of 35

500 + Global policy-makers reached with research findings

Developed with support from UN Women and in partnership with local organizations in 15 countries

40 percent of respondents believed that sustainable peace = strong inclusive institutions

Others pointed to culture of peace, equitable economy, and demilitarization

Women are pioneers of Sustaining Peace!

They promote culture of peace at grassroots level; advocate for inclusive peace processes; deliver relief; and promote development!

“If we are not cautious about the environment, conflict will be inevitable since local communities feel they don’t benefit from their land” – FGD participant, South Sudan

Building and Sustaining Peace from the Ground Up:
A Global Study of Civil Society and Local Women’s Perception of Sustaining Peace

Report by GNWP – Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

GNWP 2019 Annual Report
Elevating young women as leaders and agents of peace

Our Young Women for Peace and Leadership (YWPL) program kept on growing in 2019! The YWPL in DRC and Indonesia continued to run and strengthen their micro-businesses, which allowed them to increase their independence and their role in decision-making in their families and communities. In North Kivu, 200 meetings were organized to enhance collaborative teamwork and the effectiveness of economic empowerment activities with the young women. As one of the young women in DRC put it, “Being economically empowered encourages women to stand for themselves and assert their rights.”

The young women also continued to conduct literacy and numeracy trainings in Eastern DRC and in Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh. In North and South Kivu, DRC, the young women conducted over 300 visits in more than 20 rural communities to enhance literacy, teach peacebuilding and promote UNSCR 1325. In Bangladesh, the young women provided 20 gender-sensitive and age-appropriate literacy and numeracy classes to over 180 Rohingya refugee and host community women in Cox’s Bazar. These classes helped them dispel their own misconceptions about the Rohingya refugees and contributed to building a more harmonious relationship between the Rohingya and the Bangladeshi host community.

In the Philippines, the YW+PL members led massive mobilization of youth for responsible voting in mid-term elections.

GNWP also fostered experience exchange and solidarity among young women leaders from Bangladesh and Indonesia, through a Regional Young Women for Peace and Leadership Training. The training took place in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh in September 2019. During the training, the young women participants compared and contrasted the peace and security situations in their countries and communities and identified common issues, such as the prevalence of early, forced, and child marriage, radical and violent extremist groups, and gender inequality perpetuated by social norms and antiquated laws.
Featured Profile

Ricamae from the Philippines

“As an indigenous young woman, I am dedicated to using my position as a member of local government to build peace and promote gender equality in my community.”

- Ricamae Entred from Ampatuan, Maguindanao, Philippines

Ricamae Entred comes from North Cotabato province—one of the provinces most affected by conflict in the Philippines. She is a councilor in the Barangay (village) youth council. As part of her role, she actively leads campaigns for the rights of Lumad (indigenous) women, and against early, forced, and child marriage in her community. Her participation in GNWP’s YWPL program has helped her hone her skills and become a more effective advocate and agent of change in her community.

Early, forced, and child marriage in the Philippines is linked to widely-accepted social norms and gender inequality, including within the Lumad community. Customary laws applicable to Lumad communities support the harmful practice. In addition, marrying off girls at an early age is regarded as a form of protection in some conflict-affected local communities. Eliminating early, forced, and child marriage effectively requires a shift in gender norms to establish cultural beliefs that condemn this practice. Ricamae’s leadership and activism for indigenous rights and against early, forced, and child marriage is
critically important because it is at the local level, where patriarchal notions and discriminatory societal practices are strongest.

In February 2019, Ricamae joined the YWPL and participated in a two-day capacity building training conducted by GNWP in partnership with the Center for Peace Education at Miriam College, with support from Channel Foundation. Through her participation in the YWPL training and network, she was able to exchange views and learn from other young women from across the Philippines including internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Marawi, religious minorities, Lumad (indigenous) communities, as well as LGBTQIA+ youth, male gender allies, civil society, academics, and local authorities. Despite the differences in their backgrounds, the participants shared vision for a gender-equal, peaceful and prosperous Philippines binds them together as a cohesive team of young women leaders and peacebuilders, working towards a just and long-lasting peace and inclusive and sustainable development. Fostering religious and cultural harmony, solidarity, mutual understanding, and strong partnerships not only amongst themselves but also in their respective communities, the YWPL members have ensured local support and ownership for the sustainability of their network. The young women – including Ricamae – have become significant actors and leaders in their communities, recognized for their advocacy at both the local and national level.
“I used to be like the moon, receiving light from only one star. I was focused only on my personal interests and education. After joining the Young Women for Peace and Leadership program, I have learned that women are empowered by so many international laws and capable of anything they set their minds to. I’m like the sun now, giving my light to others.”

- Elza, Young Woman for Peace and Leadership, Indonesia

The YWPL program run by GNWP not only promotes synergies between the WPS and YPS agendas and enhances the leadership potential and peacebuilding skills of young women who are significant actors in their local communities. It also fosters exchange of experiences between young women peacebuilders from different countries, in order to build a youth movement for peace, equality, and sustainable development.

As part of the YWPL program, GNWP has brought together young women leaders from Bangladesh and Indonesia to share their experiences and jointly develop advocacy strategies to address regional priorities. The Regional
Young Women for Peace and Leadership Training took place on September 3-9, 2019 in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. It fostered solidarity between young women leaders from Bangladesh and Indonesia, and facilitated information and experience-sharing among them. The Conference has bolstered closer cooperation, solidarity and sparked inspiration for new youth-led activities in Bangladesh and Indonesia.

During the regional training, the young women discussed the importance of regional advocacy for gender-responsiveness to humanitarian emergencies such as the Rohingya crisis. Rohingya refugee women and girls in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh live in overcrowded and mismanaged camps, where they remain vulnerable to sexual violence, devastating floods, and cyclones. Indonesia too is reported to be hosting a population of 12,000 Rohingya refugees in Aceh, Sulawesi, and North Sumatra. Despite significant cultural and language barriers, Indonesians in small fishing communities in Aceh have been welcoming and sympathetic to the refugees, offering food, shelter, and other donations. However, as time has passed, humanitarian relief aid provided by international organizations and the Indonesian government has been depleted. Meanwhile, the number of reports of Rohingya refugees attempting to enter Indonesia and Malaysia in rickety fishing boats in order to escape the dire conditions in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh is steadily increasing. It has become clear that regional cooperation is necessary to address the plea of the Rohingya people.

The YWPL from Bangladesh shared their experiences of conducting literacy and numeracy classes for Bangladeshi women from host communities and Rohingya refugee women and girls. They spoke about the crucial contributions their work has made towards dispelling anti-Rohingya rhetoric and negative perceptions developing within host communities as a result of unequal access to and competing demands for resources and social services. The Indonesian young women had an opportunity to observe their Bangladeshi counterparts as they facilitated a gender-sensitive, age-appropriate functional literacy and numeracy class with Rohingya refugee women and girls in Balukhali Refugee Camp. Inspired by the leadership and teaching skills of the Bangladeshi young women, the Indonesian YWPL committed to working together to develop joint advocacy strategies to support the empowerment of Rohingya refugee women and girls in both countries.

Ultimately, learning about the experiences of other young women leaders in similar yet different cultural, socio-political, and economic contexts during the regional training inspired and motivated the YWPL to further the youth-led advocacy movement for sustainable peace and development. Across the world, the YWPL members are a strong and diverse regional network of young women who represent different religions and ethnic minorities. With enhanced capacities as leaders, peacebuilders, and change agents, the YWPL members continue to contribute to gender equality, sustainable development and inclusive and long-lasting peace in their local communities.
In 2019, GNWP conducted a mid-term review of its Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 to ensure that it reflects the ever-changing social, political and economic context around the world and its impact on the countries and communities where we operate.

GNWP also inaugurated its International Advisory Council (IAC) in 2019. The IAC is composed of thought leaders and senior policy experts committed to GNWP’s vision, mission and activities. They are former diplomats, academics, senior policy experts, on gender equality, women’s rights, human rights, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, sustaining peace, disarmament, climate change, environment, economic empowerment, and sustainable development, among other thematic areas. They advise GNWP in its planning and program/project development and implementation, based on their areas of expertise as well as their access to information and resources.

For the fourth year, GNWP welcomed a Cora Weiss Peacebuilding Fellow to further strengthen its robust International Coordinating Team. The Cora Weiss Fellowship for Young Women Peacebuilders supports the development of young women peacebuilders. The 2019/2020 Fellow is Heela Yoon, Founder of Afghan Women Welfare and Development Association (AWWDA).
Heela Yoon, Cora Weiss Peacebuilding Fellow

“I may be one of the luckiest Afghan young women – among 18 million others who have been marginalized from political and economic decisions for decades – to work with GNWP, to participate in global policy advocacy, and represent Afghan women and youth in global spaces, especially considering the current unfolding peace process with the Taliban.”

- Heela Yoon, Fourth Cora Weiss Peacebuilding Fellow

Heela Yoon is the fourth recipient of the Cora Weiss Fellowship for Young Women Peacebuilders, which supports the development of young women peacebuilders. The Fellowship honors Cora Weiss, a life-long women’s rights, human rights, and peace activist who is one of the civil society drafters of UNSCR 1325. Heela is also the Founder of Afghan Women Welfare and Development Association (AWWDA), which brings together young peacebuilders, leaders and women advocating for UNSCR 1325 and 2250.

The Fellowship provides Heela with opportunities and platforms to elevate the concerns and priorities of Afghan women in global policy discussions. As the Cora Weiss Peacebuilding Fellow, she addresses Member States, civil society and UN entities in different fora. Notably, Heela was the civil society briefer during the procedural meeting of the 64th session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), where she emphasized the role of young women in state building, peacebuilding, and peace processes. Through her fellowship, Heela is learning more about global and regional mechanisms, good practices of WPS implementation and strategic approaches for the localization of UNSCR 1325. She will participate in the implementation of GNWP’s YWPL program in Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Philippines and Indonesia – a program aimed at building the capacities of young women in conflict affected areas.
and in humanitarian situations with a specific focus on leadership, literacy, peacebuilding, preventing violent extremism, and economic empowerment.

Using these experiences to relate back to the experiences of young women in her country, Heela looks forward to applying the lessons learned in Afghanistan. As the founder of Afghan Women Welfare and Development Association, Heela has worked with grassroots women and civil society organizations in remote provinces, such as Nangahar, Laghman and Kandahar. Her organization delivers capacity building and economic empowerment workshops for women peacebuilders across Afghanistan, to support the implementation of the WPS agenda. Heela has also worked at the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she was involved in the work of the committee for implementing National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in Afghanistan. Through her work, Heela has first-hand knowledge of the concerns and priorities of local Afghan women and the gaps in WPS and YPS implementation in Afghanistan.
Our Finances in 2019

GNWP continued to work in strengthening its funding base in 2019 in order to effectively implement its strategic plan and sustain its partnership with grassroots women’s right organizations in amplifying women’s voices towards sustainable and inclusive peace.

### 2019 Revenue Sources

- **Government**: 57%
- **Foundations**: 19%
- **UN Agencies**: 10%
- **Development Organizations**: 8%
- **Miscellaneous**: 6%

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>$436,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Receivable</td>
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<td>Other Receivables</td>
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<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Property and Equipment</strong>:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
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<td>688</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fixed Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Assets</strong>:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Other Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>592,775</strong></td>
<td><strong>490,761</strong></td>
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</table>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong>:</td>
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<td>Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>$466,735</td>
<td>$92,304</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
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<td>490,711</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>571,122</td>
<td>490,711</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong>:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>592,775</strong></td>
<td><strong>490,761</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## REVENUE AND OPERATIONS

**Revenue And Support:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions</td>
<td>$1,163,245</td>
<td>$1,266,120</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$66,974</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue and Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,230,219</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,270,860</strong></td>
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**Expenses:**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$1,118,099</td>
<td>$1,191,971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$90,517</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,208,616</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,261,376</strong></td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>$21,603</td>
<td>$9,484</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</td>
<td>$(9,434)</td>
<td>$(9,434)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets at End of Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,603</strong></td>
<td><strong>$50</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2019 Expenses

- **Management & General** 7%
- **Program Services** 93%
Thank you!

In 2017, GNWP’s work was supported by the following main donors:
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