WOMEN *for* WOMEN
International

Women for Women International

Delivering the Global Goals

Democratic Republic of the
Congo report card 2018

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Tumaini's story

Tumaini is a graduate of the Women for Women International programme from Nyangezi in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Before joining the programme, Tumaini was struggling to feed and clothe her family as the sole provider. She was working on other people's land in order to make ends meet.

Upon enrolling on our year-long programme, she joined a savings group, which allowed her to buy a goat. The goat produced two kids, one of which Tumaini exchanged for a piece of land.

As an entrepreneur, Tumaini sold various products at the local market, but settled on farming as her main occupation, selling aubergines and cabbages to make a living.

She decided to build herself and her family another house with the profits – she's now able to send her younger children to school, an opportunity that her older children did not have. Her husband has more respect for her now and has begun participating more in the family.

"The fact that today I look like a human, is because of you. I am very thankful and pray for you."

The Promise: No one left behind

The UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development came into force in January 2016. Through these 17 interconnected goals, national governments and the international community pledged to work together to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

The Global Goals are underpinned by a pledge to 'Leave No One Behind,' meaning that the very success of the Goals is dependent on reaching and supporting the most vulnerable and marginalised people.

"As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognising that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first."
Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, paragraph 4 (outcome document of the UN Summit for the adoption of the Global Goals)

Identifying and prioritising support for the most vulnerable is a significant challenge. But translating this ambitious commitment into action would also be the most successful way of effectively ending inequality - a root cause of both poverty and conflict.

Women for Women International makes three key contributions to delivering the Global Goals and ensuring that no one is left behind:

- **Reaching marginalised women survivors of conflict:** In 2017, we worked with 26,737 women in communities where support for marginalised women's economic and social empowerment is largely absent.

- **Filling the data gap:** Our data provides a valuable snapshot to help national and international policymakers understand hard-to-reach populations.

- **Amplifying voices:** Women's influence over decision-making is key to achieving the Goals. We support women's advocacy in their communities and make connections with national and global advocacy.

Three years into the Goals, and ahead of the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report, Women for Women International is concerned that women affected by conflict are being failed by the Goals and are continuing to be left behind.

The promise for marginalised women in the DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has grappled with wars, civil strife and multiple rebellions since 1996.

"...in some areas, progress is insufficient to meet the Agenda's goals and targets by 2030. This is especially true for the most disadvantaged and marginalised groups."
António Guterres, UN Secretary General, The Sustainable Development Goals Report, July 2018.

Women and girls have suffered disproportionately from the insecurity and violence in the DRC. At the same time, services such as health care, psychosocial support, security and justice for survivors of violence are limited.

Since 2004, Women for Women International has worked with more than 95,000 marginalised women survivors of war in the DRC.

Our core work is centred on a holistic, rights-based programme to address the needs of marginalised women in conflict-affected countries around the world. We have tested and evolved our approach to fit the needs of women who have been denied access to education, have been affected by conflict and who seek inclusion and recovery. Our programme equips women with skills and resources to earn and save money, regain their confidence and actively participate in their communities.

We define marginalised based on a combination of three key areas of vulnerability:

- **Conflict-affected, such as surviving violence, being displaced or the de facto head of household**. In the DRC, 23% of women participants in 2017 were widowed or divorced/separated.

- **Socially-excluded, as evidenced by signs of malnutrition, poorer than average living conditions, or restrictive traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and cutting**. In the DRC, 81% of women participants in 2017 reported not having completed or attended primary education.

- **Living in extreme poverty, perhaps due to unemployment, or limited to high-risk or unsafe occupations**. In the DRC, 56% of women participants in 2017 reported being employed in any way.

We also work with a variety of male leaders, male family members of women participants, and other male community members, providing them with training in women's rights and gender equality. In 2017, we reached 1,270 men through our **Men's Engagement Programme** in the DRC.

"I regret all the years I was like a lion, drinking and beating my wife and not taking care of our family. I have asked her to forgive all the bad things I did to her. Now we talk, share and live in peace."
Male graduate in the DRC.

Progress on the promise in the DRC

This report card presents key indicators from our DRC data within the framework of the Global Goals.[1]

By sharing this data, we aim to highlight the lack of progress for marginalised women survivors of conflict, highlight the importance of investing in the most marginalised and make recommendations for how the international community can prioritise them to ensure that no one is left behind.

Women for Women International routinely administers rigorous baseline and endline surveys to a geographically representative sample of enrolled participants to gauge women's progress through the programme. We collect data from 30-40% of women participants at enrolment (baseline) and, 12-months later, at graduation (endline). In 2016, we revised our data collection methods to strengthen the quality of the data we receive. **Data presented here was gathered from 476 participants at both baseline and endline, representing 15% of all women who graduated in the DRC in 2017 (January – December).**

The data we collect focuses exclusively on marginalised women survivors of conflict and therefore is not nationally representative. It does, however, provide a snapshot into the lives of the women we serve and can provide insights into working with hard-to-reach populations.

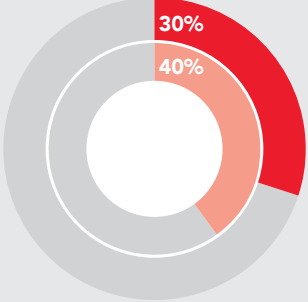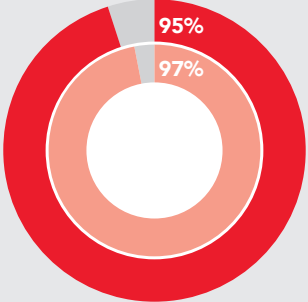Here, we also present the '**percentage change**' which is the amount of change as a proportion of the starting point (our baseline findings). We use this method as a way of understanding the magnitude of a change relative to a baseline figure.

As acknowledged by the Goals, the lived experience of marginalisation or extreme poverty is multidimensional and interlinked – it is not defined by earnings alone. The data presented here also reflects the complexity of leaving no one behind and how marginalisation affects the women we serve in every aspect of their lives.
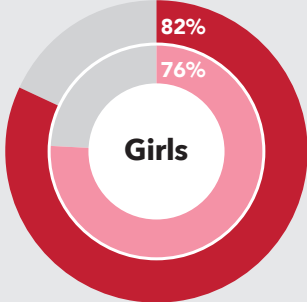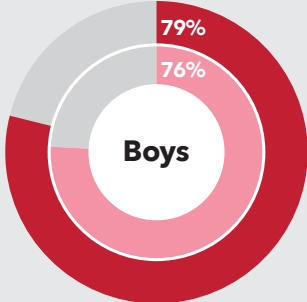
Through sharing our data, Women for Women International hopes to amplify the voices and experiences of the women we serve, share evidence around what works with marginalised groups, and highlight the important of prioritising investment in the most marginalised and the impact that such support can have.
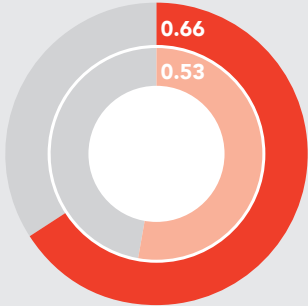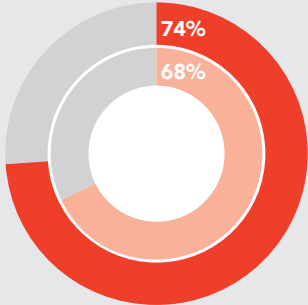
"[I learned that] despite being a widow, I still have life in front of me. I didn't know that, with little money, anyone can start income generation, but this is what I am doing today."
Woman graduate in the DRC.
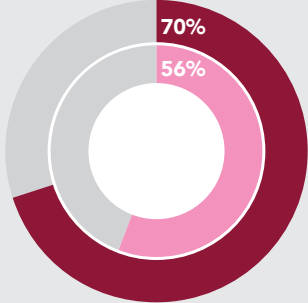
2017 was a difficult year for women in the DRC with drought, a cholera outbreak and fluctuating insecurity posing particular challenges for their social and economic well-being, particularly their opportunities to earn and save money. The data here highlights how challenging life can be for marginalised women and how hard it is to cope with shocks. Changes to our survey have also stimulated questions on some results which we are looking into (that data has not been included).

5

Global Goal and selected target (by 2030)	Our indicator	Percentage change

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1 Eradicate extreme poverty (people living on less than $1.25 a day).	Share of women participants who report personal earnings of at least $1.90 a day (in current USD purchasing power parity).[2]	30% At graduation (2017) 40% At enrolment (2016)

30%

40%

At graduation (2017)

At enrolment (2016)

-25% ⬇

Our interpretation of this data is that there was a drought and consequent poor harvests in the DRC during the time our endline data was collected, which may explain the decrease in women earning at least $1.90 a day over the course of the programme.

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	Share who report saving a portion of their earnings.	95% 97% At graduation (2017) At enrolment (2016)

95%

97%

At graduation (2017)

At enrolment (2016)

-2% ⬇

Our interpretation of this data is that this is a minimal decrease and could be related to the fact that at the time women were interviewed at graduation, they had just completed their savings group cycles. This meant that at that very moment, they were not in active savings groups. Regardless of this, the data point for this indicator remains very high – nearly all women are saving some portion of their earnings which is extremely promising.

Global Goal and selected target (by 2030)	Our indicator	Percentage change

2 ZERO HUNGER	Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	
	2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	Share of women who report sufficient food in the house in the last 4 weeks.

93%
82%

■ At graduation (2017)
■ At enrolment (2016)

13% ⬆

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	
	3.7 By 2030, ensure access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education.	Average score on test measuring knowledge of health and well-being.

58%
45%

■ At graduation (2017)
■ At enrolment (2016)

29% ⬆

Global Goal and selected target (by 2030)	Our indicator	Percentage change

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	Share of total school-aged girls in school (5-17 years).	**82%** **76%** **Girls** ■ At graduation (2017) ■ At enrolment (2016) **8%** ⬆
4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	Share of total school-aged boys in school (5-17 years).	**79%** **76%** **Boys** ■ At graduation (2017) ■ At enrolment (2016) **4%** ⬆
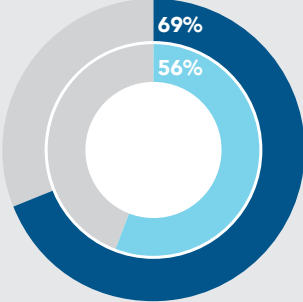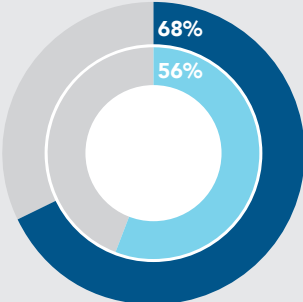
Global Goal and selected target (by 2030)	Our indicator	Percentage change
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls		

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Perceived self-efficacy (scale of 0-1).

0.66
0.53

At graduation (2017)
At enrolment (2016)

25% ⬆

This is a new metric we use to attempt to measure women's perceptions of self-confidence, future outlook and capacity to follow through with life goals. Using a set of questions commonly used in women's empowerment research studies, we present self-efficacy as a score on a scale of 0-1, where 1 indicates the highest possible level of self-efficacy.

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Share of women who report being involved in decisions about having more children.

74%
68%

At graduation (2017)
At enrolment (2016)

9% ⬆

| Global Goal and selected target (by 2030)	Our indicator	Percentage change
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	**Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all**	
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.	Proportion of women reporting any type of employment across all (1°, 2°, 3°) occupation levels.	**70%** **56%** ■ At graduation (2017) ■ At enrolment (2016) **25%** ⬆

Women for Women International graduates baking bread in the DRC. Our year-long programme supports women to learn a marketable job skill, such as bread-baking, and provides business training so that women can turn their chosen skill into a stable income.

Global Goal and selected target (by 2030)	Our indicator	Percentage change
Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies		
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.	Average score on test measuring knowledge of human rights and violence against women.	**69%** **56%** At graduation (2017) At enrolment (2016) **23%** ⬆
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.	Share who are currently a member of any type of group outside of our training.	**68%** **56%** At graduation (2017) At enrolment (2016) **21%** ⬆

Delivering on the promise: our recommendations

Based on 25 years worth of experience and evidence from working with women survivors of conflict, we make the following four recommendations to governments, donors and the international community to prevent the women we serve from being further left behind.
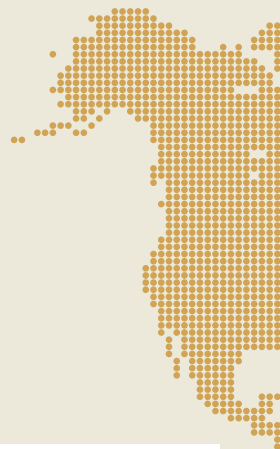
1. Use alternative data sources to complement national-level data collection and invest in efforts to listen to the voices of marginalised groups

Progress for those left furthest behind is unlikely to be captured in official, national-level data, particularly whilst existing data collection efforts struggle to capture accurate or sufficiently aggregable data. Alternative sources of data must be included in analysis, as they provide a more nuanced picture of our collective progress and help governments and donors better understand marginalised groups. We recommend a much more active process through which marginalised groups are engaged in ongoing, meaningful dialogue and supported to drive forward the changes they want to see.

2. Identify and invest in the most marginalised women in conflict

Security is a key enabler for women's empowerment. Conflict increases women's vulnerability to exclusion and abuse, further driving them into marginalisation and excluding them from opportunities. Closing the gender inequality gap is not only fundamental to women's rights but is also key to achieving the Goals and the promise to Leave No One Behind. Investing in marginalised groups must be an immediate priority.

3. Provide comprehensive and long-term support for women affected by conflict

The Goals present a comprehensive framework which recognises the various and intersecting needs faced by the most marginalised people, including the women we work with who face the effects or legacy of conflict. Holistic support is essential to addressing these needs and linking this to long-term support for their empowerment is fundamental to their rights as well as building stronger communities and nations.

4. Engage men as allies

Our work with men highlights how important it is to break down discrimination and increase the impact for women. Gender equality and women's rights are not "women's issues" - they affect everyone. Working with men is both necessary and effective for supporting gender equality and women's rights by changing attitudes and behaviours to promote women's empowerment and challenge discrimination.

Join our movement

We can do so much more together and we urgently need more funding to help women survivors of war. There are more than 3,000 women currently waiting to enrol in our year-long training programme.

Sponsor a woman through our year-long training programme. Your monthly donation of £22 could help her learn the skills to support her family and transform her life.

womenforwomen.org.uk/sponsor

Join the global sisterhood and lend your voice to create a chain of inspiration. We need to speak out against injustices that women survivors of war face. Show your support. Stand with us. Join the sisterhood!
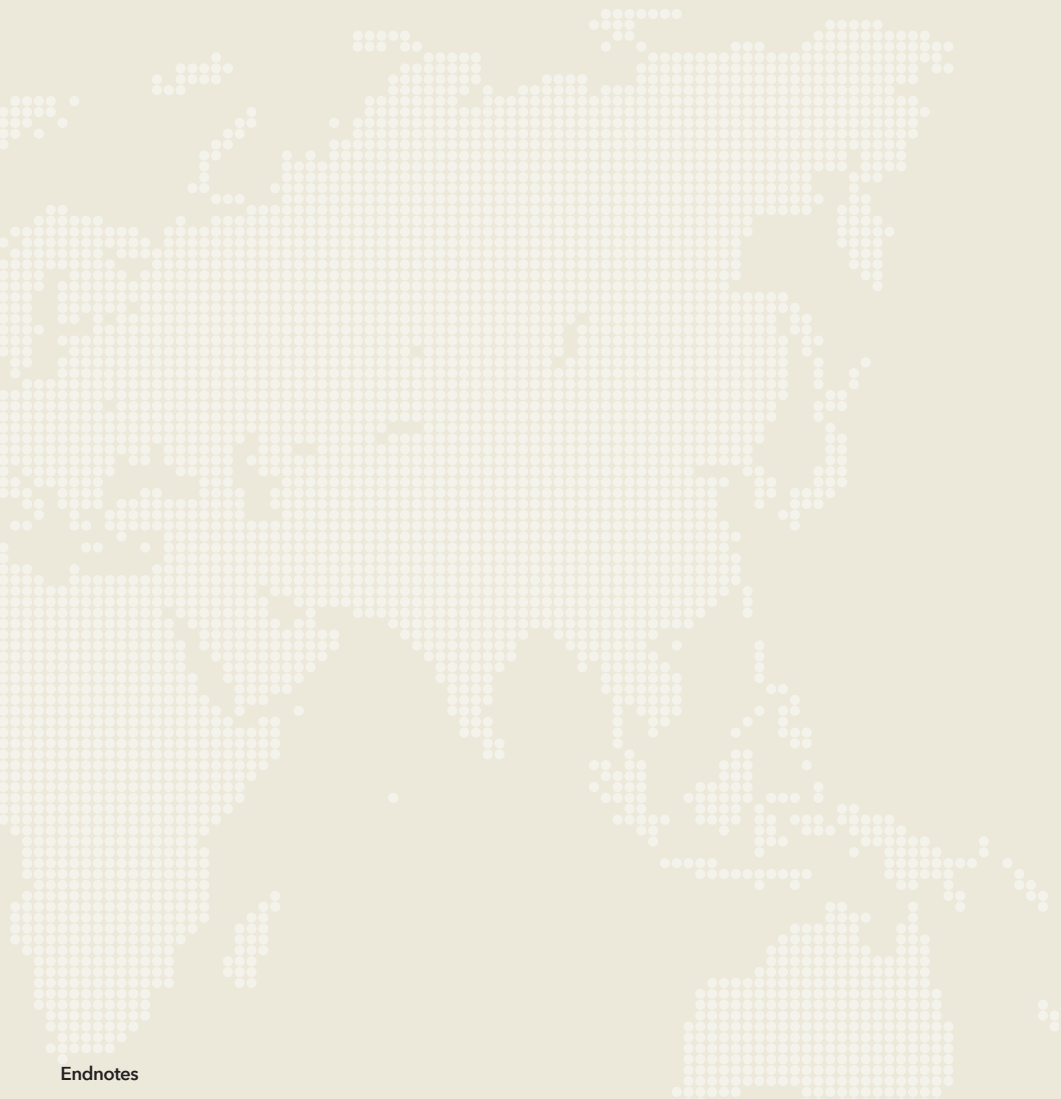
womenforwomen.org.uk/sisterhood

Help us engage women as agents of change.
A donation of £1,000 could pay for the training of three Change Agents who will stand up for women's rights in their community.

womenforwomen.org.uk/donate

Endnotes

1. Following a mapping of our data and the Global Goals framework (targets and indicators), Women for Women International identified seven Goals where our work and data make the greatest contribution. Within these seven Goals, we have prioritised three Goals (1,5 and 16).

2. In 2016/17, we integrated the new international poverty line into our monitoring instruments. Our previous data was based on $1.25 a day.

In countries affected by conflict and war, Women for Women International supports the most marginalised women to earn and save money, improve health and well-being, influence decisions in their home and community, and connect with networks for support. By utilising skills, knowledge and resources, she is able to create sustainable change for herself, her family, and community.

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