



# RAISING OUR VOICES

"The poor are not living in industrialized countries where the environment is distant—where you have to go out to appreciate it. Our lives depend upon it."

—Wangari Maathai  
2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Letter from  
the President

.....  
How To Stop the Import  
of Nuclear Waste

Cultivating Environmental  
Justice

"Greening Up" Chinese  
Women Farmers

Providing Water and  
Opportunity

Kuna Women Defending  
Deep-Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

.....  
Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from the Middle  
East &  
North Africa

.....  
Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

RAISING  
OUR  
VOICES



Environmental Justice

Letter from the President

How To Stop the Import of Nuclear Waste

Cultivating Environmental Justice

"Greening Up" Chinese Women Farmers

Providing Water and Opportunity

Kuna Women Defending Deep-Rooted Values

From Garbage to Gardens

Sustaining Women's Movements Into the Future

Snapshots from the Middle East & North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

## Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

### Warm Greetings from the Global Fund for Women!

In the years since the terrible tragedy of September 11, all of us have learned more about the interdependence and connections that bind us across our global village. Perhaps no one appreciates these linkages more than women in grassroots communities who rely on them to deepen and strengthen their work. The Global Fund for Women is proud to be among the few foundations that actively support women's participation in international and national fora. This year, we awarded grants to many such initiatives—from the halls of the UN to the community centers of indigenous women.



We have also actively sought to expand and build closer ties among new networks—this past spring, as part of our Middle East and North Africa Initiative, the Global Fund led a multinational delegation on a historic outreach trip to nine countries in these regions. Our teams of board, staff and supporters met with nearly 200 local women's organizations and listened to women analyze the most pressing political and social justice issues facing the Middle East and North Africa. Women in these regions are major contributors to their societies—working in the fields, at home and in a variety of professions; but women are also disproportionately affected by poverty, violence and lack of education. Our trip helped generate many new proposals from North African and Middle Eastern women's groups working for peace, justice and equality.

Working across cultures and nationalities is especially vital to improving our shared environment. It seems clear that Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Wangari Maathai, is not alone in her passion to combine women's rights with environmental justice! In this issue of *Raising our Voices*, you will meet our sisters in Jordan, China, Panama and Kenya, including two Goldman Environmental Prize winners. They have successfully addressed a range of environmental problems despite challenges of war, conflict and their lack of political power. Their leadership and determination is helping to develop equitable and sustainable strategies that protect people and their local environments.

Kavita N. Ramdas, *President & CEO*

**A heartfelt farewell to Amelia Wu**, Vice President of Programs & Evaluation, who left the staff after the birth of her third daughter. Amelia began in 1998 as the program officer for Asia. During her time with the Global Fund, she expanded our network of international advisors, developed a feminist budgeting model, and ensured that our grantmaking adhered to our values of



respect and trust. She approached her work with unwavering dedication and commitment to women's rights internationally. We wish Amelia all the best in the coming years.

Photos © Terry Lorant



RAISING  
OUR  
VOICES



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## How To Stop the Import of Nuclear Waste

*Global Fund Advisor Oral Ataniyazova Interviews  
2005 Goldman Environmental Prize Winner, Kaisha Atakhanova*

**When the Kazakh government made plans to weaken environmental laws to allow the commercial import and storage of radioactive waste, Kaisha Atakhanova mobilized citizens, with women at the helm, and successfully led the campaign to stop it. For her efforts, she received the Goldman Environmental Prize in April 2005.**

In 2000, Oral Ataniyazova of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan won the same prize. Below is an adapted version of her interview with Kaisha.

**Oral Ataniyazova:** How did nuclear testing affect people's health?

**Kaisha Atakhanova:** Between 1949 and 1991, Kazakhstan conducted nuclear testing for the Soviet Union, which exposed 1.5 million Kazakhs to radiation directly and spread out to over six million more. Until 1980, the total energy of the nuclear devices exploded was more than 40,000 times the energy of the Hiroshima bomb.

Every fourth woman has problems with her reproductive system. Grandmothers and great grandmothers were pregnant at the time of the testing. That was the beginning of the weakening of genetic material. Each successive generation is further weakened physically, mentally and emotionally.

**OA:** Who were EcoCenter's partners in this hard-won campaign?

**KA:** I shared responsibility for the coordination of the anti-nuclear campaign of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Kazakhstan with Gulsum Kakimzhanova, the leader of the NGO, Iris. It would be hard to overestimate the value of Gulsum's previous experience in the Nevada-Semipalatinsk anti-nuclear movement and her esteemed reputation.

We created an informal network a few years ago during a joint project of our EcoCenter and the Center for Safe Energy, based in San Francisco, California. They were the ones who first took up my call, actively supporting our environmental campaign in all the cities and towns of Kazakhstan. The women with whom we did leadership training became the leaders and regional coordinators of the campaign. We worked together with the leaders of Kazakhstan's major environmental organizations. It is interesting



Kaisha Atakhanova delivers her Goldman Environmental Prize acceptance speech in San Francisco, April 18, 2005.

Environmental Justice

Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the Import  
of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women  
Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

that women who once knew little about the environment became very passionate about the issues.

**OA:** I understand that KazAtomprom (the state-controlled nuclear-industrial complex) spent a lot of money on a public relations campaign to lobby Parliament and block the truth from getting to the public. Why do you think EcoCenter's campaign still succeeded?

**KA:** We finally broke the "spiral of silence." Citizen activists and NGOs in every region had the chance to take part in our actions and discussions of radioactive wastes, and to voice their positions at local public hearings. The consolidation of our efforts, our confidence, good strategy and tactics, the mobilization of resources and international support all paved the way for our success.

**OA:** Has there been a backlash?

**KA:** Currently the official policy of the Kazakh government is to severely limit and control NGO activities. For over three months the more active and independent NGOs, including EcoCenter, have been subjected to a thorough investigation by the office of the procurator as well as the tax authorities. Our work has been essentially paralyzed; many NGOs have been punished with completely baseless fines. We are still fighting the proposed legislation that restricts the activities of NGOs and international organizations in Kazakhstan, and violates our constitutional rights and freedoms. We have managed to have some of the restrictive amendments to these bills removed. At present, however, despite public protests, the legislation has been approved by Parliament and awaits the president's signature.

**OA:** What's next in your work?

**KA:** I have a dream that I am sure will come true soon. With the help of the Goldman Prize (a cash award of \$125,000), I will be able to establish the Socio-Ecological Investment Fund in Kazakhstan together with my anti-nuclear colleagues. The Fund will provide support to women's initiatives and activists from public organizations. Due to the impending government restrictions I mentioned, we are expecting a dramatic decline in donor support of Kazakh NGOs. That is why creation of our own fund is becoming more essential.

*[Click here](#) or more information on how both leaders view issues of pollution and the environment.*



Kaisha Atakhanova, 2005 Environmental Prize Winner, with an anti-nuclear activist in the village of Sarzhal, Semipalatinsk region. He is now suffering from cancer.

Top Photo © Goldman Environmental Prize  
Bottom Photo © Aselya Dzhanburina

RAISING  
OUR  
VOICES



Environmental Justice

Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the  
Import of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental  
Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women  
Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## Cultivating Environmental Justice

by Sande Smith, *Communications Officer*

**"The poor are not living in industrialized countries where the environment is distant—where you have to go out to appreciate it. Our lives depend upon it," said Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.**

This is all the more true for women. While the destruction of the environment affects each and every one of us, the brunt of the damage falls on women and children. Nuclear waste, the overuse of pesticides, deforestation, and the pollution of water supplies are wreaking havoc on women's bodies and lives.



According to the World Health Organization, more than three million children under five die each year from adverse environmental causes and conditions. And the National Wildlife Federation has found that diseases associated with dirty water kill between five and 12 million people each year, mostly women and children. Due to increasing privatization and pollution, more people, especially women, lack access to clean drinking water.

Almost every single one of the Millennium Development Goals, to which 191 United Nations member states have subscribed, have environmental implications that concern women. Child mortality cannot be reduced if we ignore how breast milk is tainted by toxins; diseases such as giardia cannot be prevented if there is no safe, clean water; universal primary education cannot be achieved if girls are taken out of school to walk long distances to fetch clean water. Poverty cannot be eradicated if women do not have access to land, which they know how to manage sustainably.

In 2005, the UN acknowledged women's role in preserving and transmitting indigenous knowledge, promoting biodiversity and managing environmental resources with respect. Economic and environmental justice cannot be achieved without the empowerment of women. The profiles that follow are deeply inspiring examples of how women around the world are achieving their right to a safe and healthy environment by combining knowledge with transformative practices that benefit their communities.

Photo © EcoWomen



# RAISING OUR VOICES



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### "Greening Up" Chinese Women Farmers

EcoWomen, *Kunming, China*  
by Maria McKee, *Communications Associate*

**Since the early 1980s, Chinese farm workers have relied heavily on pesticides in order to satisfy high food demands in the face of low production capacity. Excessive and negligent pesticide use contaminates water supplies, destroys natural habitats and causes health problems for farmers and their families. In 1993 alone, rampant use of pesticides caused the deaths of over 10,000 Chinese farm workers.**

Due to the migration of rural men to cities in search of work, Chinese women have become the majority of the agricultural work force. Increasingly, Chinese women farmers face the risk of accumulated exposure to pesticides and the accompanying health hazards, such as increased breast cancer, toxins in breast milk, miscarriages and stillbirths. **EcoWomen**, formerly known as Green Mountain Women, is the first grassroots group in China specifically organizing women to combat pesticide abuse and advocate for women's health and rights.

Located in Yunnan province, one of the most agriculturally productive regions of western China, EcoWomen describes itself as "greening up" Chinese women. Through environmental educational training and programs, the group teaches rural women about the effects of pesticide use on women's health.

When EcoWomen conducted a pesticide pollution survey in Yunnan province, the group found that most farmers knew little about the effects of pesticides, or about their proper mixing, use and storage. In response, the group launched a program to raise public awareness, in which people exchange used pesticide bottles for gloves, masks, and other gear that protects them against toxic chemicals.

EcoWomen transcends traditional modes of women's and environmental activism in China, bridging two critical social justice movements with a more holistic approach to social change. The Global Fund has supported EcoWomen's pesticide reduction campaigns since 2001 with three grants totaling \$20,825.

#### **EcoWomen**

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Environmental Justice

Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the  
Import of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

# RAISING OUR VOICES



Environmental Justice

Letter from the President

How To Stop the Import of Nuclear Waste

Cultivating Environmental Justice

"Greening Up" Chinese Women Farmers

Providing Water and Opportunity

Kuna Women Defending Deep-Rooted Values

From Garbage to Gardens

Sustaining Women's Movements Into the Future

Snapshots from the Middle East & North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### Providing Water and Opportunity

Groups of Women in Water and Agriculture Kochieng, *Ahero, Kenya*  
by Marlene Dehlinger, *Program Associate for Africa*

**Clean, safe water comes hard to women in Kenya's Nyanza Province. Many women rise at 4:30 in the morning and walk more than five km (3miles) to line up at rivers and streams where they wait their turn to draw water for cooking and cleaning.**

Yet this water, which should be life-giving, is often a source of illness and even death. Streams that were once pristine are used for bathing, washing clothes and as the drinking point for livestock. Seasonal flooding carries sewage and septic waste into shallow, open wells. Because it is the role of women and girls to wash clothes, prepare food and water crops, they come into contact with contaminated water on a daily basis, which puts them at increased risk of disease.

**Groups of Women in Water and Agriculture Kochieng (GWAKO)**, formed in 1996, has made access to water its central issue. GWAKO's holistic programs address the shortage of clean water and sanitation facilities. Heading a network of 24 grassroots women's groups located in villages on the outskirts of Kisumu, GWAKO has worked with communities to dig shallow hand wells to reduce the time women spend walking to and waiting at water points. GWAKO has also dug 13 deeper, more stable wells called tube wells, which provide water year round and do not become contaminated during floods. Women's groups have used their improved access to water to increase the output of their gardens, which can in turn be sold in markets. GWAKO has also taught them to create fertilizer for their gardens by turning household waste into compost.

GWAKO's holistic approach extends to education. The group determined that many young women do not attend school when they are menstruating due to the absence of sanitation facilities, and has built 12 latrines in six rural schools. It has also noted that many girls are pulled out of school to fetch water. To address the array of factors that cause girls to dropout—early marriage, household chores, teenage pregnancy—GWAKO has created clubs where girls learn about their rights, their changing bodies, and how HIV/AIDS is spread. The Global Fund is proud to have supported GWAKO with grants totaling \$28,000.



The women of GWAKO lead the way through newly planted fields.

***Groups of Women in Water & Agriculture Kochieng***

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RAISING  
OUR  
VOICES



Environmental Justice

Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the  
Import of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women  
Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women Defending  
Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## Kuna Women Defending Deep-Rooted Values

Centro de Mujeres Kunas "Kikadiryai," Panama City, Panama  
by Rachel Niederman, Intern

**Kuna women view their relationship with the environment as one in which all living beings both nurture and are nurtured by each other. "The environment is what secures our lives and our culture."**

"Therefore, throughout our history, development of our communities has been rooted in sustainable environmental practices," says Florina Lopez, leader of the **Centro de Mujeres Kunas "Kikadiryai."** Founded by 20 visionary Kuna women in 2000, the group is named after a Kuna woman who embodied the strength, wisdom, and leadership of indigenous people.

Kikadiryai links gender inequity among indigenous people to environmental degradation. The group plans seminars and workshops to bring Kuna women into the public sphere, and help them voice their social and environmental concerns. The most successful seminar of the past year discussed biodiversity and traditional knowledge, and resulted in the creation of the Network of Indigenous Women in Panama on Biodiversity. The women involved realized that together they could accomplish concrete tasks in their communities to improve the environment.

In 2003, with the support of a \$12,000 grant from the Global Fund, Kikadiryai held its first national workshop in Panama and its first annual meeting of the Network. The workshops trained women to take a stand on environmental issues since most policy-makers lack a clear perspective on gender equality and indigenous rights. In March 2005, Kikadiryai sent a delegation to the Beijing+10 conference in New York to influence international policymakers and share strategies with other groups of indigenous women to preserve their culture and environment.

The Global Fund has since made two grants totaling \$27,000 to support the multi-faceted impact of Kikadiryai on community members, whose voices are now louder, and whose national and international environmental agendas are now stronger.



A Kuna woman determines her earnings from selling molas (textiles).



Kuna girls do their homework.

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RAISING  
OUR  
VOICES



Environmental Justice

Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the  
Import of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women  
Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

**From Garbage to Gardens**

The Human Forum for Women's Rights, *Amman, Jordan*  
by Leanne A. Grossman, *Director of Communications*

**The Global Fund's Middle East/North Africa outreach trip brought us face to face with remarkable women's organizations. One of the grantees we were fortunate to meet was the *Human Forum for Women's Rights (HFWR)*. Among their many programs to advance women's status in Jordan is an education project to involve local communities in developing environmentally sustainable initiatives.**



Lamis Nasser, HFWR's president, led us on a field trip to a nearby community project they have been actively supporting in collaboration with the Productive Woman Cooperative Society. Leveraging World Bank funds, the project transformed a garbage dump into a safe, healthy space for the community. The dump was relocated to a non-residential area.

Residents learned how to go door-to-door collecting bottles, cans and other items that used to end up in the dump. Now these items are recycled. Then the community was trained in water conservation, and set up a solar power generator to support an irrigation system. We witnessed the results: vegetables and flowers bloom in the greenhouse, and kids ride their bicycles through the new park.

But the women leading the program didn't stop there. Girls from the area had been missing out on early education. The nearest school was two kilometers away, a distance considered unsafe for girls to walk.

The women joined with other activists to successfully lobby the government to build a school in the community. The Global Fund is honored to support the work of the Human Forum for Women's Rights with a grant of \$6,000. And we are deeply grateful to the group and the Productive Woman Cooperative Society for sharing their community achievements with our delegation.



Nadia Al-Kharouf, President of the Productive Women Cooperative Society, at the greenhouse she created.

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RAISING  
OUR  
VOICES



Environmental Justice

Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the  
Import of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women  
Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

WOMEN'S FUNDS

## Sustaining Women's Movements into the Future

by Ana María Enríquez, *Program Officer for the Americas*

**After 18 years of uninterrupted grantmaking in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the Global Fund has supported 800 organizations with more than \$12.8 million, we recognized that it was time to reflect on our collective experience with our sisters in the region.**

The Global Fund and our Chilean sister fund, **Colectivo Alquimia** (Alchemy Collective), held the first Latin American and Caribbean advisory meeting this past April in Santiago, Chile. During the gathering, we reviewed the history of our grantmaking, examined the current situation facing women in the region, and looked forward to new alliances.



Global Fund board members, staff, donors, grantees and advisors at the Latin American and Caribbean advisors meeting.

A remarkable group of board members, staff, donors, grantees and Latin American and Caribbean advisors from 12 countries discussed issues such as violence against women, women in conflict, the importance of advancing women's reproductive rights and how best to combat homophobia. They also helped the Global Fund to set priorities for the future by recommending that special attention be paid to Colombia and Haiti—two countries dominated by conflict, poverty and pervasive violence against women. According to the World Health Organization, 40 percent of Haitian women between the ages of 15 and 49 have no access to contraception, and 27 percent have experienced physical violence of some kind. Women are particularly vulnerable to maternal mortality, preventable infectious diseases and sexually transmitted infections, which contribute to the highest mortality rate on the continent. Colombia is undergoing what Human Rights Watch calls the "the most dire human rights situation in the western hemisphere." The country's civil war, now over 40 years old, has forced two million people from their homes, the majority of whom are women and children.

Participants at the meeting strategize about how to preserve and advance women's rights in the face of rising ultraconservatism and neo-liberalism. They also discussed how to develop new means of support, given a devastating exodus of traditional sources of funding. Advisors emphasized that the key to true

feminist social change is the ability of women's organizations to maintain autonomy in decision-making and implement their own solutions to pressing problems. As such, the growth of women's funds in the region, such as Colectivo Alquimia, is crucial. Alquimia, like the Global Fund, is redefining existing notions of philanthropy by supporting small grassroots organizations in Chile and building a movement of "women that trust and believe in other women." Most of Alquimia's individual donors are from Chile and include activists, doctors, lawyers, policymakers, domestic workers and Alquimia's own staff. Alquimia is not alone. Semillas, the women's fund in Mexico, has created a network of over 200 women donors (just three years ago there were only three women!) who are investing in projects to advance women's rights in a country abandoned by most major donors. Other women's funds in the region include the Angela Borba Fund in Brazil, and the Central American Women's Fund based in Nicaragua.

The Global Fund stands more committed than ever to true solidarity with women in this region, and is honored to partner with our advisors, grantees, and sister women's funds as we create a more just and equitable future for women in the Americas and around the world.

Photos © Colectivo Alquimia



Mapuche Indian women opened the Latin American and Caribbean advisors meeting with a ceremony.

# RAISING OUR VOICES



## Snapshots from the Middle East & North Africa

From April 26 - May 8, 2005, 28 Global Fund board members, staff, and supporters traveled to nine countries in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA). Our visit ended in Egypt with site visits and a board meeting hosted by Global Fund grantee, ADEW (Association for Enhancement and Development of Women). We are deeply grateful to the nearly 200 rural and urban women's organizations we met with to learn about the most pressing issues facing women there. Below are snapshots from each of the six teams, sharing a taste of what we learned.

[Turkey](#)

[Morocco](#)

[Palestine and Israel](#)

[Yemen](#)

[Lebanon](#)

[Egypt](#)



Young women enjoy RUWAD's training programs (left), led by Afifa Arsanios, GFW advisor and Nazha Sadek, RUWAD president (right).

### Turkey

I returned to Turkey for the Global Fund with Board Chair, Jacqueline Pitanguy, who brought her wise and extensive experience using popular organizing strategies in Brazil. We visited with groups in Istanbul and Diyarbakir. Located on the Tigris River, Diyarbakir is a 4,000-year-old city. In 2003, we only met with five women's groups there, and this time we met with 26! They work on a wide range of issues since women in this post-conflict region face many challenges, including forced migration from rural villages to urban areas, domestic violence, and honor killings. In fact, every single group we met addressed honor killings, when a male family member kills a woman who is suspected of sexual indiscretion. One of the boldest groups we have supported is KA-MER, a well-known Kurdish women's group that just launched a national campaign against honor killings with the slogan, "Don't be blind to murder done in the name of honor."

—Annie Hillar

Environmental Justice

Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the  
Import of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women  
Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

## Morocco

We were so excited to meet with many of the women activists, who, for 30 years, have played a key role in advocating and significantly changing several laws that discriminated against women: the Penal Code and a labor law in 2003, and the Family Code in 2004. One of the 34 very dedicated women's rights groups we met with is led by young women in a poor area of Marrakech. Association El Amane provides legal and psychological assistance to illiterate and semi-literate women, undocumented women and abuse survivors as well as girls vulnerable to trafficking, such as maids. The association trains women in the rural and urban areas around the city to understand their rights under the revised Family Code.

—Nicky McIntyre



Lawyers of the Democratic League for Women's Rights in Ourzazate, Morocco.



Board members Amina Mama (back left) and Zene Tadesse (right) with members of the Association El Amane, Morocco.



Halima Oulami, Global Fund advisor and co-founder of El Amane.

## Palestine and Israel

During our meetings with more than 50 women's organizations, we heard over and over that "conflict affects women first and women worst." Women in Israel expressed concern about the effects of living and raising families in a militarized society, and the shifting values and policies that impact their lives. Jewish women are organizing in new ways to address the consequences of globalization, unemployment and poverty. Palestinian women in Israel are developing independent and joint initiatives that challenge both religious and cultural restrictions in their own community, as well as the historic power and resource imbalance between Jews and Arabs in Israel. Women in Palestine have been promoting legislation that will adopt a quota to guarantee women positions in the Palestinian parliament. Yet most of their energies are devoted to resisting and challenging the apartheid wall and the other daily consequences of living under occupation.



Palestinian refugees in Amman run a wide range of programs, which engage and promote Palestinian women's entrepreneurialism and self-esteem.

—Terry Greenblatt

## Yemen

Our team had the unique opportunity to visit one of the poorest countries in the region, Yemen. Since 1994, women's role and status in society has diminished with the dominance of a conservative and authoritarian government and the rise of fundamentalist interpretations of religious texts. Once judges and lawyers, today, women in Yemen endure high rates of unemployment and illiteracy. One example of the 17 wonderful organizations we met with is the Women's Forum for Research and Training, which is advocating for women's rights on the policy level, while working diligently at the grassroots to empower local women and women's organizations.

—Zeina Zaatari



Elaine Nonneman near the Al Qahira Castle that towers over hillside communities in Yemen.

## Lebanon

In beautiful, mountainous Northern Lebanon, we visited three women's cooperatives. One of them was the Fourzal Cooperative. The 13 members of Fourzal work from May to November, if there is enough production. The women buy produce from local farmers, which they process into preserved pumpkin and oranges, pickled vegetables and eggplant jam. In their village of 4,000 people, this small rural cooperative allows a few families additional income for part of the year, money that might be used for a doctor's visit for a mother or infant. In a region with less than 13% permanent employment, every contribution is vital. After processing the fruit, the cooperative members sell the jams and pickled vegetables locally and in Beirut. Marketing is the greatest challenge to all three of the cooperatives we visited. Finding distributors requires skills, funds, and time, none of which are as abundant as the produce.

—Leanne Grossman



A member of the Fourzal women's cooperative, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.

## Egypt

As soon as we arrived in Cairo, we were swept off to visit some of ADEW's (Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women) successful projects. Led by Iman Bibars, Global Fund Advisor and ADEW Chair, the organization offers literacy classes, health services and legal awareness workshops to empower female heads of households, and educate girls. Our first stop was ADEW's Dream Girls project, where we were uplifted by the teen girls' optimism and intelligence. Then we visited a women's cooperative that enables single mothers to start businesses. Their collective interdependence boosts economic independence. We then held our Board meeting with 100% Board attendance where discussions focused on strategic priorities for women in the MENA regions. To close, ADEW held a press conference with dozens of representatives from the Egyptian radio, TV and print media, where we emphasized the urgent need to advance women's rights. The Global Fund expresses our deep gratitude to ADEW for hosting the entire delegation in Cairo.



The Dream Girls project of the Association for Enhancement and Development of Women in Cairo educates low-income girls.

## MIDDLE EAST TRAVELERS

### Yemen / Bahrain

Stans Kleijnen  
Simone Verbaken  
Samara Farhat-Naser  
Zeina Zaatari  
Elaine Nonneman

### Turkey

Jacqueline Pitanguy  
Annie Hillar

### Palestine / Israel

Kavita N. Ramdas  
Olena Suslova  
Terry Greenblatt

### Morocco

Amina Mama  
Zene Tadesse  
Dina Dublon  
Charlotte Bunch  
Abigail Disney  
Joanie Bronfman  
Neal MacMillan  
Nicky McIntyre

### Lebanon / Jordan

Sakena Yacoobi  
Adele Simmons  
Lin Chew  
Leanne Grossman  
Muadi Mukenge

### Egypt

Dale Needles  
Laurene Powell Jobs  
Diane Jordan Wexler  
Myrna Cunningham  
Mayan Villalba

All photos courtesy of MENA delegates.

RAISING  
OUR  
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Environmental Justice

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Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

## Fundraising News

### House Party Kicks Off Summer

The day after summer began, Karpagam Nararayan, Connie Weiss and Global Fund Board Member, Stans Kleijnen, organized a lively family-friendly event to raise money for the Global Fund. Thirty-five adults and 15 children gathered at the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Center. Attendees came dressed in international clothing to vie for the "best-dressed" prize. And with a photographic presentation, Stans described her recent trip to the Middle East with the Global Fund. She interwove descriptions of women's groups and the work they do with an explanation of our grantmaking strategy.



Left to right: Karpagam, Molly, Sari, Connie, Simone, Ramki and Matt.

Kayla Bauhaus, the 9-year-old daughter of a Sun Microsystems employee, was one of the guests who took advantage of Sun's matching gift program. She donated her allowance to the Global Fund; her father matched her donation, and then Sun matched the combined total! The evening raised more than \$2,200 for the Global Fund, showing how small acts can make a big difference.

### Conversation with Shirin Ebadi

On June 1, 2005, Dr. Shirin Ebadi, 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner, a valiant Iranian attorney and advocate for women's rights, engaged in an inspiring and straightforward conversation with Kavita N. Ramdas, President & CEO of the Global Fund for Women. The event was sponsored by the New York County Lawyers' Association, the first U.S. bar association to admit people regardless of race or gender. The 320 audience members included some of our long-time friends and supporters in New York, as well as many who were new to the Global Fund. After the public event, we held an intimate gathering of 30 supporters who, by contributing to the event, were supporting the Investing in Women Campaign. The dinner, co-sponsored by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates and Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett LLP, raised \$100,000.



Shirin Ebadi, (third from left), stands with Board members Dina Dublon (far left), Laurene Powell Jobs and Charlotte Bunch (right) and Global Fund President Kavita N. Ramdas (second from left).

**Thanks to Isabel Allende Foundation**

"The complexities of international giving can be daunting for a small foundation," says Lori Barra, Executive Director of the Isabel Allende Foundation, which makes grants based on the conviction that the quality of life for families and communities improves when women have access to education, healthcare, and skills. The Global Fund Latin American and Caribbean advisors meeting, held in April 2005 in Chile, afforded Lori an opportunity to learn about the Global Fund's grantmaking strategy, and meet with advisors and grantees. Lori came away from the meeting confident that making grants to the Global Fund and Colectivo Alquimia, the Chilean women's fund, was an excellent way to support women in Chile. The Foundation has made a \$15,000 gift to the Global Fund. "Isabel and I are so grateful to the Global Fund for making it possible for us to reach the women in Chile who are most in need—to protect and empower them and give them a voice," says Lori. A warm thank you to the Isabel Allende Foundation for their trust in our work.



Lori Barra (left) and Lydia Alpizar, Global Fund advisor

**HOST A SUMMER HOUSE PARTY! HELP US REACH OUR \$20 MILLION INVESTING IN WOMEN CAMPAIGN GOAL.**

We've raised \$19.3 million, and recently received a \$500,000 challenge grant. Every donation up to \$500,000 will be matched dollar for dollar. You can sign up and manage your party from our website.

Photos Top to Bottom: © Stans Kleijnan, © Srauss and Baker, © Colectivo Alquimia

# RAISING OUR VOICES



## Resources

**UNICEF's Innocent Research Center** has helped publish a report about Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe. The author, Barbara Limanowska, aims to increase the awareness of trafficking in human beings on the part of governmental institutions, NGOs, and the general public, and to connect the prevalence of human trafficking to its root cause, the structural gender inequality in South Eastern Europe.

Download pdf: [www.childtrafficking.org/eng/seereport2005.pdf](http://www.childtrafficking.org/eng/seereport2005.pdf)

**New resource from Gender at Work:** Conversations with Women on Leadership and Social Transformation, by Srilatha Batliwala and Aruna Rao. These conversations with 18 international women leaders elucidate women's visions, their perspectives on coalition building and leadership, and fundamental questions on how to challenge power and accountability.

To download: [www.genderatwork.org/index.php/SEC41fbd73cde055](http://www.genderatwork.org/index.php/SEC41fbd73cde055)

**Healthy Mothers and Healthy Children:** The Role of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality by the Pan American Health Organization. The report outlines the widespread influence of sexual and reproductive health care for women on society in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Website: [www.paho.org/english/ad/ge/home.htm](http://www.paho.org/english/ad/ge/home.htm)

**Women and Environments International Magazine** calls for submissions to their issue, Women and Urban Sustainability to be released in Spring 2006. This issue will contribute to the World Urban Forum that marks the 30th anniversary of UN Habitat to be held in Vancouver in June 2006. They seek submissions that analyze urban sustainability from diverse perspectives of gender, sexual identity, race, class, ability, age, socio-cultural and regional differences, among others. Send abstracts or indications of interest by October 1st 2005.

For guidelines, [www.weimag.com](http://www.weimag.com)  
or call 416-978- 5259

Fax: 416-946-5561

40 Willcocks Street  
Toronto ON M5S 1C6  
Canada.

### CORRECTION:

The last issue of Raising Our Voices incorrectly stated the number of nations that ratified the Beijing Platform for Action. The correct number is 189.

### OUR ACCOUNT NUMBER HAS CHANGED!

For those of you who donate securities to the Global Fund for Women, please note our new account number at A.G. Edwards: 3012-0251. [Click here](#) for complete stock

Environmental Justice

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the President

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Nuclear Waste

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Chinese Women  
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and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

donation information or call Lanell at 415-202-7640 x311.

RAISING  
OUR  
VOICES



## Calendar

### September 21-23, 2005

*Bern, Switzerland*

**Due Diligence: The Responsibility of the State for the Human Rights of Women,** an international symposium on the legal concept of due diligence. The conference will provide a forum for an interdisciplinary debate on the topic in connection with violence against women, as well as offer networking possibilities for international academics, students, politicians and representatives from governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Phone: +41 (0)31 307 22 42

Email: [duediligence@humanrights.ch](mailto:duediligence@humanrights.ch)

Website: [www.izfg.unibe.ch/duediligence/e/index\\_e.htm](http://www.izfg.unibe.ch/duediligence/e/index_e.htm)

Due Diligence

Secretariat

Sabrina Buchler

Falkenplatz 3, CH-3012

Bern, Switzerland

### October 7-9, 2005

*Zagreb, Croatia*

**The Transgressing Gender Conference: Two is not enough for gender (e) quality** will be the first of its kind in Central and South East Europe. The conference combines feminist, transgender, and gender perspectives in order to advance gender rights and freedoms worldwide.

Email: [GenderZagreb2005@yahoo.com](mailto:GenderZagreb2005@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.tgenderzagreb.com/ann.html](http://www.tgenderzagreb.com/ann.html)

### October 9-12, 2005

*Sao Paulo, Brazil*

**The X Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Encuentro** will focus on feminism and the radicalization of democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants have the opportunity to assess the feminist movement and network among women's groups throughout the region.

Fax: +55 11 3285.4951

Email: [10encontro@uol.com.br](mailto:10encontro@uol.com.br)

Website: [www.10feminista.org.br](http://www.10feminista.org.br)

Instituto Patrícia Galvão

Av. Brig. Luiz Antonio

2050-cj. 141 B—01318-002

São Paulo—SP

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Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the  
Import of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women  
Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

**October 24-November 11, 2005**

*Nairobi, Kenya*

The Centre for African Family Studies, in collaboration with the World Health Organization Secretariat, Women's Health Project of the University of Witwatersrand and the Harvard School of Public Health, is offering a three-week course, "**Promoting gender and rights in reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.**" The course will highlight regional priorities and current controversies in relation to the Millennium Development Goals, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action, particularly in the context of HIV and AIDS.

Phone: +254 20 444 86 18

Fax: 254-20-444 86 21

Email: [info@cafs.org](mailto:info@cafs.org)

Website: [www.cafs.org](http://www.cafs.org)

Centre for African Family Studies

P.O. Box 60054, 00200

Nairobi, Kenya

**November 17-21, 2005**

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

The theme for the **Third Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health** is "Sexual and Reproductive Health For All By 2015." Participants will review the need to improve the quality and scope of services on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The conference will address issues such as policy and legal reforms, gender, young people, HIV/AIDS and older persons.

Phone: +60 3 79569098

Fax: +60 3 79562078

Email: [hohui@meditech.com.my](mailto:hohui@meditech.com.my)

Website: [www.3apcrsh.org](http://www.3apcrsh.org)

Conference Secretariat

3rd APCRSH

c/o MediTech Media (M) Sdn Bhd Unit 903

9th Floor, Menara PJ, AMCORP Trade Centre, No. 18

Jalan Persiaran Barat, 46050

Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Malaysia

**November 27-30, 2005**

*New Delhi, India*

**The Fourth International Congress on Women, Work and Health (WWH-2005)** invites researchers, NGO workers, and representatives of government, trade unions and the voluntary sector of civil society to discuss women's health, working, and living conditions.

Phone: +91 11 23012752

Fax: +91 11 23015307

Emails: [swl\\_10@rediffmail.com](mailto:swl_10@rediffmail.com),

[wwh@swldelhi.org](mailto:wwh@swldelhi.org)

Website: [www.swl-delhi.org/wwh](http://www.swl-delhi.org/wwh)

Ms. Minakshi Bindra Mahajan

Neumech Events, 51

Mandakani Enclave

New Delhi 110019

India

RAISING  
OUR  
VOICES



Environmental Justice

Letter from  
the President

How To Stop the  
Import of  
Nuclear Waste

Cultivating  
Environmental Justice

"Greening Up"  
Chinese Women  
Farmers

Providing Water  
and Opportunity

Kuna Women  
Defending Deep-  
Rooted Values

From Garbage  
to Gardens

Sustaining Women's  
Movements Into  
the Future

Snapshots from  
the Middle East  
& North Africa

Fundraising News

Resources

Calendar

Masthead

Global Fund Home

Newsletter Home

## Masthead

*The Global Fund for Women is a nonprofit grantmaking foundation that seeds, strengthens and links women's rights organizations in every part of the world.*

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San Francisco, CA 94109 USA  
phone: 415.202.7640  
fax: 415.202.8604

[gfw@globalfundforwomen.org](mailto:gfw@globalfundforwomen.org)  
[www.globalfundforwomen.org](http://www.globalfundforwomen.org)

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The Global Fund for Women is a grantmaking foundation supporting women's human rights organizations around the world working to address critical issues such as gaining economic independence, increasing girls' access to education and stopping violence against women.

## The Global Fund Responds to Middle East Crisis

The Global Fund extends our solidarity to the people of Lebanon, Palestine and Israel whose lives, safety and wellbeing are being compromised by the current security and humanitarian crisis.

### First Grant Awarded to Women in the Crossfire



#### Donate Now

You may designate funds to support women's groups in the conflict region. Simply note on your donation, "Middle East Crisis."

#### GLOBAL FUND RESPONDS TO MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

### Call for Peace in the Middle East, India and Around the World

July 14, 2006 - The Board of Directors of the Global Fund for Women, a diverse group of women leaders from many nations, is deeply concerned about the current climate of militarism and violence that dominates world affairs. The use of force to settle conflicts or to make a political statement adversely affects all people, but disproportionately hurts women and children.

[Full Statement](#)

#### NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINES

### July 19th E-mail From a Colleague in Saida, Lebanon

"As we drove around the city collecting clothes and other items to deliver to the displaced and refugees, we could see a stream of cars from the South coming to Saida and going beyond. Thousands of people passed by in cars, buses, cabs. Cars filled with people to the maximum, without any luggage or other items which means they fled. Destroyed and mangled cars that could still work were bringing people who were fleeing. ... Several cabs went to Marjeoun and picked up loads of people all holding German flags as they are German citizens. They were trying to evacuate to Beirut to get to the embassy. ... What are the Lebanese going to do? ... Where will they run to? "

#### GRANTEE NEWS

### Fighting For Water Rights in Fiji



"Water is a basic human right, and we are very concerned about the possible privatization of this essential resource," said Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) Executive Director Virisila Buadromo. FWRM, which works to improve the status of women in all areas, hopes that Fiji will learn from other water privatization schemes that have compelled women who could not afford water to travel long distances and use contaminated water sources.

#### GLOBAL FUND NEWS

### Put the Global Fund on the Bestseller List!



*Paradigm Found: Leading and Managing for Positive Change*, by Global Fund for Women Founding President Anne Firth Murray debuts online and in bookstores this month! This is the story of the creation of the Global Fund and it is sure to

inspire creative people to take action that

**GLOBAL FUND BLOG**

**Connect With Women Around the World**



Read messages from Global Fund President Kavita N. Ramdas and other members of our international network. Learn about the activities of women's groups. Sign in and share

your perspective on women's rights on our new worldwide community blog!

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makes a difference. Anne, who founded the Global Fund in 1987, is a true visionary who believes that dreams can be translated into reality and that philanthropy can be a collective force for positive change. Get your copy today!

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