



2024 Impact report

**Locally led solutions
for lasting change**



© The Social Outfit.

What's in this report

3 Our mission

4 Africa

5 Investing in health in Sub-Saharan Africa

12 Unlocking education and opportunity

19 Fostering sustainable communities

27 Australia

28 Supporting women and girls to thrive in Sydney

36 Access to legal support for vulnerable women

42 Investing in Northern Australia initiatives

Our mission

Since the Judith Neilson Foundation began its work our focus has been on supporting people, places, and ideas that drive meaningful and enduring change.

Guided by Judith Neilson's belief in the power of local solutions to address global challenges, our work spans Australia and Sub-Saharan Africa, responding to the unique opportunities and challenges in each region.

Africa's young and rapidly urbanising population holds immense potential for growth and innovation, despite significant challenges. By investing in education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihoods, we aim to create equitable opportunities and improve lives for generations to come.

In Australia, we prioritise gender equity by supporting a community of organisations working with disadvantaged women in our home city of Sydney, investing in First Nations-led initiatives, and enhancing access to legal services for the most vulnerable, to create fairer opportunities for all.

While there is still much to accomplish, the progress achieved through our partnerships reinforces our confidence. Together, we are building a future that is more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

Africa

Strengthening Africa's potential for sustainable growth

Our partnerships focus on addressing systemic challenges in rural and disadvantaged urban communities, supporting initiatives that expand access to education, strengthen healthcare systems, and foster sustainable communities. By tackling inequities, promoting inclusive economies, and adopting climate-smart strategies, we are helping to shape a future driven by Africa's leaders.

Investing in health in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa's communities are leading the way in creating healthier futures. By equipping frontline health workers and enhancing healthcare systems, our partnerships collaborate with governments to deliver innovative solutions to pressing challenges.

Save the Children Australia's Learner Treatment Kits are transforming how schools in Malawi address malaria, keeping children healthy and in school. Meanwhile, Fresh Life improves hygiene and safety in urban settlements across Kenya and Zambia with accessible, sustainable sanitation facilities.

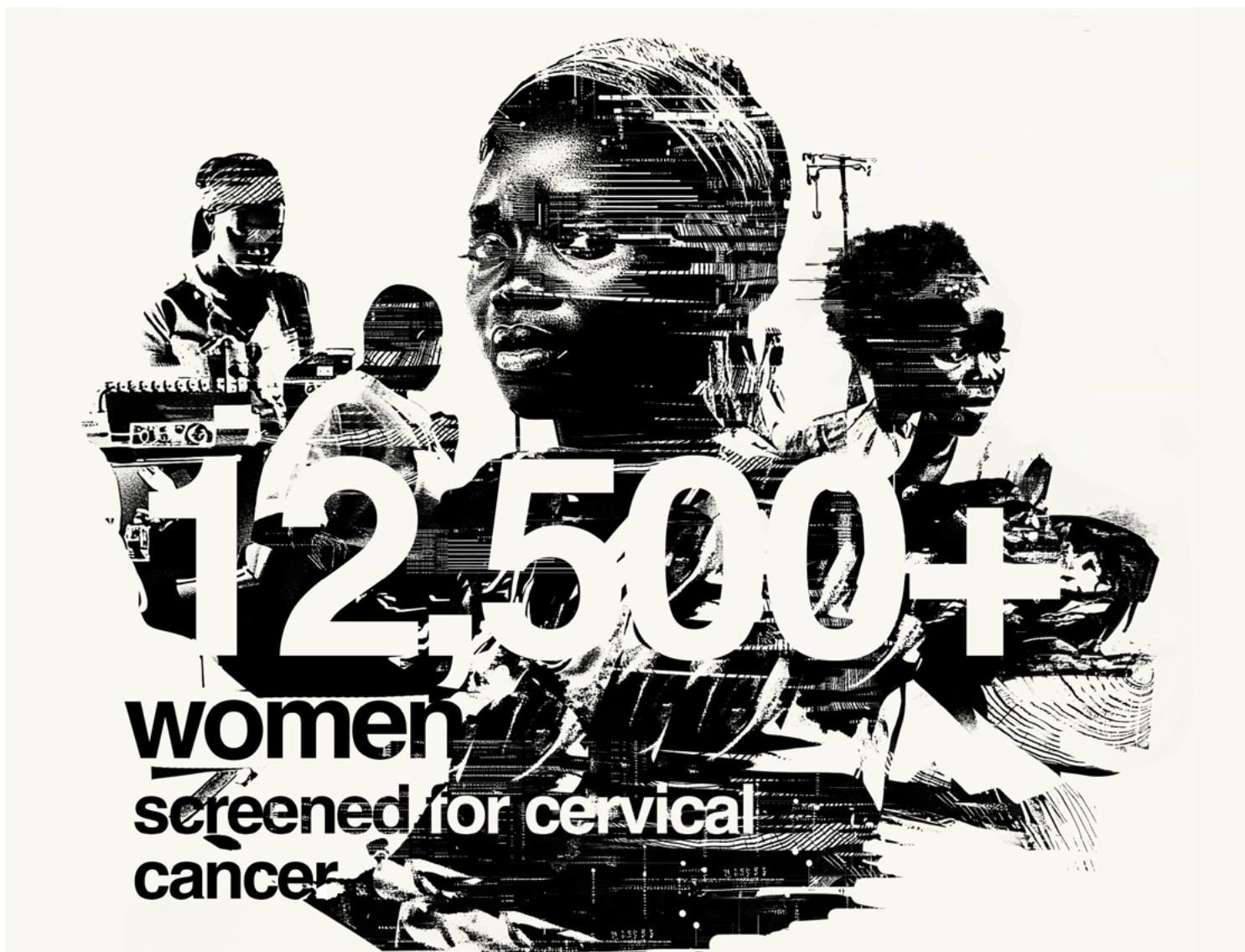
Explore how impactful health initiatives are improving lives and strengthening systems.

CHAI /

Clinton Health Access Initiative is tackling one of Zimbabwe's leading causes of cancer-related death for women.

By improving access to cervical cancer screening and treatment, the program has reached over 12,500 women with critical care.

Scaling up operations, our partnership now aims to screen 143,000 women and expand HPV vaccination coverage to 85% of girls aged 9-10 by 2027, strengthening local healthcare systems and reducing the burden of a preventable disease.



/ Disease prevention @CHAI

Overcoming stigma in women's health services in rural Zimbabwe

Mbuya Chawenga, a Community Health Worker, uses the borehole in her garden as a gathering place to raise awareness about the cervical cancer program in her community. When women come to collect water, she takes the opportunity to educate them about the importance of screening, and provides a private room to collect their own sample.

Tendai, a young woman from a nearby village, had heard Mbuya Chawenga's messages before, but her religious beliefs would not allow her to consider testing. Tendai had always avoided medical treatment, fearing the judgement of her family and community. But when she heard about the private screening program from Mbuya, she decided to take a chance. When Mbuya Chawenga took the collected sample to the clinic, she notified the nurse to ensure Tendai received her results without drawing unwanted attention.

To Tendai's shock, her results showed early signs of cervical cancer. She was provided with one-on-one health information about her test result and agreed to receive treatment.

CHAI's community-driven approach is changing health outcomes for women, and gradually transforming community perspectives on women's health, empowering women like Tendai to prioritise their wellbeing and setting a new standard for healthcare in underserved regions.



Hunrungwe Rural Hospital, Zimbabwe.
© Clinton Health Access Initiative.



Village Health Worker, Zimbabwe.
© Clinton Health Access Initiative.

Investing in health in Sub-Saharan Africa

World Vision Australia /

Transforming maternal and child health in Uganda

World Vision is improving maternal and child health in Uganda by addressing the critical first 1,000 days of life. Partnering with the Ugandan Ministry of Health, the initiative has halved stunting among children under five, doubled access to clean water for over 21,000 people, and led to government adoption of feeding guidelines for children with disabilities. This transformative community program is creating healthier communities and a brighter future for families across Northern Uganda.

Women are driving community-led sanitation change in Uganda

In the rural village of Iceme in Northern Uganda, Dillis recalls a life that felt normal but was fraught with hidden dangers. “Facilities like toilets or pit latrines were things of towns for the wealthy families,” she says. For Dillis and her neighbours, drinking unboiled water was routine. “After fetching water from the borehole, we would drink or use it without boiling. We didn’t know these acts were silent disasters.”

In 2022, World Vision introduced Community-Led Total Sanitation to the area. The program challenged long-standing practices through community-driven education and practical solutions. “We discovered our habits were spreading germs and diseases,” says Dillis. Her household and many others adopted new approaches, including latrines, handwashing



Nurses for the Health and Nutrition for All initiative, Northern Uganda. © World Vision.

“

After fetching water from the borehole, we would drink or use it without boiling. We didn’t know these acts were silent disasters.

Our habits were spreading germs and diseases. Today, waterborne diseases and other health conditions are no longer our stories.

*Dillis
Iceme, Northern Uganda*

stations with soap, and boiling drinking water. “Today, waterborne diseases and other health conditions are no longer our stories,” she reflects. Dillis is now a local advocate, encouraging her neighbours to adopt similar practices.

The change has improved health outcomes and strengthened the community’s sense of agency. As Dillis says, the shift to better sanitation is about reclaiming control over their health and wellbeing.



A new borehole installed with the Health and Nutrition for All Initiative, Northern Uganda. © World Vision.

We Care Solar /

Let there be light – Safer deliveries in Malawi's hospitals

Frequent power outages in Malawi's rural health centres put mothers and newborns at risk during childbirth. We Care Solar, the only organisation globally focused on light and sustainable energy for maternal and infant healthcare, is tackling this issue with Solar Suitcases—portable, solar-powered systems that ensure reliable lighting and power for essential medical equipment.

In collaboration with Malawi's Ministry of Health, these units are now supporting safer deliveries for 80,000 women in over 100 rural health centres. By equipping midwives and training local women as solar technicians, the initiative is improving healthcare outcomes while building local capacity for lasting impact.

At B'Waila Public Hospital, one of Lilongwe's busiest maternity wards, midwives once had to rely on candles or mobile phones during deliveries, creating unsafe and challenging conditions. "The grid power is unpredictable," said Bridget Kumiwenda, a senior nurse. "We have been up to two months without any power due to outages."

We Care Solar, together with B'Waila and other rural hospitals, has brought light into underserved areas with its innovative Solar Suitcases. Bridget recalls a night when the hospital lost power entirely, risking the lives of mothers

and newborns. "We lost several babies two months ago when the lights went out," Bridget says. "Now, with solar lights, we no longer fear losing power." These Solar Suitcases illuminate delivery rooms while bringing renewed trust in Malawi's healthcare system, especially in underserved areas where infrastructure remains a challenge. With reliable lighting, healthcare staff can deliver safer, dignified care, ensuring that every mother and newborn has the best start possible, even in the most remote settings.

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We lost several babies two months ago when the lights went out. Now, with solar lights, we no longer fear losing power.

Bridget Kumiwenda



© We Care Solar.

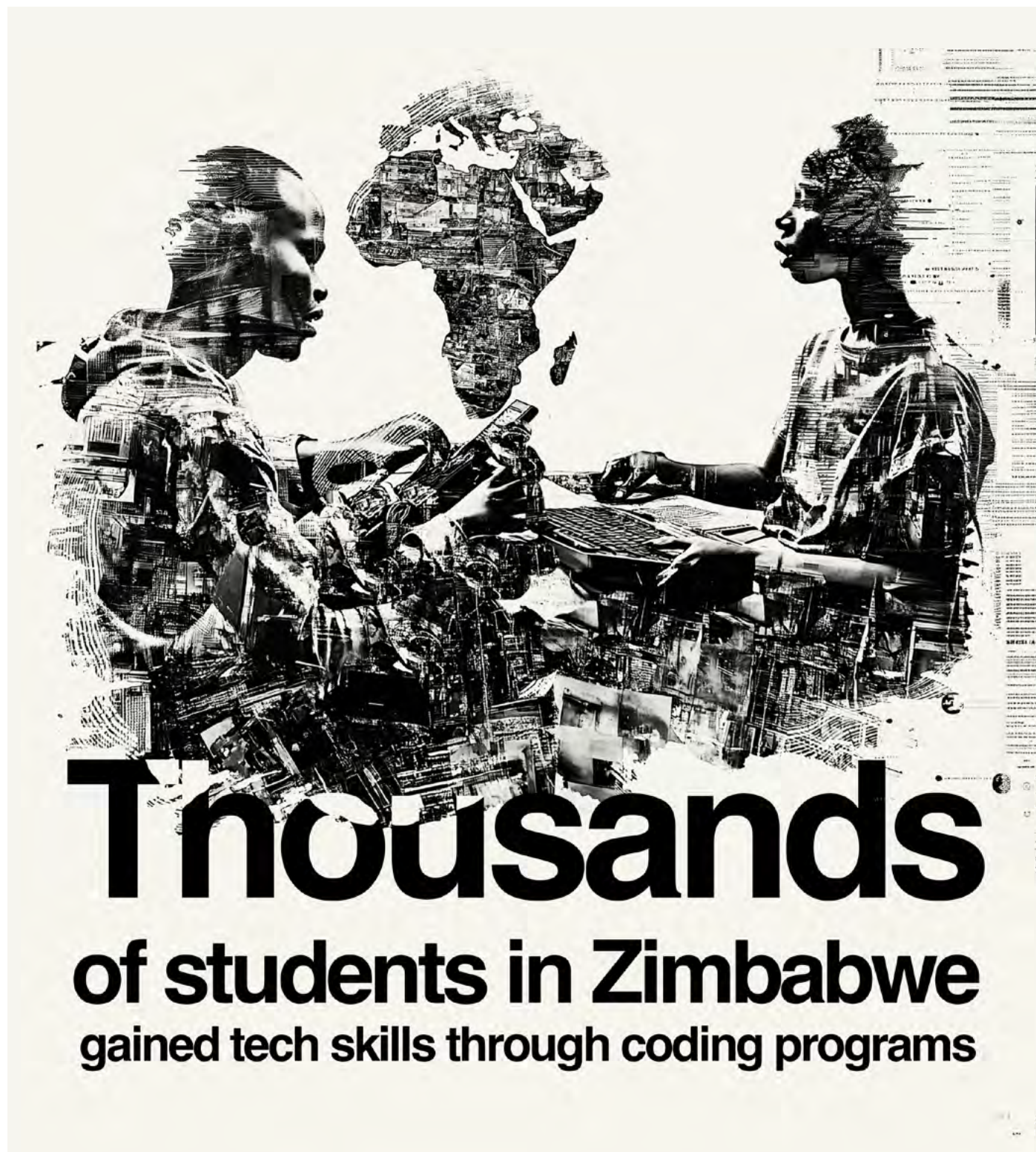
Investing in health in Sub-Saharan Africa / **We Care Solar**

A nurse operates a We Care Solar Suitcase in Malawi. © We Care Solar.

Unlocking education and opportunity

Education and economic opportunities are key to building resilience and driving growth. In Zimbabwe, Uncommon equips young people with coding and computer science skills, opening pathways to careers in technology. In South Africa, MasiSports combines sports and life skills in schools, fostering confidence, teamwork, and unity among students. These initiatives create meaningful opportunities that enable individuals and communities to thrive.

Explore how innovative programs are transforming education and opportunity across Africa.



Thousands

of students in Zimbabwe gained tech skills through coding programs

Unlocking education and opportunity

ygap /

Supporting female entrepreneurs in Kenya and South Africa

ygap is unlocking opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Kenya and South Africa by providing the mentoring, resources, and networks needed to grow their businesses. Through their accelerator program focused on agribusiness and the yCapital initiative, ygap is providing 0% interest loans to address capital access gaps for African women entrepreneurs. Ygap entrepreneurs in Kenya and South Africa are now averaging 7% revenue growth, creating new jobs in their communities.



Ygap entrepreneur Joan Kinyanjui, Co-Founder of Yatta Beekeepers, Kenya. © ygap.

Transforming traditional foods into economic growth in South Africa

Muofhe Ratshikombo founded Oumie's Grandè to make traditional atchaar - a condiment deeply rooted in heritage - available year-round. What started as a passion project has evolved into a thriving agribusiness supporting organic farmers in Limpopo. By sourcing produce locally, the venture reduces food waste, boosts farmers' incomes, and strengthens biodiversity.

Oumie's Grandè creates jobs in rural areas through its processing and packaging facilities, contributing to economic stability and reducing urban migration. The business also leverages e-commerce platforms like Takealot, demonstrating the potential for small ventures to scale while maintaining a strong community focus.



Ygap entrepreneur, Muofhe Ratshikombo, Founder of Oumie's Grande, South Africa © ygap.

Unlocking education and opportunity / **ygap**

Revolutionising farming with waste-to-feed innovation in Kenya

In Kenya, Caren Jopita's Jopish Integrated Farm combines poultry farming with black soldier fly larvae production to address the twin challenges of waste management and affordable animal feed. By turning food waste into high-protein feed and organic manure, the farm improves yields for local farmers and contributes to environmental sustainability.

Since its inception, the venture has created jobs, trained youth and women in sustainable farming practices, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions through innovative waste management.

Building sustainable food systems at scale in South Africa

Nomfanelo Khanyile launched Esisipho K to transform her passion for farming into a sustainable enterprise. Starting with 15 hectares of leased land, she has grown her operation to include livestock farming, an abattoir, and a processing plant supplying Shoprite stores in KwaZulu-Natal.

By employing local residents and expanding her supply chain, Nomfanelo is boosting rural economic development. Her success through ygap's program has enhanced her storytelling and business strategies, positioning Esisipho K for expansion into new provinces and export markets.



ygap entrepreneur Caren Jopita, Founder of Jopish Integrated Farm. Kenya. © ygap.

Unlocking education and opportunity

Uncommon /

Uncommon is bridging the digital divide in Zimbabwe with tech education

Uncommon is providing technology education, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for youth and young adults living in some of Zimbabwe's most under-resourced communities.

Working with Zimbabwe's Ministries of Education and ICT, Uncommon provides both free computer coding classes for primary & secondary students, as well as technology skills development training

for youth and young adults outside of the formal education system.

With plans to scale rapidly, Uncommon is creating new opportunities for thousands of youth and preparing the country's young people to thrive in a tech-driven global economy, in line with the country's development goals.



*Students take coding classes in school, Zimbabwe
© Uncommon.*

Driving Job Creation in Zimbabwe's Tech Sector

Uncommon is equipping young Zimbabweans with the technical skills needed to thrive in today's workplace and connecting them with employers ready to innovate. Partner Employers share how hiring Uncommon graduates has strengthened their teams and created pathways for meaningful employment in the country.

At Cleanup Zimbabwe, Gamuchirai's work has accelerated the organisation's digital transformation. "Cleanup Zimbabwe has worked with Gamuchirai for the past two months, and we are thrilled with the transformative impact she has had on our company. Her exceptional IT skills and dedication to research have propelled us into the digital age with ease. We are thoroughly impressed with her expertise and work ethic!" - Owen Chiwandire, CEO of Cleanup Zimbabwe.

Regina's talents in design and user experience have left a lasting impact at TD Partners. According to Marian Doset, HR Manager: "Regina's internship showcased her strong design skills and attention to user experience, leading a successful mobile app redesign that boosted engagement and usability. Her smooth transition to a full-time designer proved her value to our team. We're grateful to Uncommon for connecting us with such talent and look forward to future collaborations."

Simba has been instrumental in driving progress at ADE Technology. His technical adaptability and strong communication skills stood out to Jonathan de Jong, Founder of ADE Technology: "Simba was a fantastic addition to my team, demonstrating excellent communication, ownership, and adaptability in developing new technical skills as needed. His contributions were crucial to our progress."




An Uncommon coding
trainer, Zimbabwe. ©
Uncommon.

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Marian Doset
HR Manager, TD Partners.



10,000
young women
supported in Northern
Uganda

Fostering sustainable communities

Sustainable futures are built through strong community leadership. In Rwanda, Solid'Africa supports smallholder farmers by promoting sustainable practices and connecting them to reliable markets. These efforts enhance food security, strengthen local economies, and drive innovation, opening new opportunities for communities to thrive.

Discover how these initiatives are protecting the environment and building resilience.

Fostering sustainable communities

Farmers listen to COMACO's Farm Talk Radio, Zambia. © COMACO.



Fostering sustainable communities

COMACO /

Driving environmental sustainability
with smallholder farmers in Zambia

COMACO is revolutionising conservation in Zambia, training over 335,000 smallholder farmers to adopt regenerative agricultural practices. Through our partnership, 26,000 of these farmers have now been recruited.



© COMACO.

These farmers have reported increased incomes and secured fair trade contracts, while groforestry initiatives are restoring biodiversity in Zambia's Luangwa Valley.

COMACO's approach boosts incomes, restores biodiversity, and connects farmers to fair trade markets, creating a harmonious balance between economic growth and environmental protection.



The "It's Wild!" food range buys from Zambian smallholder farmers, providing them good economic returns. © COMACO.



© COMACO.

Fostering sustainable communities / **COMACO**

/ Farmers Trained @COMACO



farmers

**adopted sustainable agriculture
and accessed fair trade markets**

Community-led conservation brings new hope to Zambia's farmers

*Farmer Rosemary Nyendwa,
Zambia. © COMACO*



In Zambia's Luangwa Valley, farming is often at odds with wildlife conservation, as traditional agricultural practices contribute to deforestation and habitat loss. COMACO's model combines sustainable farming techniques with wildlife conservation, training local farmers to increase their yields without harming the environment. Farmer Rosemary Nyendwa once relied on slash-and-burn methods, but after joining COMACO, she learned how to use agroforestry to improve her harvests sustainably. "I didn't think these methods would work," Rosemary says. "But now my farm supports my family and helps preserve our land."

COMACO also provides a market for her produce through its "It's Wild!" brand, offering a stable income and a direct incentive to maintain conservation-friendly practices. COMACO's approach is helping to shift the focus from short-term gains to sustainable stewardship. Farmers report improved incomes and a renewed sense of connection to their environment. The ripple effect is clear - communities are benefiting economically while protecting the ecosystems they depend on, fostering resilience in both communities and the landscape.

Fostering sustainable communities

Fresh Life /

Advancing sanitation access in Kenya and Zambia

Fresh Life is transforming sanitation in Kenya and Zambia with its innovative container-based dry toilets that operate without water or power. Managed as community-led micro-enterprises, Fresh Life toilets are improving hygiene and safety, while increasing school attendance. Now serving 290,000 people in Kenya, Fresh Life continues to adapt to challenges like floods and fires in informal settlements. In Zambia, a new partnership positions them as a key provider of sustainable, non-sewered sanitation solutions to government.



A Fresh Life employee takes waste collected from a Fresh Life toilet to a collection area ahead of consolidation, Kenya. ©Fresh Life



290,000
people
gained clean, sustainable
sanitation solutions

Clean solutions transform Nairobi's informal settlements

In Nairobi's Shauri Moyo settlement, Penina Atieno has faced the stark realities of inadequate sanitation. As a landlord and mother, she watched her community struggle with overcrowded, unsafe communal latrines—a challenge made worse by rapid urbanisation and the absence of sewered infrastructure.

Determined to find a solution, Penina discovered Fresh Life in 2019. She acquired her first container-based, waterless toilet, creating a safer, cleaner environment for her family and tenants. Today, as a Fresh Life operator, she manages a pay-per-use toilet that serves her property and the wider community, addressing critical health and safety needs while generating income.

Fresh Life's network now includes over 7,500 toilets across Nairobi, Kisumu, Eldoret, and Lusaka, benefiting over 290,000 people daily.

By enabling entrepreneurs like Penina, it is turning the sanitation crisis into an opportunity for healthier, more resilient communities. Expansion plans to Mombasa by 2025 reflect Fresh Life's drive to make safe sanitation universally accessible.



A Fresh Life operator in Eldoret, Kenya. © Fresh Life.



Penina Atieno, Shauri Moyo, Nairobi. © Fresh Life.

Australia

Building equity with community-driven change in Australia

Creating a fairer, more inclusive future in Australia begins with partnerships that elevate community leadership. Our work spans three areas: supporting women and girls in Sydney, investing in Northern Australia initiatives, and enhancing access to legal services across Australia tailored to meet the needs of the most vulnerable women. Our aim is to invest in these women to be safe, thrive, and contribute to a just and prosperous society.

Supporting women and girls to thrive in Sydney

Sydney is home to dynamic communities, where innovative, grassroots-driven initiatives are creating opportunities for women and children to build stable and fulfilling futures. The Centre for Women's Economic Safety is empowering women through tailored Money Clinics, helping them build financial independence and confidence. Similarly, the Sydney Women's Fund's Doorways to the Future program is partnering with local communities in Western Sydney to foster resilience and develop sustainable, locally rooted solutions.

Explore how Sydney's grassroots organisations are transforming women's lives below.

WAGEC /

Women and Girls' Emergency Centre is breaking cycles of disadvantage

WAGEC's 'From Now' program provides tailored support for women exiting prison, particularly pregnant women and mothers. Through stable housing and wraparound care, the program reduces the risk of homelessness and fosters family reconnection, setting women and their children on a path to stability and independence.

© WAGEC.



Rebuilding stability for women caught in the justice system

After enduring severe coercive control, family separation, and incarceration, 46-year-old Belinda was referred to WAGEC's From Now program. Despite having no criminal history prior to her relationship and the subsequent abuse from her ex-partner, she faced multiple arrests.

Lengthy family court proceedings led to the sale of her home and assets, driving her into homelessness for the first time. She had no alcohol or drug dependency and was known as a 'gold standard' mother of three with a clear criminal record until recently. During her incarceration, her eldest son was moved to a youth refuge, and her two younger sons lived with her ex-partner.

When her Parole Officer referred her to From Now, she had 'no trust left to give,' having been let down by systems many times before. However, during her engagement with the program, WAGEC built rapport and trust, listening to Belinda's needs and acknowledging all she had been through.

Feeling safe and heard in the From Now house, she was able to reconnect with her university and reestablish her learning plan to study law. The safety of the house also allowed her to rebuild her bond with her 15-year-old son, who was able to attend school regularly and rebuild trust with his mother. We facilitated contact with her children and supported her to seek education and employment opportunities.

From Now secured transitional housing for Belinda and her 15-year-old son, providing them with 12 months of stability. She has since secured part-time work, continues her studies, and is building a legal case to gain access to her two younger children. She described her interaction with the program as

the 'sliding doors moment that saved my mental health from complete disintegration.' Entry into From Now was the first step in her healing, recovery, and eventual re-entry into the community.

WAGEC's Case Managers continue to work with Belinda weekly, with the intent of securing long-term accommodation and pursuing trauma counselling to further her healing journey.

Belinda's name has been changed for privacy.



© WAGEC.

Supporting women and girls to thrive in Sydney

ReLove /

Furnishing futures for families in need

ReLove transforms empty houses into lasting homes for women and families escaping violence or homelessness. By providing essential furniture and appliances, the organisation ensures dignity and stability as families rebuild their lives. This year, ReLove expanded to support 25 families weekly across Sydney, turning houses into safe, nurturing spaces.



Volunteers at the ReLove warehouse, Sydney. © ReLove.

How ReLove is helping families rebuild their lives

When Sarah arrived at ReLove with her two young children, she carried only a few bags and the weight of starting over after escaping domestic violence. The ReLove team guided her and her kids through the “shopping” experience as, together, they furnished the family’s new home. Her children

beamed as they picked out beds and colourful rugs for their new bedrooms.

She later sent this message to the team: “ReLove, you transformed our house into a home. The incredible kindness and support you provided allowed us to choose what we needed and gave us many luxuries we could only dream of.”

“

ReLove, you transformed our house into a home. The incredible kindness and support you provided allowed us to choose what we needed and gave us many luxuries we could only dream of.

Sarah

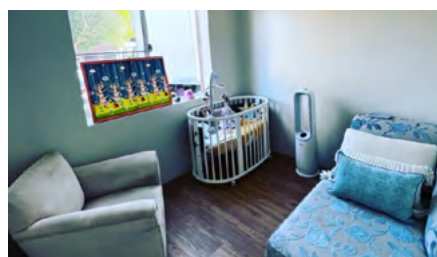
Cathy, a woman over 55 experiencing homelessness for the first time - one of ReLove’s fastest-growing client demographics - expressed heartfelt gratitude after visiting the ReLove warehouse. “I felt like a jackpot winner as I walked out, knowing that everything I needed was prepared for delivery.” The team went above and beyond, bringing each item into her new home and helping her unpack, creating a seamless transition. Cathy described the service as “generous, prompt, assistive beyond measure, and professional.” Through ReLove’s work, she’s now ready for the next chapter in her life.

// 31 Names have been changed to protect privacy.

Supporting women and girls to thrive in Sydney / **Relove**



© ReLove.



Supporting women and girls to thrive in Sydney

The Social Outfit /

Creating pathways for refugee women

The Social Outfit is transforming lives by providing refugee and migrant women with training and employment in ethical fashion. Through skills development and community connection, it empowers women to build confidence and secure sustainable futures.

This year, the organisation expanded its programs, celebrated its 10th anniversary, and took centre stage at the Governor-General's swearing in ceremony, showcasing the creativity and resilience of its participants on national and global platforms.



Xiuyan Han, employed as a Senior Sewing Technician, with GG Sam Mostyn wearing custom The Social Outfit suit, made by Han and paid for by Mostyn. © The Social Outfit.



Trainees at the Marrickville workroom, Sydney. © The Social Outfit.

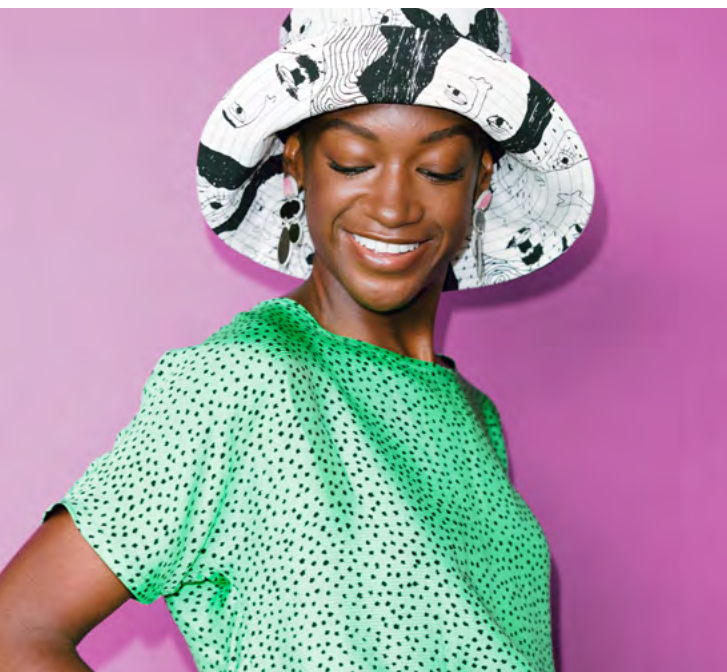
Supporting women and girls to thrive in Sydney / **The Social Outfit**

The Social Outfit is elevating refugee artistry through fashion

The Social Outfit celebrates the creativity of its talented team by showcasing the work of refugee artists like Chatcha, a Sewing Technician and Artist whose craft reflects her unique journey. Her “Li Phay” artwork, depicting refugee faces, was originally created as a quilt using intricate stitching and painting. This compelling piece was transformed into a digital print and featured across The Social Outfit’s new collection, including skirts, overalls, hats, and notebooks.

The collaboration marked a turning point for Chatcha. From seeing her name on fabric rolls in the workroom to attending photoshoots and the collection launch event, her work reached new audiences through The Social Outfit’s network. Since the launch, Chatcha has secured additional design commissions, and with mentoring support from The Social Outfit, she is building her portfolio and advancing her career.

By blending artistry with opportunity, The Social Outfit highlights the contributions of refugee talent, creating pathways for professional growth and cultural celebration.



© The Social Outfit.



Chatcha (left), a Sewing Technician and Artist, in her “Li Phay” range for The Social Outfit. © The Social Outfit.



\$370,000+

**wages paid
to refugee women**

**a 51% year-on-year
increase**

Access to legal support for vulnerable women

Across Australia, grassroots organisations are driving innovative solutions to support women navigating complex legal and social challenges. Sisters Inside provides wraparound support for criminalised women, centring the voices of women with lived experience, particularly First Nations women. At the same time, the Justice and Equity Centre combines free legal advice with specialist case management for women in crisis, helping them secure safe, stable futures while addressing their legal needs.

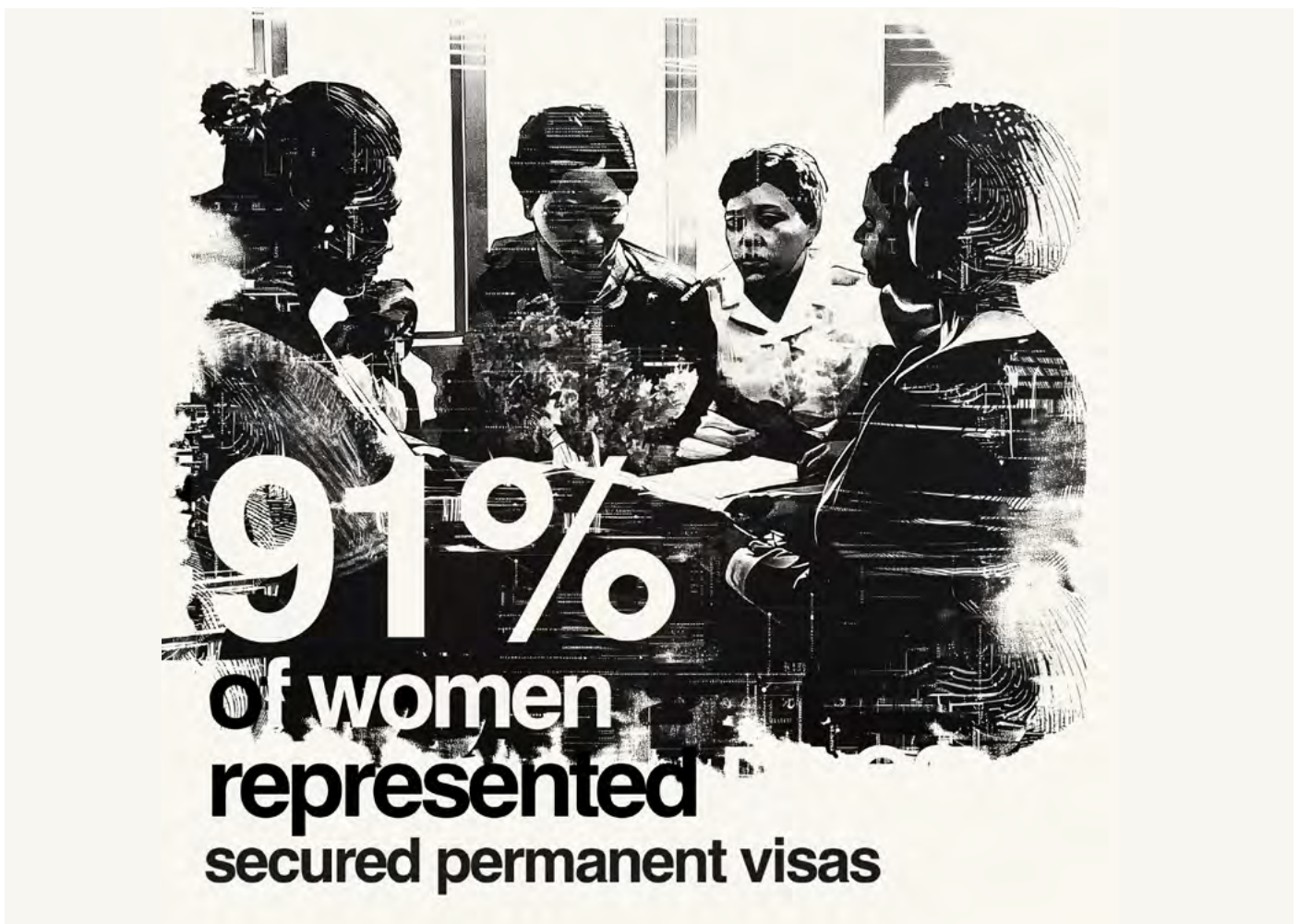
Discover the powerful impact of local organisations strengthening access to legal services below.

The Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) /

Empowering women at risk

RACS provides life-changing legal assistance for refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia. Its 'Women at Risk' program helps a particularly vulnerable group of clients: women experiencing or at risk of gender-based or sexual violence. This dedicated legal service has helped secure permanent protection visas for women seeking asylum, giving them the foundations for a safe and stable life in their new home.

/ Legal stability @RACS



Maggie stood against violence and is rebuilding her life in safety

Maggie's career as a sports journalist in Sierra Leone ended abruptly when her advocacy against female genital mutilation made her a target. After surviving a violent, targeted attack, she fled her home, eventually seeking refuge in Australia. But safety proved elusive. Her initial application for asylum was denied, leaving her homeless and vulnerable on the streets of Sydney.

With the support of the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS), Maggie appealed her case to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Her solicitor worked tirelessly to gather the evidence needed, and this time her claim for protection was accepted. For the first time, Maggie felt her story

was believed. "I cried because Australia has believed my story. For once, I will be accepted in this country," she said.

Maggie has since rebuilt her life and is using her experience to help others. Now employed by the Jesuit Refugee Service, she advocates for women and girls seeking protection, offering the same support that once saved her.

Her journey highlights the essential role of legal advocacy in providing not just safety, but the opportunity for women to rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.



Maggie. © Tom Fewchuk for Refugee Advice and Casework Service.

“

I cried because Australia has believed my story. For once, I will be accepted in this country.

Maggie

Access to legal support for vulnerable women

Anti-Slavery Australia /

Ending modern slavery through legal advocacy

For 20 years Anti-Slavery Australia has provided free legal services to support survivors of trafficking and working toward ending modern slavery in Australia. Modern slavery in Australia is a hidden issue, but it's estimated more than 40,000 people live in modern slavery across the country, affected by human trafficking, slavery or forced marriage.

Anti-Slavery Australia's specialist Legal Practice supports more than 400 clients with various legal issues, including repatriation of trafficked Australian citizens and permanent residents, victims' compensation claims, immigration, visa and citizenship law and family law matters.



© Wes Mountain/The Conversation.

Securing justice and safety for survivors of modern slavery

Rita's husband used threats, coercion and deception to force her and her child to return overseas. She feared for her life and was threatened with murder if she did not comply, and was physically forced to board the plane with her child and a oneway ticket. Her husband then contacted

Australian immigration authorities and provided false information to try and prevent Rita and her daughter from ever returning to Australia. Rita managed to return to Australia and contacted Anti-Slavery Australia, who provided legal assistance to Rita and referred the matter to the AFP for investigation. The perpetrator was eventually convicted for exit trafficking and sentenced to 21 months' imprisonment. ASA assisted Rita to obtain a grant of statutory victims' compensation.

// 39 Emilia's name has been changed to protect her privacy.

Access to legal support for vulnerable women



The Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS) Women's Service team. © Justice and Equity Centre

Justice and Equity Centre /

Transforming outcomes for vulnerable women in Sydney

The Justice and Equity Centre is one of Australia's leading independent law and policy organisations, committed to building a fairer, more equitable society. Through its Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS) Women's Service, it supports women facing intersecting challenges across housing, civil law and criminal law.

By addressing these complex issues and driving systemic change through innovative legal advocacy and policy reform, the Centre is fostering lasting social justice and meaningful change for vulnerable women in Sydney and beyond.

Delivering trauma-informed support for women in crisis

Christina Kasavetis, a caseworker at the HPLS Women's Service, works closely with women facing domestic violence and unsafe living conditions, helping to secure safe housing and address threats to tenancy. The Women's Service has been critical in reducing stress, improving wellbeing, and building client confidence.

Christina's trauma-informed care complements the work of the legal team. She provides non-legal assistance, referrals, and emotional care. Additional interventions such as mental health referrals and safety planning further enable women to navigate complex housing and legal systems, ensuring lasting social impact.



*Justice and Equity Centre Community Caseworker
Christina Kasavetis, Sydney. © Keith Saunders*

Investing in Northern Australia initiatives

In Northern Australia, First Nations women are at the forefront of transformative change, combining deep cultural knowledge with innovative approaches to support women and girls experiencing some of the most acute disadvantage in Australia. Tangentyere Council's culturally informed training is equipping first responders with the tools to identify and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence, while First Nations Futures is empowering grassroots initiatives to drive lasting community resilience and opportunity.

Learn more about the power of First Nations initiatives in driving meaningful, community-led change below.

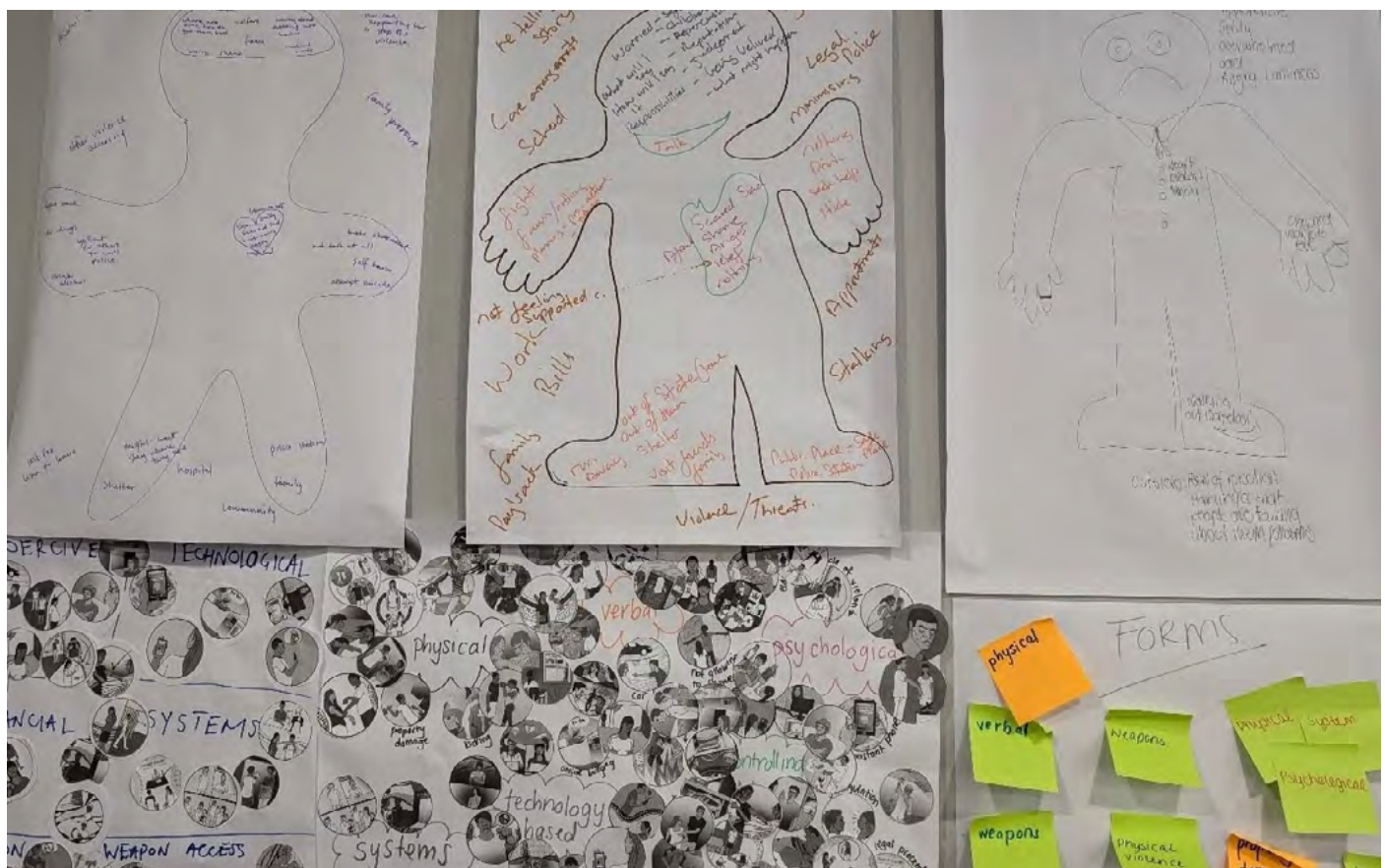
Investing in Northern Australia initiatives

Tangentyere Council /

Transforming responses to domestic, family and sexual violence in the Northern Territory

Tangentyere Council is driving change in the Northern Territory by equipping police and healthcare workers with the skills to better understand and respond to domestic, family, and sexual violence. With a focus on cultural understanding, the program is improving outcomes for First Nations women and their families.

Training activities completed by police, Alice Springs. © Tangentyere Council.



Driving systemic change for police responses to domestic violence

Tangentyere Council's Prevent Assist Respond training program is equipping police officers to better recognise coercive control, adopt trauma-informed practices, and support victim-survivors with dignity and care. Already, the program has had a significant impact, with officers describing the training as "essential for all police" and "extremely informative."

Victim-survivor stories and real-world scenarios bring depth and relevance to the sessions. Police officers highlighted how the training equipped them with practical tools for their work, particularly around minimising misidentification in domestic violence cases and recognising patterns of coercive control. One officer reflected, "The way I speak to victim survivors and listen to their story will improve."

One officer commented, "I already feel more confident going onto the road. This training was extremely informative." Another officer said, "I highly recommend that every police officer in NT Police attends this training."

By blending evidence-based insights with practical tools, Tangentyere Council is driving a cultural shift in policing, fostering greater trust and reducing harm within First Nations communities. Their work is setting a new standard for professional development and community safety across the Northern Territory.

“

I already feel more confident going onto the road. This training was extremely informative.

“

I highly recommend that every police officer in NT Police attends this training

“

The way I speak to victim survivors and listen to their story will improve.

Investing in Northern Australia initiatives

First Nations Futures /

/ Funding Impact @FNF

Rebalancing philanthropy for First Nations communities

First Nations Futures is leading the way in shifting philanthropic resources directly to Indigenous-led initiatives. By providing funding and support, First Nations Futures empowers grassroots communities to drive change, invest in young people, and create sustainable, culturally grounded futures.

Funding First Nations-led change for future generations

Addressing the underinvestment in community-controlled solutions, First Nations Futures is transforming the philanthropic landscape by placing resources directly in the hands of Indigenous-led organisations. In July 2024, it distributed \$340,000 in unrestricted funding to grassroots First Nations groups, enabling them to define and address their priorities on their own terms.

For many recipients, this marked the first time they had access to unrestricted funding—offering the freedom to focus on locally driven solutions that support their people and sustain their work. This funding has empowered organisations to innovate, grow, and build stronger, more resilient communities, demonstrating the power of self-determined approaches to economic and cultural development.

First Nations Futures is setting a new standard for philanthropy, fostering autonomy and long-term impact for Indigenous communities across Australia.



Investing in Northern Australia initiatives

Karrkad Kanjdji Trust /

Elevating First Nations leadership through the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network

The Strong Women for Healthy Country Network supports First Nations women working in land management and community resilience, while also advocating for a culturally safe workplace for women. This year, the Network began its journey to transitioning to an Indigenous Corporation, amplifying its impact across the Northern Territory.



Annette Miller, Elder and Traditional Owner of Bigedi, endorsing the Strong Women for Healthy Country Aboriginal Corporation's Rule Book. © KKT.



Water blessing given by Larrakia Traditional Owners at the 2024 Strong Women For Healthy Country forum in the Northern Territory. © KKT.

First Nations women reshaping the future of land management

In the Northern Territory, the Strong Women for Healthy Country Network has become a cornerstone of First Nations-led conservation and cultural preservation. Supported by the Karrkad Kanjdji Trust, the Network supports the professional development of First Nations women working as rangers, as well as women leading community resilience initiatives.

At the fifth annual Strong Women for Healthy Country Forum, over 250 women and girls came together to share knowledge, strengthen connections, and celebrate their achievements. The Forum also marked a transformative moment as the attendees

made the decision to become the Strong Women for Healthy Country Aboriginal Corporation, securing the Network's independence and ensuring that its future is driven entirely by First Nations women.

From training in biodiversity monitoring and machinery operation to governance and advocacy, the Network supports women to build the skills needed to succeed in the workforce, contributing to the sustainability of communities and Country.



Strong Women For Healthy Country attendees at the 2024 forum in the Northern Territory. © KKT.

