



Kairos Canada

Two Paths. One Journey. Shared Purpose

Women Peacebuilders at the Nexus of Climate, Conflict and Gender

Year 1 - At a Glance



KAIROS Forum on Climate, Conflict and Gender March 11, 2026

Think Link

At a Glance

Women are building peace amid destabilizing forces- armed conflict, climate disruption, economic instability, shrinking civic space and growing impunity.

In the first year of Kairos’ Women Peacebuilders at the Nexus of Climate, Conflict and Gender (WP-CCG) project, women peacebuilders were equipped with economic tools, training and advocacy platforms to strengthen their sustained participation in community and public decision-making.

The early results affirm a powerful pathway to change:

When partners cultivate spaces where women build economic power, advocate for justice and live in safety, women lead transformative peacebuilding that strengthens communities to confront the intersecting challenges of conflict, climate change and gender inequality.

WP-CCG is co-funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and Kairos Canada.

The project’s promising early results build on the foundations and momentum of the GAC-supported Kairos Women, Peace and Security program (2018-2024), including sustained government funding, experienced partners, trusted community relationships and established protection systems.

The project responds to a reality women peacebuilders have long understood climate disruption, armed conflict and gender inequality are interconnected forces that compound insecurity, displacement and violence.

Transforming these conditions requires an equally interconnected response, one that strengthens women’s political leadership, economic power and safety as essential foundations for gender-just and climate-resilient peace.

In its first year, women peacebuilders connected across countries, movements and decision-making spaces. Through public forums, policy advocacy, international exchanges and participation in multiple networks, women brought their analysis, solutions and demands directly to those with power. They did more than raise awareness: they shaped the conversation about climate, conflict and gender and advanced a vision of peace rooted in rights, justice and community power.



A Victory (community) garden supported by Wi’am in Bethlehem



Workshop on Climate, Conflict and Gender
Photo: SSCC



The 4 Partners

Kairos’ Women Peacebuilders at the Nexus of Climate, Conflict and Gender:

- Strengthens partners’ capacities to support women peacebuilders in their responses to the gendered impacts of conflict and climate change
- Strengthens locally led, gender-responsive economic empowerment to sustain this work
- Expands its influence and impact through inclusive policy engagement, public dialogue and knowledge exchanges

Challenges and Pivots

The project unfolded in highly volatile regions marked by armed conflict, occupation, displacement, economic instability, climate shocks and shrinking civic spaces.

In **South Sudan**, **SSCC** worked amid violence, political and economic insecurities, flooding, drought and weak infrastructure. It pivoted by decentralizing activities and leveraging church and community networks to keep women, youth and faith leaders engaged despite instability.

In **DRC**, escalating conflict in South Kivu and restrictions on public gatherings forced **Héritiers de la Justice** to delay, relocate or scale down activities. The organization offered smaller, lower-profile formats and continued counselling, legal and medical accompaniment, including climate-displaced participants.

In **Colombia**, the **OFP** adjusted to heightened risks for women leaders in a polarized pre-electoral environment by prioritizing fewer, more strategic spaces and integrating stronger safety measures, such as secure transport, accompaniment and safe venues.

In **Palestine**, **Wi’am** responded to escalating threats and insecurities from war, Israeli forces and settler violence, movement restrictions, economic and food insecurities and the collapse of tourism by shifting economic activities toward local markets, food production and victory gardens, while expanding psychosocial support, mediation, legal referrals and a hotline for women experiencing violence and distress.

Together, our partners demonstrated that deep connections with local communities and adaptation were central to protecting women’s leadership and agency and sustaining their work towards sustainable and just peace.

Project Highlights

The project generated important cross-cutting results:

Strengthened Leadership

In the first year, partners achieved early but meaningful gains in increasing women peacebuilders' leadership, confidence and engagement. Through trainings, assemblies, workshops and community dialogue, women strengthened their ability to analyze interconnected challenges and lead local responses.

They also began seeing themselves as facilitators, advocates and community leaders, while economic initiatives and practical learning boosted their confidence to organize others and take public leadership roles.

Laying the Groundwork for Women Peacebuilders' Economic Empowerment

Engaging in peacebuilding, advocacy and climate justice action is difficult when you struggle to put food on the table. Recognizing economic precarity as a barrier to engagement, partners laid the groundwork for collective economic initiatives. They offered participants financial literacy training, collective livelihood planning, support to women led production initiatives and adaptation of existing economic networks as a critical first step to strengthening women's economic agency and resilience in fragile settings.

Strengthened Advocacy and Coalitions

Partners leveraged their experience in women, peace and security advocacy to integrate climate and gender concerns into campaign messaging, public dialogue and engagement with institutions. New coalitions and growing alliances increased visibility of the climate–conflict–gender nexus across diverse spaces. All partners adapted approaches where insecurity limited public advocacy.

Strengthened Organizational and Network Capacity

Partner organizations strengthened their capacity and that of their networks to operate effectively in highly volatile situations. For all, capacity-building, network strengthening and collective economic empowerment created more sustainable foundations for women-led peacebuilding and advocacy.

Example

South Sudan Council of Churches reported strengthened leadership among women peacebuilders, supported by the 35 percent affirmative action quota for women in the national peace agreement (a hard-earned advocacy win of women's groups in South Sudan including SSCC's Women's Link). Despite displacement and insecurity, **50** women from Women Link groups and member churches identified as leaders through radio discussions, prayer meetings, community visits, engagement with political leaders and environmental initiatives such as tree planting.

Example

In response to the devastating loss of tourism, **Wi'am** supported women's groups with training and materials for collective income generation. Women's groups in five regions, including Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Marah Rabbah and Marah Ma'ala participated in catering and meal production for meetings and gatherings. Wi'am also supported 16 victory (community) gardens and provided participants with financial literacy and related training.

Example

In Colombia, the **Organización Femenina Popular** strengthened women's leadership and influence through engagement with the national High Council for Peace, organizing within the Women's Social Movement Against War and for Peace, and convening the Summit of Women Environmentalists for Life. It mobilized 700 women leaders, brought together 76 social organizations and reached participants from 12 municipalities. It also resulted in the creation of a new network, Women Environmentalists for Life, to strengthen advocacy capacity. These efforts advanced a shared advocacy agenda linking environmental justice, territorial peace and gender equality.

Example

Héritiers de la Justice in DRC increased their capacity in fundraising, income generation, advocacy, security and protection mechanisms, and extended skills training to their local partner organizations. Héritiers de la Justice has been implementing collective income-generation projects through its local peace and human rights network hubs for five years. These income-generating activities sustain nine local network centres or hubs, involving 147 people, 129 of whom are women.



A young participant harvests oranges at a Wi'am victory (community) garden
Photo: Wi'am



OFP Women's Assembly, Pax y Territorio Workshop
Canatagallo, Magdalena Medio



Women participate in a workshop on Climate, Conflict and Gender
Organized by Heritiers de la Justice, in Bukavu, 2026





Knowledge Exchange and Strategic Engagement

Kairos and its partners brought the climate–conflict–gender nexus to the table at influential national, regional and global spaces.

Through participation in **COP30**, Kairos and partners amplified women peacebuilders’ perspectives on climate finance, Indigenous rights and gender-transformative climate action across 25 events. They highlighted the connection between the destruction of the environment and land and gender-based violence.

Kairos, Héritiers de la Justice and SSCC representatives participated in the **FECLLAHA Forum** (Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa) in Uganda in October 2025. The Forum fostered intergenerational and regional exchange among youth and faith leaders from 10 African countries, strengthening connections between climate justice, peacebuilding and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Kairos also convened a well-attended online **Forum on Climate, Conflict and Gender** in March 2026, bringing together partners, civil society, faith communities and policymakers.

Together, these exchanges increased understanding of the intersection between climate, conflict and gender and inspired participants to apply learning in advocacy, education, partnerships and policy engagement.

Communications and Advocacy in Canada

Kairos increased public awareness of the climate–conflict–gender nexus through online reflections, an Op-Ed, educational resources and a project video. An online nationwide campaign during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence highlighted women peacebuilders’ experiences and leadership.

Kairos also engaged directly with Canadian decision-makers through six meetings with members of Parliament, senators and officials from Global Affairs Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada. These meetings helped raise the profile of the triple nexus in policy discussions and strengthen foundations for future advocacy and public mobilization.



COP 30 - Kairos and Partners at Climate March



COP 30 - Kairos staff, delegates and other Indigenous Delegates



COP 30 - Kairos staff and delegates



A (victory) community garden at Wi'am centre Bethlehem



A Word From Our Partners

Lucy Talgieh from Wi'am: Palestinian Conflict Transformation Centre explained:

“In Bethlehem, and the villages, we do not see ‘climate’, ‘conflict’ or ‘gender’ as separate files in a cabinet. We do not put these issues behind separate walls. In our lives, the struggle for our land, the struggle for our rights as women and the struggle against the occupation all happen in the same space.”

Similarly, **Priscilla Ajak** from the South Sudan Council of Churches highlighted the compounded effects of climate change and conflict:

“When these climate change issues are put together with all the challenges we are going through, it is a climate catastrophe in South Sudan.”

Kelly Campo from Organización Femenina Popular emphasized women’s leadership and exclusion from decision-making:

“Women are not only caregivers at home and in communities, but they also care for and protect the environment – the land, the rivers. And yet, as women, we are excluded from decision making about these issues.”

Chantal Bilulu, Program Coordinator, Héritiers de la Justice:

“This project is timely. It allows women to have access to decision-making positions and knowledge to develop mechanisms and strategies to mitigate the consequences of climate change and to adapt.”

Project Financials

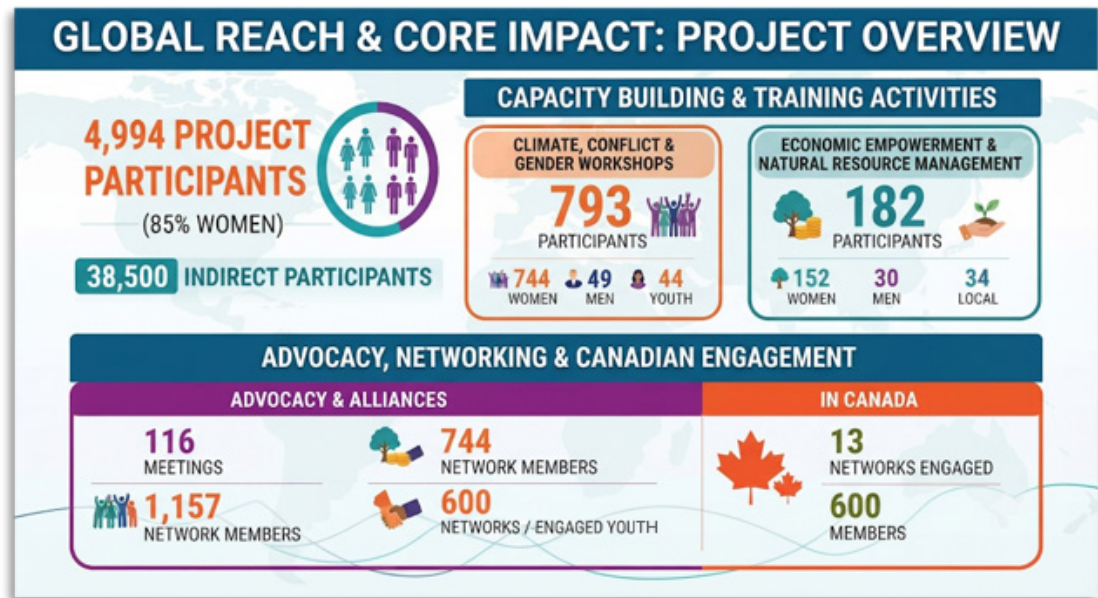
Project Start Date: March 20, 2025

Project End Date: July 31, 2030

Total Project Budget.....	\$5,496,031
Year 1 Project Budget.....	\$959,776
Year 1 GAC funding.....	\$873,155
Year 1 Kairos contribution.....	\$86,921

By the Numbers

These early achievements position the project for broader reach and deeper systems-level change in the years ahead.



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