

## RESPONDING TO THE MOST URGENT NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

In Ghana, no running water, compounded with a surge in gender-based violence during two stay-at-home orders...

## PLANTING SEEDS FOR CHANGE IN SENEGAL

Before the pandemic, almost 47% of the population in Senegal lived in poverty, and 17% suffered from...

## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Consider making a planned gift to create a lasting impact for women and girls...

### OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

## A DIGITAL SHIFT TO REACH MORE SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE THAN EVER

When the pandemic struck in Togo, access to sexual and reproductive health services declined, just as cases of domestic violence were increasing. Survivors were no longer able to visit the GF2D (*Groupe réflexion et d'action femme démocratie et développement*) counseling centres to receive professional support.

In response to this critical situation, GF2D launched the project: *Together to protect women and young girls from gender-based violence amplified by COVID-19 in Togo*.

The project introduced an online counseling platform for survivors of violence and equipped six counseling centres with PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), while 4,500 masks were distributed to the centres and surrounding communities.

The online counselling platform, named **AKOFA** (the local word for *comfort* or *consolation*) offers legal advice and assistance to survivors of violence.



Witnesses can anonymously denounce cases of domestic abuse and access resources on gender-based violence and women's rights. GF2D is now able to reach more community members than through the physical counseling centres.

With support from generous donors, so far, over **900 people** have accessed the platform and **112 cases** were submitted and subsequently treated over the phone or online.



ACCESS TO BASIC RIGHTS

# RESPONDING TO THE MOST URGENT NEEDS OF GHANAIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS

In Ghana, no running water, compounded with a surge in gender-based violence during two stay-at-home orders are threatening the lives of women and girls. Crossroads is supporting partner Pro-Link with the I-TRACK project: *Innovative Teaching of Residents about COVID-19 Knowledge*.

This vital intervention responds directly to the most urgent needs: access to running water, a new source of income for women farmers, and educating the communities on preventative measures and gender-based violence issues.

Through the I-TRACK project, Pro-Link is training **100 women** and **20 men** to produce and distribute liquid soap and providing access to running water as well as Personal Protective Equipment.

It was also an opportunity to empower the participants to assert their rights and explore the root causes of gender issues. Pro-Link worked to install Tippy Taps, a low-cost system using gallons and wooden frames to make handwashing a touch-free process.

Over **200 Tippy Taps** and Veronica buckets were set up in hot spot areas. A Veronica bucket, named after its Ghanaian inventor, is a mechanism for touch-free handwashing that includes a fixed bucket of water and a bowl at the bottom to collect waste.

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**OUR PARTNERS NEED YOUR URGENT HELP TO SUPPORT WOMEN AND GIRLS**

*“We lost too many souls. There were so many deaths, our mortuaries could no longer take bodies. People had to bury their loved ones within three days and could not be comforted.”*

**- Nonhlanhla Dlamini**  
Executive Director, SWAGAA, Eswatini





STORIES OF RESILIENCE

# PLANTING SEEDS FOR CHANGE IN SENEGAL

Before the pandemic, almost 47% of the population in Senegal lived in poverty, and 17% suffered from food insecurity. Now, COVID-19 has exacerbated food insecurity, particularly among women farmers who lack the resources and knowledge to adapt their production. Supported by Crossroads, three local partners joined forces to distribute resources to their communities and beneficiaries.

UNFCS (*Union nationale des femmes coopératrices de Sénégal*), APROFES (*Association pour la promotion de la femme sénégalaise*), and RESOPP (*Réseau des organisations paysannes et pastorales du Sénégal*) are working together to mitigate the consequences of COVID-19 on women farmers and their families.

The project *Main dans la main* (Hand in Hand), is a COVID-19 response to build community resilience through the distribution of food kits containing rice, millet, oil and soap.

The kits and some additional funding were distributed in early 2021, primarily to widows or women whose husbands are disabled or sick. Thanks to support from donors, in total, **435 families** received kits and **4,200 community members** will benefit from these renewed agricultural activities.

# YOUR IMPACT

**\$12,000**

Launches one online platform for survivors of violence and equips **6 counseling centres** in Togo with PPE



**\$13,000**

Provides a community in Ghana with **running water** and trains **120 members** to produce and sell liquid soap



**\$46,000**

Supports **435 women farmers** and their families with food kits and funding to mitigate the impact of COVID-19



# OUR RESILIENCE PLAN INCLUDES YOU

Crossroads International's major giving supporters are **dedicated philanthropists** who are playing a key role in fueling our resilience plans. Please consider **stretching your gift** to help us meet surging demand for support to end gender-based violence. Learn more about helping us rebuild after the COVID-19 crisis: [cintl.org/donate/major-gifts](https://cintl.org/donate/major-gifts)

## WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



## BUILD A COMMUNITY, LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

For over 30 years, my husband Garth and I hosted Crossroads volunteers coming to Canada, now known as South-North Crossroaders. The connections we made were endlessly enriching. It's why we are happy to support the organization through annual giving and a gift in our estate plans.

**Crossroads builds understanding.** Thanks to its volunteers, we broadened the horizons of hundreds of Canadians by sharing the different cultures and world perspectives of those who stayed with us over the years. These experiences fueled our ongoing commitment to human rights and to social justice.

**Crossroads builds community.** There is a special family feeling at Crossroads. It's how we met many of our closest friends. The relationships we developed have lasted for years. Our lives have been tremendously broadened, as we travelled to visit our Crossroader friends in India, West Africa, Malaysia, Costa Rica, and Fiji.

**Crossroads builds hope and knowledge.** They develop effective programs for women and girls around the world to prevent violence and abuse, to create sustainable incomes for families and to empower women to become community leaders. Through such programs, Crossroads leads people out of poverty and into a better life.

We are so happy our support to Crossroads will continue after we're gone thanks to our future legacy gift. - **Norine Baron**, *Crossroads supporter*

## PLANNED GIVING

## A PEBBLE, A POND, AND YOUR WILL

Have you ever dropped a pebble into a pond? When the stone hits the water, you will see ripple after ripple spreading out from the point of impact.

Your Will could be like that. Properly prepared, your Will can create a ripple effect of goodness and generosity to the people and organizations you care about. You could ensure family members can afford the costs of higher education. You could also leave something to the charities you have respected and supported financially during your lifetime — a charity like Crossroads International. The possibilities are endless, but to make these good things happen, you must have a Will.

Preparing a Will or updating one you already have is easy to put off. There are other priorities. It's an extra expense. It's a subject that many would prefer to ignore. If you don't have a Will, however, you lose control of what happens to your assets. Gifts to specific individuals or organizations will not occur. Your estate will be divided according to provincial statute and may go to close relatives who may not need the money.

A Will is an essential document to have for the above reasons and more. Think of a pebble hitting the water. Think of the potential for good a gift in your Will could have. Then, contact a lawyer and get the conversation started.

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We are here to help. Please contact **Wanjiro Ndungu**, Manager, Philanthropy at [wanjiro@cintl.org](mailto:wanjiro@cintl.org) or at (416) 967-1611. **Thank you for your support.**



SAVE THE DATE: Join us virtually on **October 7** for our **International Day of the Girl Breakfast**. Please email [cmahuran@cintl.org](mailto:cmahuran@cintl.org) for details.