



WomenServe
ANNUAL REPORT
2023



A MESSAGE TO YOU

CRAFTING SOLUTIONS, DELIVERING SUCCESS

2023 marks a significant milestone in our journey, yet the challenges faced by women and girls post-pandemic continue to demand our focus. While we have celebrated enormous progress for women and girls, there has been a regression that pushed millions more into poverty and oppression. We believe that women and girls can overcome these barriers, and use their unique strengths to change the world. It is our work to provide the resources and support for them to do so.

This report shares an overview of the work we have undertaken in our mission to remove barriers to empowerment. You will see the inspiring impact that supporters like you have made possible, highlighting stories of the women and girls who are working to create a brighter future. Their resilience and determination fuel our commitment to continue this important work. We have seen women starting their own businesses, girls excelling in school, and entire communities coming together to support gender equality.

WomenServe has continued to strengthen the quality and reach of our impact, supporting over 10,000 women and girls over the past eight years. Our work has always centered on building strong partnerships with local leaders and organizations for collective impact. Over the past year, we partnered with three new organizations to address unique community challenges. We also launched our Power Her Dreams program, a pivotal initiative aimed at supporting 2,000 women and girls to access to essential resources, education, and economic opportunities. Through this program, we have witnessed the transformative impact of our collective efforts. From offering educational mentorship and targeted tutoring programs to facilitating vocational training and entrepreneurial guidance, your support has helped women and girls build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

The success shared here is a testament to the dedication and generosity of our donors, corporate sponsors, monthly supporters, and volunteers. Your unwavering support enables us to create lasting change and empower the next generation of leaders. We invite you to share in the celebration of this impact and join us in recommitting to the importance of women and girls' empowerment.

Together, we are making dreams come true and building a more equitable future for all. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Love & Serve,
Nioma Sadler
Founder & President



ABOUT US

We believe that when you serve women, you serve the world.

WHO WE ARE

WomenServe envisions a just and loving world where women and girls everywhere are safe and healthy, can celebrate their independence, and can access the resources to thrive.

WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to create opportunities and environments for women and girls to become empowered, fueling sustainable change in their lives and communities.

HOW WE WORK

We partner with community leaders and grassroots organizations, investing in:

- Grants
- Program Support
- Capacity Building



LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

With your support, WomenServe and our project partners are driving impactful change, touching the lives of more than 8,500 individuals. Our focus on empowering women and girls shines through. By directly serving women and girls in underserved communities, we're making strides towards lasting transformation and gender equality. Together, we're shaping a future where empowerment knows no bounds.

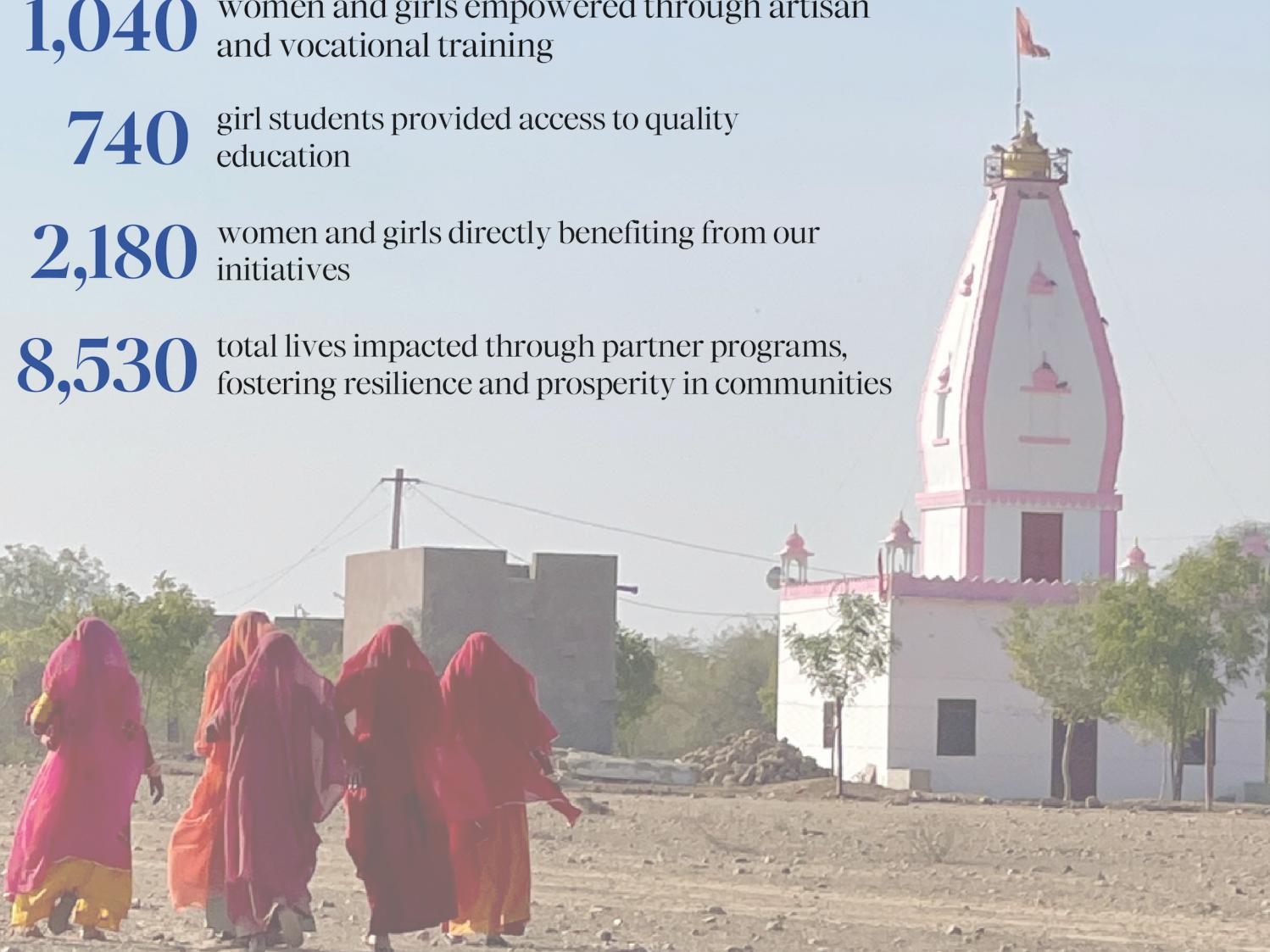
\$491,467
invested in community projects

1,040 women and girls empowered through artisan and vocational training

740 girl students provided access to quality education

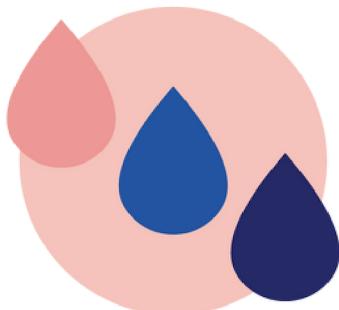
2,180 women and girls directly benefiting from our initiatives

8,530 total lives impacted through partner programs, fostering resilience and prosperity in communities

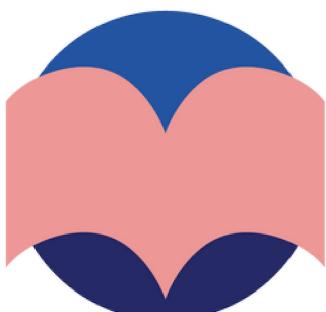


AREAS OF INVESTMENT

WomenServe (WS) works with local experts and partners to advance gender equality through projects that create opportunities for women and girls to thrive. Our current partner organizations are located in Western Rajasthan, India where women and girls face disproportionate burdens and barriers to equitable opportunities.



water security



education



**economic
development**

To improve women's health and safety, we provide lasting access to water, sanitation, health and hygiene resources.

- Safe water sources
- Nutrition gardens
- Water, sanitation, health and hygiene training

To promote girls' completion of higher education WS supports inclusive and quality education models.

- Quality curriculum and teacher training
- Learning centers
- Life skill training
- Peer and network support
- Community engagement

To build advocacy and support community development, WS provides economic opportunity and training programs.

- Vocational training
- Business development
- Financial literacy
- Group savings and loans



Shiv Shiksha Samiti Ranoli (SSSR)

SSSR is a registered, non-governmental, and non-profit organization working for the emancipation of deprived and marginalized sections of the society, with a special focus on women and children.



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Shikshit Rojgar Prabandhak Samiti (SRKPS)

SRKPS works within the state of Rajasthan to advance social equality. SRKPS works to empower and organize children, youth, and women from disadvantaged backgrounds to advance their rights and entitlements in the fight against inequalities.



Universal Just and Action Society (UJAS)

UJAS is a non-governmental organization based in Jodhpur, India that advocates for women's rights to citizenship, rehabilitation, livelihood, and education.

OUR COMMUNITY

Everything we do is only possible through the support of our community. We are inspired by the amazing dedication of our donors, corporate sponsors, monthly supporters, and volunteers. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support!

FUNDING PARTNERS

Donors and sponsors are the generous people and organizations that fund projects, providing tools for empowerment including traditional rainwater harvesting systems, nutrition gardens, school books, and artisan training workshops.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WomenServe is grateful to have Janine Levijarvi, Lynda LeMole, and Nioma Sadler serving on our Board of Directors. Their guidance, support, and love are immeasurable.

VOLUNTEERS

We want to acknowledge our volunteers, who serve alongside us in the US and India. Your contributions are deeply valued and appreciated.



“You are the champions that make our work possible.”

- Nioma Sadler



WATER CONSERVATION IN RAJASTHAN

water security

PROBLEM

In Western Rajasthan, India, rural communities face a severe water crisis due to harsh weather conditions and limited access to clean water sources. Women and girls bear the disproportionate burden of procuring clean water, often walking up to 10 hours each day in the hot desert. This task jeopardizes their health and educational opportunities. Urgent intervention is needed to address these challenges, uphold gender equality, and enhance community resilience.

350

Through the construction of 10 rainwater harvesting systems and 10 nutrition gardens, 350 family members have been impacted

2

2 health and hygiene training events were conducted, promoting better health practices in 25 communities

10

10 capacity-building training sessions were provided to build skills for long-term water infrastructure and food source management

SOLUTION

SRKPS addresses the water crisis by constructing rainwater harvesting storage tanks at households and promoting community participation for sustainable access to clean water. Skill development programs ensure the long-term viability of the water supply system, while nutrition gardens combat malnutrition. Through community involvement, SRKPS builds resilience and improves the well-being of rural desert communities.





WATER CONSERVATION IN RAJASTHAN

Meet Sangita

Before the construction of a Rainwater Harvesting Tank (taanka), Sangita and her family grappled with the daily challenge of water scarcity. Her family traveled to a village 4 kilometers away to purchase water to store in a small tank located half a kilometer from their home. They were unable to bathe regularly and cleaned kitchen utensils with sand or ash. The family's primary source of income is goat farming, which was also significantly impacted by a lack of adequate water. Often, the family resorted to using contaminated water, resulting in frequent illnesses.

A taanka is supporting a sustainable livelihood for Sangita's family.

The completion of the taanka has significantly improved the family's situation. They now have access to a reliable source of clean water, reducing their expenses and ensuring sufficient water for both household and livestock needs. This newfound abundance of water opens up opportunities for expanding their livestock business, thereby boosting their income. Additionally, the family can now establish a nutrition garden, utilizing the water from the taanka to grow vegetables, further enhancing their food security and overall well-being.



WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



PROBLEM

In the desert region of Western Rajasthan, India women and girls face profound socio-economic challenges that impede their progress and empowerment. With 38% of women married before 18 years, early marriages perpetuate cycles of inequality, curtailing their access to education and economic opportunities. Less than 18% of women aged 15-49 are paid for their work, and only 59.4% of rural women over the age of 6 have ever attended school.

1,200

1,200 women and girls with financial, vocational, and advocacy training

120

120 women empowered through inclusive Village Development Committees

7,000

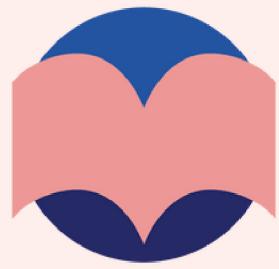
Over 7,000 individuals impacted through community outreach, engagement, and economic development training

SOLUTION

SSSR empowers women and communities by fostering grassroots advocacy for gender equity. Through community group formation and leadership training, SSSR amplifies the voices of women, girls, and community leaders, equipping them with the skills to advocate for their rights, navigate government support programs, and enhance their financial literacy. By focusing on economic development, capacity building, and community resilience, SSSR works to break cycles of inequality and empower every woman.



EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS



PROBLEM

In Western Rajasthan, India, girls' education faces many challenges, exacerbated by pandemic-related school closures and systemic barriers. Rajasthan has the lowest literacy rate in the country for women at 46%, and girls are three times more likely to not attend school compared to boys (1). These challenges are compounded by inadequate infrastructure and early marriage rates, threatening girls' access to education and perpetuating cycles of poverty.

740

Over 740 girls have been provided with essential academic resources and support

15

15 peer leaders have been empowered through the Women's Innovation Network

96

96 girls have graduated 12th grade after receiving targeted support and improved learning materials

SOLUTION

SSSR empowers girls through education advocacy, training, and confidence-building initiatives, enhancing their access to quality schooling, mentorship, vocational training, and extracurricular activities. By engaging communities and fostering leadership, SSSR creates inclusive school environments and raises awareness about girls' education. The Women's Innovation Network (WIN) Center offers vocational training and mentorship, while the School Education Project improves curriculum materials and teacher training to support girls' academic success.





EMPOWERING GIRLS

The “WIN” Center

Priya is engrossed in fixing her desktop computer, plugging mouse and keyboard wires into the CPU. The 17-year-old then gets busy with some graphic designing. She deftly searches for copyright-free pictures and downloads a picture of a camel. “I like camels, because they can go anywhere in the desert they want to,” Priya says with a smile. “I enjoy making posters. I do not want to do silai kadhai (stitching and embroidery work),” she added.

Priya loves spending her free time at the Women's Innovation Network (WIN) Center. WIN supports young women emerging as the next generation of change-makers, advocating for and participating in educational experiences, developing leadership and life skills, and becoming innovators and entrepreneurs in their communities. “In a time when India’s media industry is booming and everyone needs graphic designers, why can’t rural kids help?” asks Mr. Shiv Ji Ram Yadav, founder of implementing partner organization SSSR.

“I never thought I would work at a computer. Now I make posters. It gives me confidence and hope,” Kavitha, a WIN student said proudly.

The WIN Center provides girls with the opportunity to gain valuable skills that will help them “learn to earn” an income, including courses in computers, stitching, and beautician training.

It is inspiring to witness the strength and success of girls and women when they have the resources to connect together, the self-confidence to advocate for their rights, the opportunity to learn to earn, and the Wings to Fly!



ARTISANAL EMPOWERMENT

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS



PROBLEM

Rural women in Rajasthan, India face significant socio-economic challenges, especially in agricultural communities, where over 60 million women work as laborers, bearing financial risks due to seasonal employment and lower wages (compared to men). Limited land ownership and challenges accessing banking services also hinder their financial independence. Many women possess valuable artisanal skills in traditional handicrafts, but lack access to markets and resources to leverage their talents for sustainable livelihoods.

30

30 skilled artisans formed into clusters to promote skill development and entrepreneurship

450

450 artisans equipped with essential skills and knowledge, enabling them to enhance their craftsmanship and economic opportunities

1040

1040 women and girls trained through 10 vocational training events, enabling sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment

SOLUTION

UJAS works to uplift vulnerable women artisans across Rajasthan's farming communities by providing tools and opportunities to thrive in traditional crafts. Through artisan groups and grassroots federations, UJAS creates platforms for women artisans to enhance their marketability and earnings. Trainings focus on skill development, supported by village-based crafts and management centers that provide essential resources and a safe space for artisans to work. UJAS empowers women artisans to access profitable markets, transforming their lives and communities.



FUTURE PLANS & GOALS



As WomenServe looks ahead, our mission to advance gender equality and empower women and girls in underserved communities remains paramount.

We are dedicated to forging partnerships with organizations and communities, leveraging collaboration to address the challenges faced by women and girls.

01.

Advancing gender equality through strategic investments in education, health and well-being, and economic development to benefit 4000 women and girls.

03.

Investing in our people and organizational development to ensure holistic support and alignment with our mission.

Fostering collaboration and alignment with stakeholders to maximize impact and create lasting change.

02.

Operating with transparency and efficiency while managing resources responsibly to achieve our shared vision and mission.

04.



MEET OUR TEAM



NIOMA NARISSA SADLER
Founder & Board Chair



MANISH JHA
Education Lead



ANGELA BENTON
Senior Director



SWATI BHARDWAJ
Head of India Program



ARIJIT BHATTACHARYA
Finance and HR Manager



LIZZY RUSSINKO
*Communication &
Engagement Manager*



CHRISTINE GLENN
Organizational Design



KAREN ZURLINDEN
Bookkeeper



FINANCIALS

Fiscal year January–December 2023

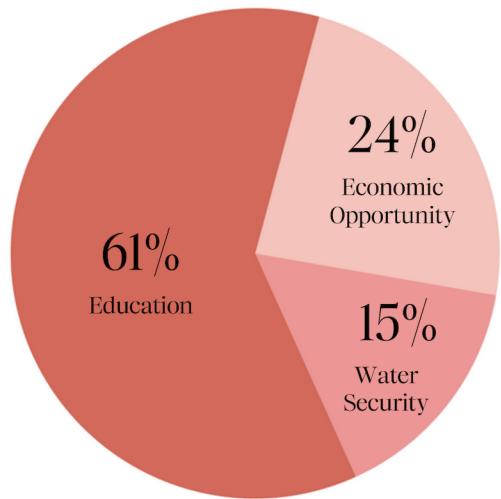
INCOME

Total	\$718,397
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EXPENSES*

Program Operations	\$491,467
	\$245,898

Program Expenses



*Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, all of WomenServe's annual operating expenses are covered. This means every other donation goes directly to programs benefiting women and girls.





LET'S CONNECT!

We'd love to hear from you.

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 www.facebook.com/womenserve

 [@womenserve](https://www.instagram.com/@womenserve)

