



Annual Report

2015-16





CREDITS

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CONTENT

CHAIR'S MESSAGE | 1

FROM THE ED'S DESK | 3

ABOUT SAWF | 5

OBJECTIVES | 6

PROGRAMME STRATEGY | 7

GRANT MAKING IN 2015 | 10

APPROACH AND IMPACT | 17

POST-EARTHQUAKE GRANTS | 19

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL LINKAGES | 24

INFLUENCING PHILANTHROPY | 29

LIST OF DONORS | 32

AUDIT REPORTS | 33

BOARD, ADVISORS & TEAM | 38

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It is truly humbling to write this message for all of you, as I take this opportunity to reflect on our work from a bird's eye view and visualise the entire landscape with all its colours and challenges.

The year 2015-16 was quite turbulent for the region, with natural disasters, increasingly repressive and unstable contexts, the repealing of many of the progresses women have made, and continued challenges around inclusion and representation being some of the many issues women endured. But the extraordinary courage, determination and resilience of women activists and groups, some of whom we are privileged to call our partners, consistently shone through the dark times.

We began the year with the devastation of the Nepal earthquake, and it has been inspiring to see how our partners in Nepal are working with women and different communities to rebuild and rehabilitate lives, despite great challenges. However, we ended the year on a high note, with the SAWF regional feminist convergence

– Our Rights, Our Voices – which brought together feminist activists and thinkers from across the region for exciting debates and discussions.

Our core work this year, as always, has been to bring in increased fiscal support for women's human rights, for which we raised a budget of approximately \$1 million. We also completed a year of implementing our new thematic strategy, and I am excited at the new ways in which we are supporting our partners to strengthen the grassroots women's movements through learning and accompaniment processes. I am proud to share that we contributed significantly to the strengthening of this resource eco-system of the women's funds, as we saw the creation of the South Asia Women's Foundation, India, in this year.

Not only have we contributed ideas and strengths to the broader platforms of Prospera - International Network of Women's Funds, the Asian Network of Women's Funds, and the International Human Rights Funders Group, we will soon be recasting ourselves as a women's fund prepared to service Asia.

As we are initiating the ground-work, with much energy and excitement, I also note the emergence of SAWF as an influential actor in diverse spaces, reimagining discourses, creating solidarities and allies, to challenge and overcome the gap in, and lack of, resources to realise the women's rights agenda across the world.

This turbulent yet rewarding journey is held together by our wonderful team led by Tulika. I thank our wonderful Board of Directors for their active and steadfast guidance and support to the team. I am also grateful to our advisory for their thoughtful and critical feedback on our work.

A big round of thanks to our donors - Ford Foundation, Oak Foundation, Foundation for a Just Society, Mama Cash, Filia, Flora Family Foundation and American Jewish World Service for their solidarity and sustained partnership as we move forward to support organisations, activists, and nascent movements on the ground.

Most importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing grantee partners who are doing exceptional work to further women's rights in their respective contexts and the region as a whole. Their innovative and bold strategies, and their commitment and drive to ensuring women's rights inspire and motivate us in our work.

Priya Paul
Chairperson



FROM THE ED'S DESK

What a year! As we conclude our 12th year as a regional women's fund, it is exciting to look at everything our partners have accomplished in a year of great change and struggle.

Despite all the challenges and obstacles in the region in areas such as governance, administration, feudal complexities and natural disasters, South Asia Women's Fund has made significant and critical strides to fulfil its promise to the women's movements in the region to stay true to the feminist agenda of women's human rights.

An overview of our busy year is included in the next pages, and as you turn them, you will realise that the year 2015-16 is an incredible reflection of the growing capacity and promise of SAWF in terms of its role in the region. We also looked back at five years of work under the Right to Safe and Secure Mobility thematic, and I am pleased and proud at how our partners have challenged us to go beyond a simplistic understanding of right to mobility to an increasingly nuanced perspective on movement, labour, and poverty.

This year we also moved to push forward our role in influencing philanthropic institutions. We organised the Donor Round Table on Stigmatised Labour in Delhi, bringing together activists, donors and our partners in one space, to understand women's labour, its recognition and the stigma around it. We also participated at the Clinton Global Initiative with our messages around the linkage of informal labour and poverty in our region, the ways which women are negotiating survival and pushing for recognition of their labour. Our presence at the World Women's Economic Forum raised our visibility in terms of our outreach to a more diverse audience of actors and stakeholders.

We closed last year with the vibrant and exciting South Asian Feminist Convergence, held in Kathmandu, bringing together over 140 women activists from rural communities and urban settlements, representing a wide range of issues, including but not limited to indigenous women, LGBTIQ, sex worker union members and women with disabilities. A massive takeaway for us was learning the importance and power of language and communication. Second line leaders who otherwise hesitate to speak because of the language barrier, took charge of the space and led an exciting exchange of experiences,

challenges and strategies. It put us directly in touch with our mandate givers, ensuring our accountability towards them and their communities across the region.

I keenly look forward to this new year, which is already shaping up to be our biggest one yet. We build on over a decade's foundation of a commitment to look more holistically and intersectionally at women's issues, and stand behind the revolutionary work of our partners, who are invigorating the movements by establishing their claims and demanding their rights.

It is indeed my privilege to be part of SAWF at this moment, in which we are contributing to strengthening the global architecture of women's funds, through the creation of our sister fund in India, South Asian Women's Foundation of India (SAWF-In) on one hand, and are looking at evolving from South Asia Women's Fund to the broader region of Asia in the coming year.

I would like to thank our Board for their unending support and guidance, our donors for believing in the human rights of women, and our partners who are paving the way, courageously, for a better world for us all. And lastly, I would like to thank the amazing team that I work with who bring in so much passion and commitment to SAWF every day!

Tulika Srivastava
Executive Director

A BOUT SAWF

South Asia Women's Fund, founded in 2004 is a regional women's fund committed to supporting women-led interventions to enhance and strengthen access to women's human rights and countering violations thereof. The Fund was set up to counter the non-availability of resources for women's rights work in the region.

Our core mandate is to support women's rights groups and activists in the South Asia region, across Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, through a regional strategy that is informed by national realities.



SAWF'S INTERVENTION STRATEGY UNDERSCORES THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:



ADVANCING A RIGHTS BASED APPROACH




PROMOTING WOMEN'S VOICES AND STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP





FORGING NEW DIRECTIONS WITH REINFORCED NETWORKS


Over the last decade, SAWF has supported over 170 initiatives at the sub-national level in the region, ensuring human rights for a diverse cross-section of women. In addition to making critical fiscal resources available, we have helped make technical resources available for both women's rights groups and donors. This is how we enable fundamental shifts in perspectives and understanding on women's issues. We also foster effective programme designing and process-oriented strategies, which nurtures not only the implementers but the constituencies (i.e. women at the community level) as well.

O BJECTIVES

- 

Promote and support the leadership of women at all levels, particularly those who belong to marginalised communities and are from rural, disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 

Enable a strong understanding of human rights and rights based approaches among women's activists and women's organisations in the region, which will inform programmatic intervention and implementation.
- 

Facilitate greater cross learning and exchange between women's organisations and activists in the region.
- 

Influence social justice philanthropy especially focusing on raising resources for women's rights work in the region.

P

ROGRAMME STRATEGY

A reflective analysis of work undertaken by SAWF in the past 6 years strongly suggested that there was a need to re-orient our strategy to better cater to the rights and needs of the women's movements in the region. Extensive consultations with the partners; a mapping of the emerging trends and issues; an assessment of the needs on the ground; and the changing political and social realities, resulted in SAWF implementing a new programme strategy in 2015.

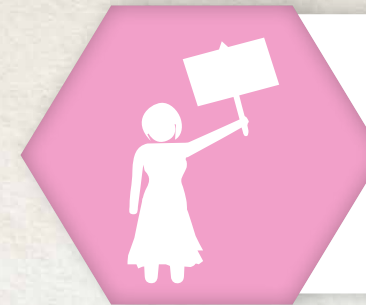
The strategy takes a thematic approach, and aims to provide holistic support to women's rights groups and activists, to institutionalise a rights-based approach and strengthen their work. It also ensures effective encapsulation of the impact of the work supported. The five thematics are:



Strengthening Feminist Voices: This thematic supports small women's groups and feminist activists working with extremely marginalised communities and taking up critical issues affecting women's human rights. Grassroots mobilisation is at the core of this thematic along with the innovative and experimental approaches undertaken by the groups.



Right to Safe and Secure Mobility: This thematic challenges the traditional rescue-rehabilitation-repatriation model of the anti-trafficking discourse by forwarding a rights based discourse that upholds women's right to safe mobility, livelihood and decision-making. It seeks to address the stigmatisation of women's labour, which is often linked to migration, poverty and socio-cultural marginalisations, by amplifying the voices and agency of women.



Building Young Women's Leadership:

The focus of this thematic is to strengthen young women's leadership and activism, particularly on issues of autonomy, physical integrity and decisionmaking.



Access to Justice: The thematic enhances and strengthens women's access to justice and countering and redressing violations of their human rights. The thematic has two components:

1

Investing in the capacity of a cadre of women lawyers to provide pro bono legal representation for women at primary courts across the region

2

Supporting groups and networks raising legal awareness in communities, and providing legal aid and counsel to women survivors of violence.



Influencing Philanthropy: This thematic supports our work in influencing philanthropic giving for women's rights work in the region.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT THE STRATEGY

GRANT MAKING

ACCOMPANIMENT

MONITORING & EVALUATION

NETWORKING & OUTREACH

ADVOCACY

RESOURCE MOBILISATION



G RANT MAKING IN 2015-16

332

Total number of grant applications in 2015-16, a significant increase from previous years

53

Total number of approved grants in 2015-16

\$331,600

Total amount approved in grants in 2015-16

THEMATIC BREAK-UP OF THE APPROVED GRANTS



9 GRANTS

Strengthening feminist voices



13 GRANTS

Right to safe and secure mobility



7 GRANTS

Young women's leadership



2 GRANTS & 14 FELLOWS

Access to Justice



8 GRANTS

Post-Earthquake grants

COUNTRY BREAK-UP OF THE APPROVED GRANTS



ISSUES SUPPORTED UNDER THESE THEMATICS INCLUDE:

- » Mobilising and strengthening leadership skills of migrant workers, sex workers, estate workers and garment factory workers
- » Access to justice and legal awareness
- » Addressing violence against women
- » Leadership building of women with disabilities
- » Dalit women's rights
- » Rights of religious minorities
- » LGBTIQ rights
- » Raising awareness of young women leaders on right to sexuality and choice
- » Access to technology
- » Research
- » Policy influence



GRANTEE PARTNERS

STRENGTHENING FEMINIST VOICES

NAME	COUNTRY
RABTA ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & CHILD PROTECTION	Pakistan
SOCIETY FOR APPRAISAL & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN RURAL AREAS (SAWERA)	Pakistan
ANITA NAYAR	India
FERDUOUS RUMEE	Bangladesh
RITUPARNA BORAH	India
DYNAMIC ACTION GROUP	India
BISHNU KALA BANDHARI	Nepal
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (NAWHRD)	Nepal
IT FOR CHANGE	India



YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

NAME	COUNTRY
ACTION AGAINST POVERTY (AAP)	Pakistan
WOMEN ACTION NETWORK FOR TRANSFORMATION (WANT)	Sri Lanka
TEXTILES, GARMENT AND CLOTHING WORKERS UNION	Sri Lanka
SURIYA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE	Sri Lanka
FEMINIST APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY	India
SURIYA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE – Minmini Seithihal	Sri Lanka
BANDHU SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY	Bangladesh



RIGHT TO SAFE & SECURE MOVEMENT

NAME	COUNTRY
WOMEN FORUM FOR WOMEN IN NEPAL (WOFOWON)	Nepal
COMMUNITY STRENGTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION	Sri Lanka
WOMEN'S REHABILITATION CENTRE (WOREC)	Nepal
PARICHITI	India
CHOTANAGPUR SANSKRITIK SANGH	India
SRIJAN FOUNDATION	India
SANGINI MAHILA KALYAN SAMITI	India
SOCIETY FOR LABOUR AND DEVELOPMENT	India
NATIONAL NETWORK OF SEX WORKERS	India
BOMSA	Bangladesh
SOCIAL WELFARE MANDRAM	Sri Lanka
WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION	Bangladesh
MEDIA ADVOCACY GROUP	Nepal

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

NAME	COUNTRY
UMMED PARTNERSHIP PAKISTAN	Pakistan
SAHAYATRI SAMAJ	Nepal

LEGAL FELLOWS

NAME	COUNTRY
Asiya Agha	Pakistan
Tabassum Rani	Pakistan
Jerusha Thambiah	Sri Lanka
Binita Hazarika	India
Manju Marasrini	Nepal
Romita Reang	India
Bhuneshwari Devi	India
Safana Begum	Sri Lanka
Diana Florington	Sri Lanka
Rimziya Kaldeen	Sri Lanka
Indira Shreesh	Nepal
Khurshida Parvin	Bangladesh
Sipra Goswami	Bangladesh



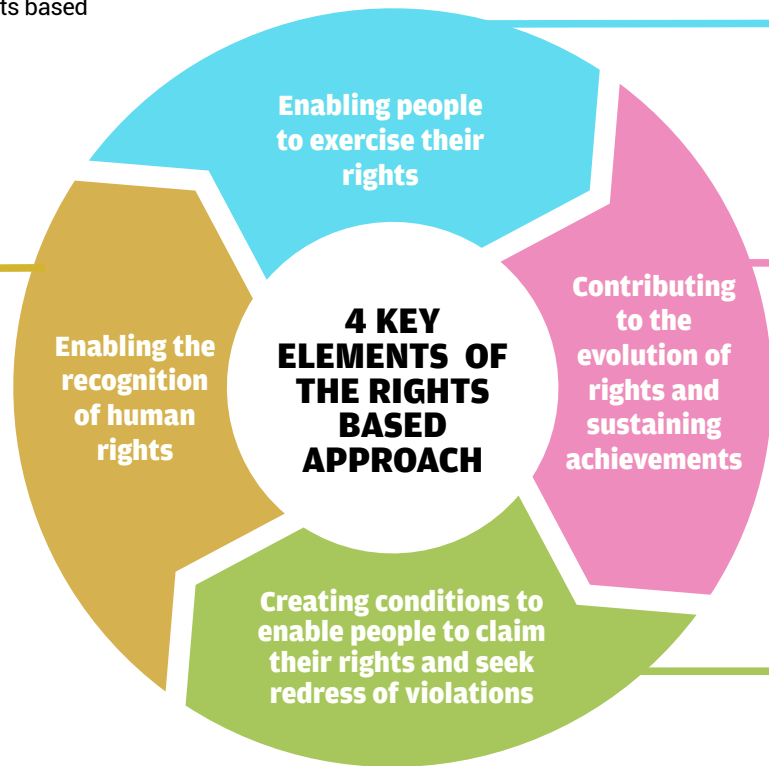


APPROACH AND IMPACT

SAWF's entire programme, especially the grant-making and capacity building programmes, is aimed at resourcing the advancement of the rights based approach in women's rights work in the region. To this end, SAWF follows an approach that is built upon the national, regional and international women's human rights body of work. This approach is constantly informed by our partners and their work in different contexts, expert recommendations and normative standards.

These four elements are not linear and do not take place in isolation from each other. All our partners use a combination of these elements in their work, sometimes with greater emphasis on one over the others.

The following visual highlights some of the strategies SAWF supports through grantmaking, to advance the rights based approach in the region.



EXAMPLE: AWARENESS RAISING AND MOBILISING THE RIGHTS HOLDERS

Social Welfare Mandram works with migrant workers from the estate sector in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka. Women from this area face extreme marginalisation and vulnerability due to their ethnicity, class and caste as well as extreme poverty and limited access to education and services. Many women migrate out of the country for work, especially to the Middle East as unskilled labour. SWM developed an information handbook on migrant rights, in local languages, for potential migrants, aimed at raising their awareness on the government services they can access and their legal rights, as well as information on safety and laws in the receiving country.

EXAMPLE: DEVELOPING THE KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITIES OF RIGHTS HOLDERS TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS

RABTA works with the trans community in Peshawar, Pakistan. This community faces immense violence and marginalisation due to conservative social and religious norms. RABTA works with the trans community and community leaders and government stakeholders to raise awareness about the challenges faced by transpersons, and help them exercise their rights such as access to education, employment and government services.

EXAMPLE: BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE OF RIGHTS HOLDERS ON RELEVANT NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND PROCESSES

Sangini Mahila Kalyan Samiti works with women domestic workers in slums in Bhopal, India. The women workers have little workplace protection and are vulnerable to abuse, poor wages, lack of workers' benefits, gender and caste-related violence etc. SMKS works with WDW groups to strengthen their knowledge on legal provisions such as Domestic Violence Act, Act on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, Anti-Untouchability, SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Acts to enable them to exercise their rights.

EXAMPLE: PROVIDING REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS AND PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Across South Asia, institutional and structural barriers pose a huge challenge for women to access justice. SAWF's Legal Fellows cohort provides pro bono legal services on cases of family law and violence against women at the district court level, to help women, especially those from rural and marginalised backgrounds claim their rights and redressal for violations thereof.



P OST- EARTHQUAKE GRANTS

Natural disasters are a living reality in South Asia. The 7.8 earthquake that struck northwest of Nepal's capital Kathmandu on April 25, 2015 had a devastating impact on the country, especially on its marginalised communities. As always, women were the most vulnerable, due to lack of access to shelter, safe spaces, water and sanitation, health facilities, relief aid etc. SAWF undertook a consultative and participatory process to evaluate the needs of our partners, with a strong emphasis on long term strategies to address the impact and effects of the disaster. We funded 8 such projects with new and existing partners.

A LOOK AT THE WORK



1

Organisation

Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON)

Focus of the grant

Capacity and skills training for sustainable livelihood options for women workers in the entertainment sector whose home and workplaces were affected by the earthquake.

Geographical focus

Kathmandu



2

Organisation

National Indigenous Women's Forum (NIWF)

Focus of the grant

Construction of safe spaces like the women's community centre; awareness on government relief packages and benefits; as well as documenting cases of violence against women in the indigenous community in Kavre.



3

Organisation

Oppressed Women Society

Focus of the grant

Legal awareness programs and free legal aid in response to increased VAW after the earthquake.

Geographical focus

Kaski district, Pokhara



4

Organisation

Pourakhi

Focus of the grant

Raising awareness about trafficking and safe migration among potential women migrant workers in light of an increase in migration and trafficking after the earthquake.

Geographical focus

Dhading



5

Organisation

Women Empowerment Nepal (WEN)

Focus of the grant

A women-led recovery initiative, primarily focused on ensuring their rights and participation in the rebuilding efforts.

Geographical focus

Khokana village, Kathmandu



6

Organisation

Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)

Focus of the grant

Advocacy activities for the inclusion of women with disabilities in the recovery and rehabilitation processes, and capacity building of WWDs to resume livelihood and income generation activities.



7

Organisation

Sahayatri Samaj

Focus of the grant

Addressing increased gender based violence through documenting cases of VAW after the earthquake.

Geographical focus

Dhading



8

Organisation

NIDWAN

Focus of the grant

Rehabilitation and recovery of indigenous women with disabilities affected by the earthquake.

Geographical focus

Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur

S TRENGTHENING REGIONAL LINKAGES AND CAPACITIES

ACCOMPANIMENT FOR THE SAWF LEGAL FELLOWS

- » Capacity building for 7 new Legal Fellows accepted into the programme
- » SAWF India legal fellows joined 35 lawyers from the district courts across West Bengal in a two-day capacity building workshop to secure women's rights under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA).
- » Legal fellows annual regional meeting was held in March 2016 in Kathmandu and was attended by SAWF legal fellows from all 5 countries.





■ Strategic Partners Meeting in Kolkata, hosted by SAWF and Green Grants Fund

ACCOMPANIMENT FOR PARTNERS WORKING ON STIGMATISED LABOUR

- » SAWF and SANGRAM supported a three day national level workshop in June in Panahil, India on "Assessing the human rights impact of anti-trafficking laws and policies in India".
- » Vulnerable Communities in Stigmatised Labour, a field-building workshop with SAWF partners in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and India was conducted by Aarthi Pai from Sangram. SAWF partners National Network of Sex Workers (India), Bangladesh Sex Workers' Network, WOFOWON (Nepal), Praja Diriya Padanama (Sri Lanka), and Community Strength Development Foundation (Sri Lanka) participated in the meeting.
- » SAWF and Green Grants Fund co-organised a Strategic Partners meeting in Kolkata to explore the linkages between environmental rights, labour rights and women's rights .



■ SAWF and SANGRAM hold a national level workshop on assessing the human rights impact of anti-trafficking laws and policies in India, Pune, June 2015

OUR RIGHTS, OUR VOICES

A feminist regional convergence for collective reflection and strategising

SAWF organised its Annual Regional Convening in March 2016 in Kathmandu, which brought together feminists from across the region. It was attended by SAWF grantee partners, donors, networks, academics and feminist experts.



The Convergence was structured around SAWF's 5 thematic areas, and centred on peer exchange and learning, through the sharing of their experiences, challenges, strategies and best practices, at community, national and regional level.



INFLUENCING PHILANTHROPY

Networking and outreach is a key strategy for SAWF to advocate for feminist philanthropy and mobilise resources in the region. Participation in key international and regional fora this year allowed us to increase our visibility, bring in new donors and influence actors in different sectors.

- » The sister funds of the Asian Network of Women's Funds came together in Colombo to discuss and plan collaborative work on 3 themes: violence against women, political participation and LGBTIQ rights.
- » SAWF Executive Director was a panelist on Economic Implications of Gender Based Violence at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York.
- » SAWF Executive Director attended the prestigious Women's Forum Global Meeting in Deauville, France. Catapult - the only feminist crowd sourcing platform - showcased SAWF as one of the 6 women's funds on its site, to help raise funds for SAWF's programme on building young women's leadership and political participation.



■ Sister funds that form the Asia Network of Women's Funds come together in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Aug 2016.



■ SAWF at the Clinton Global Initiative, New York, September 2015.



■ Akshayambara, a theatrical production at the Lucknow Mahindra Sanatkada Festival, 2016

- » SAWF collaborated with India Foundation for the Arts to support the theatrical performance of Sharanya Ramprakash's Akshayambara at the Mahindra Sanatkada Festival in Lucknow. The performance was a form of Yakshagana, a theater style from Karnataka which has been a male dominated space for more than 800 years. Not only is Sharanya the first female artist to perform Yakshagana; her play, Akshayambara is a feminist reinterpretation of "Draupadi's Vastraharan" from the Mahabharata. This is a very innovative feminist tool to discuss issues around gender, sexuality, and hetero-normativity.
- » At the International Human Rights Funders Group meeting in San Francisco, SAWF along with Global Fund for Women and GAATW presented a session on anti-trafficking in the context of labour and migrant rights.
- » Donor Round table on "Funding Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Labour Rights of Women in Stigmatised Work in South Asia" brought together donors (national and international private foundations), women's funds, academics, activists and survivor groups supporting and undertaking anti-trafficking programmes in the region.



■ A scene from the Donor Round table on "Funding Anti-Trafficking Initiatives and Labour Rights of Women in Stigmatised Work in South Asia"



“ Giving women the freedom to be who they want to be. To respect their choices. This is the challenge we have to meet. Every Single Day. I am proud to be a part of that journey. ”

Kishani Jayasinghe - Wijayasekara
SAWF International Goodwill Ambassador

- » Kishani Jayawardene, a renowned opera performer from Sri Lanka and England joined us as SAWF's ambassador. She will support the work of SAWF in her capacity at national, regional and international platforms, especially in terms of promoting the organisation and increasing visibility for our work.
- » SAWF increased its efforts to raise indigenous funds this year. SAWF Chair Person Priya Paul hosted a fundraising event with prominent philanthropists and business individuals from Delhi. SAWF presented an introduction to the organisation as well as an in-depth look at the legal fellowship programme.



LIST OF DONORS



AUDIT REPORTS

Chartered Accountants,
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Colombo 00300,
Sri Lanka.
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+94 - 11 230 7345
Internet : www.lk.kpmg.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of South Asia Women's Fund ("the Company"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2016, and the statement of income and expenditure, changes in funds, cash flow for the year ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Board of Directors ("Board") is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards for Small and Medium Sized Entities ("SLFRS for SMEs"), and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at March 31, 2016, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accordance Sri Lanka Accounting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities ("SLFRS for SMEs").

KPMG, a Sri Lankan partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity.

M.R. Mihular FCA
T.J.S. Rajakarier FCA
Ms. S.M.S. Jayasinghe ACA
G.A.U. Karunaratne FCA
R.H. Rajan ACA
P.Y.S. Perera FCA
W.W.J.C. Perera FCA
W.R.D.C. Abeyaratne FCA
R.M.D.B. Rajapaksa FCA
S.T.D.L. Perera FCA
Ms. B.K.D.T.N. Rodrigo FCA
H.S. Goonewardene ACA
Pérez-López - S.R.I. Perera FCMA(UK), LL.B. Attorney-at-Law. H.S. Goonewardene ACA

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by section 163 (2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we state the following:

- The basis of opinion and scope and limitations of the audit are as stated above.
- In our opinion except as discussed in the opinion paragraph we have obtained all the information and explanations that were required for the audit and, as far as appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Company and the financial statements of the Company, comply with the requirements of section 151 of the Companies Act.


CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
28 September 2016
Colombo

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 March,

	Note	2016 Rs.	2015 Rs.
Non current assets			
Property plant and equipment	2	712,332	328,596
		<u>712,332</u>	<u>328,596</u>
Current assets			
Other receivables	3	457,552	245,352
Cash and cash equivalents	4	100,362,052	65,465,016
		<u>100,819,604</u>	<u>65,710,368</u>
Total assets		<u>101,531,936</u>	<u>66,038,964</u>
Funds and liabilities			
Funds			
Accumulated fund		12,399,599	10,831,236
Mama Cash	5	3,566,784	986,823
Ford Foundation	6	14,041,851	8,130,300
Oak Foundation	7	30,792,447	24,740,531
Foundation for Just Society	8	20,129,686	20,157,828
Global Fund for Women	9	-	650,950
AJWS	10	9,171,861	-
FILIA	11	81,029	-
Flora	12	5,734,133	-
		<u>95,917,390</u>	<u>65,497,668</u>
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable	13	4,220,109	421,070
Income tax payable	14	1,394,437	120,226
		<u>5,614,546</u>	<u>541,296</u>
Total liabilities		<u>101,531,936</u>	<u>66,038,964</u>
Total funds and liabilities		<u>101,531,936</u>	<u>66,038,964</u>

The financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the related notes, which form as an integral part of these financial statements of the Company.

I certify that these financial statements are prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.


Finance Manager

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with SLFRS for SMEs.

Approved and signed for on behalf of the Board of Directors:


Director


Director

Colombo
28 September 2016

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the year ended 31 March,

	Note	2016 Rs.	2015 Rs.
Income			
Utilization of funds			
-Mama Cash		14,930,545	8,704,774
-Foundation for a Just Society		28,892,657	27,160,175
-Ford Foundation		8,209,140	10,941,678
-Oak Foundation		32,205,174	16,141,497
-Human Dignity Foundation		-	779,177
-Global Fund for Women		650,950	-
-AJWS		5,222,169	-
-FILIA		990,191	1,288,736
-Flora		2,658,117	-
Global fund		-	652,600
Institute of International Education		849,674	-
Donations		-	377,986
Exchange gain		658,536	648,902
Commission income		58,388	-
Reimbursement accommodation		85,684	-
Interest income		909,827	640,583
Total income		<u>96,321,052</u>	<u>67,336,108</u>
Less: Expenditure			
Staff expenses	15	19,897,565	15,956,974
Grant expenses	16	40,049,189	39,499,856
Exchange loss		88,795	73,143
Global Fund refund		-	31,794
Cost of transport and foreign travel		5,994,685	5,056,689
Rent expenses		1,784,368	1,398,489
Secretarial fee		221,362	296,307
Office maintenance		724,738	107,046
Office expenses		342,389	844,862
Staff per-diem		1,138,470	279,395
Accommodation		1,736,943	1,166,118
Bank charges		519,847	625,740
Printing & stationery		136,009	66,901
Depreciation		143,085	170,448
Telephone and e-mail charges		164,445	41,372
Meeting and conference		16,049,670	6,415,279
Postage and courier charges		10,112	-
Membership charges		79,884	78,504
Audit fee under provision		6,235	98,189
Audit fee		180,612	187,007
Consultancy fee		1,620,572	1,794,588
Fees for NGO tax consultants		33,851	24,160
Publications		428,886	99,755
Website development		84,625	-
Board meeting		1,445,404	1,031,510
Write off		370	-
Total expenses carried forward		<u>92,882,111</u>	<u>75,344,126</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE*For the year ended 31 March,*

	Note	2016 Rs.	2015 Rs.
SAWF Networking Events		115,537	-
SAWF Film		289,667	-
Total expenditure		93,287,315	75,344,126
Excess income over expenditure before tax expense		3,033,737	(8,008,018)
Income tax expense	17	1,465,374	120,226
Excess income over expenditure after tax expense		1,568,363	(8,128,244)

The financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the related notes, which form as an integral part of these financial statements of the Company.



BOARD, ADVISORS & TEAM

BOARD

South Asia Women's Fund is governed by a regional board, 90% of which are women. The Board currently consists of 8 members.

» **Priya Paul, Chairperson, Founding Director, India**

The Chairperson of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels, Ms. Paul is a recipient of the India Today Woman in Business Award for 2009- 2010 and the FHRAI Hall of Fame 2010. In 2012 she was awarded the Padma Shri for her services to Trade & Industry by the President of India. In 2014, she was conferred with the prestigious Insignia of the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite by the President of France.

» **Aisha Gazdar, Member, Pakistan**

Aisha Gazdar is a celebrated documentary filmmaker. Her company Films d'Art has produced numerous films on social issues, including Another World is Possible, which references the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in South Asia.

» **Gagan Sethi, Member, India**

Gagan is a renowned development practitioner, organisational development expert and a gender trainer. He has been instrumental in setting up several strategic organisations in the country, such as, Janvikas, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Sahjeevan, Drishti, Centre for Social Justice, HID forum and Dalit Foundation among others.

» **Sepali Kottegoda, Member, Sri Lanka**

The Executive Director of the Women and Media Collective and Chair of Asia Pacific Women's Watch, Ms. Kottegoda has worked as an expert on the Sri Lanka National Committee on Women; National Plan of Action on Human Rights; National Plan of Action for Women, National Plan for Overseas Labour Migration; the ILO publication on Strengthening Grievance & Complaint Handling Mechanisms to Address Migrant Worker Grievances.

» **Suneeta Dhar, Member, India**

Suneeta Dhar is a feminist activist, trainer and facilitator of change processes. Active in the women's movement, Ms. Dhar has supported several grassroots initiatives and leadership development on women's rights, building bridges and alliances across diverse sectors.

» **Sonaali Wijeratne, Member, Sri Lanka:**

A Director with The Regent Group, an investment company based in Sri Lanka. Sonaali was also the founder of a Knowledge Process Outsourcing firm. She is also a member of many of business chambers in Sri Lanka.

» **Shaheen Anam, Member, Bangladesh:**

The Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, a grant-making organisation, Ms. Anam has an extensive experience in the field of development work focusing on gender and human rights.

» **Srishti Malla Joshi, Member, Nepal:**

The chairperson of SAARC Business Association for Home Based Workers (SABAH Nepal), Srishti is a well known woman entrepreneur and has been twice presented with the Woman Achiever Award (2004, 2005).

ADVISORS

» **Jael Silliman**

Globally known for her work and commitment to human rights, Jael is currently supporting South Asia Women's Fund on grant-making, developing its strategic profile, and advocacy portfolio to build its ability to advocate for the enhancement of indigenous philanthropy towards women's rights.

» **Jana Rumminger**

Jana is an expert in documentation and rights based approach. In addition to supporting South Asia Women's Fund's documentation, she will also be contributing her expertise to enable a stronger outreach for South Asia Women's Fund partners in the region.

» **Kishali Pinto-Jayawardene**

Kishali is a well-known Human Rights lawyer from Sri Lanka who has worked closely with the Asian Human Rights Commission on many issues relating to the protection and promotion of human rights in Sri Lanka as well as in Asia.

» **Sara Hossain**

Sara is a lawyer practicing in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, in the areas of constitutional, public interest and family law. She is a member of a human rights organisation, Ain o Salish Kendra and heads the human rights organisation, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust.

» **Hana Shams Ahmed**

Hana is a freelance writer and has previously worked with the Forum magazine, The Star magazine. She has extensively written about the rights of Bangladeshi migrant workers, Urdu-speaking groups of Bangladesh, sexual harassment of women, abuse of domestic workers, and nationalism and identity politics in the CHT.

TEAM

» **Tulika Srivastava, Executive Director**

is a human rights lawyer with extensive experience building and working with organisations and institutions dedicated to the realization of women's human rights. She is the founding member of AALI (Lucknow) and former executive director of IWRAP AP.

» **Anisha Chugh, Director of Programmes**

has a Master's Degree in History from the University of Delhi and in Governance and Development from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (UK). Prior to joining SAWF, Anisha worked with the Dalit Foundation, a philanthropic organisation based in India.

» **Tehani Ariyaratne, Programme Officer (Grant Making, Impact Assessment and Accompaniment)**

has a BA in Psychology and Anthropology from Stonybrook University. Prior to joining SAWF, she worked as a researcher at the Centre for Poverty Analysis in Sri Lanka.

» **Surbhi Mahajan, Programme Officer (Grant Making, Impact Assessment and Accompaniment)**

has a master's degree in History from JNU and in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (UK). Prior to joining SAWF, she worked with Make Every Woman Count (UK) and was a research consultant on a UNDP funded assessment study on Right to Information in India.

» **Vineeta Tewari, Administrator – Liaison Office**

has a PGDBA in HR from SCDL, Pune, India and undertakes comprehensive management of the SAWF Liaison office in Lucknow, India, including legal and other compliances; and support to the ED.

» **Ruvi Perera, Programme Administrator**

has a BA in Business Administration and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Sociology at the University of Kelaniya (Sri Lanka). She has experience in a range of sectors including banking, media and research.

» **Dishani Malliyawadu, Finance and Accounts Manager**

has a BSc. in Applied Accounting. She is a qualified Chartered Accountant and a finance professional with experience in corporate and non-profit finance management in both corporate and non-profit sector.

» **Priyanka Thiyagarajah, Finance and Administrative Officer**

has a degree in BA in Business management from Buckinghamshire New University, with AAT qualification. She has experience in administration, accounts and HR management.



“ Struggle is a very important teacher, some of the attitudes have been changing, and it makes me feel rather satisfied that some transformation is taking place. Creating an identity for the organization is an ongoing challenge. Support of organisations like South Asia Women’s Fund is critical to this process.”

~ **Gomawati (Srijana) Pun,**
Founding Chairperson, Women Forum for Women
in Nepal (WOFOWON), Nepal



“SAWF funding sincerely allowed us to build SPRC right from scratch. From welfare approach to a more rights based approach, include the voices of survivors more in making those demands, claiming their rights and identities.”


~ **Muktashree Chakma,**
Founder, Supporting People and Rebuilding
Communities, Bangladesh.



We are grateful to our donors and friends for their support and solidarity

 www.sawf.info

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