DSW
Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung

youth can

2023/24
In a nutshell

Dear readers, dear supporters of Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW),

The United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994 marked a paradigm shift that was also a decisive turning point for DSW's work. From then on, the focus shifted from target birth rates to the individual, emphasising their needs and right to bodily autonomy. Empowering every woman to decide when and with whom she has children has been the guiding principle of our work for 30 years. Therefore, this anniversary is an occasion for both reflection (p. 3) and celebration.

Self-determination and independence are the ultimate goals for DSW Kenya. In the future, it will operate under the name YSW (Youth for a Sustainable World). This shift from an international to a national NGO will create new opportunities for funding and efficiency. DSW will remain closely connected to YSW as a partner (p. 4+5).

Finally, we will continue on our political path, despite the increasing difficulties posed by massive budget cuts in Berlin and shifting political dynamics in Brussels (p. 8). Nevertheless, the challenges we encounter only strengthen our resolve.

I hope you enjoy reading the report and invite you to explore our recently relaunched website (www.dsw.org/en) to learn more about our activities.

With kind regards,

Helmut Heinen
Chairman of the DSW Board

1994

2024

30 years after Cairo: Progress and challenges

Sustainable population development is not achieved through target numbers and birth rate goals; it is achieved through the realisation of the human right to bodily autonomy. This was the paradigm shift initiated in 1994 at the ICPD in Cairo, with a Programme of Action that placed the individual and their needs at the centre. It laid the foundation for the concept of sexual and reproductive health and rights, which has also shaped our work for the past 30 years. The goal is to empower women, in particular, to decide whether, when, and with whom they wish to have children, and how many.

Much has been achieved since 1994: maternal mortality has fallen by 34 percent and the number of women using contraception has doubled. However, a woman in Africa is still 130 times more likely to die from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth than a woman in Europe or North America. Worldwide, complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19, often due to medically unsafe abortions. At the same time, a growing ultra-conservative movement is increasingly challenging the bodily and sexual autonomy of girls and young women.

The Cairo Programme of Action has therefore lost none of its relevance and urgency.

Go local – DSW Kenya becomes a partner on equal terms

Since its foundation in 2000, DSW Kenya has organised and managed a variety of projects in 27 counties across the country. The focus has always been on youth empowerment and the promotion of equality and autonomy for young people, especially young women and girls. In line with the global trend towards greater independence and self-responsibility for the Global South, Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) has initiated the process of localisation. The Kenyan country office will be transformed into a fully autonomous organisation while remaining connected to DSW, the former parent organisation, as an equal partner. With the localisation, DSW Kenya will gain independent leadership that can better align activities and strategies with the needs of the local community. A transition period has been underway since November 2023 and is expected to last until April 2025. During this period, all necessary measures for localisation, including the name change, will be implemented.

We spoke with **Evelyn Samba (ES)**, Director of DSW Kenya, and **Angela Bähr (AB)**, Deputy Executive Director of DSW, about the localisation of DSW Kenya:

The localisation of DSW Kenya was already on the agenda a few years ago – could you tell us about that and why it didn't happen at that time?
ES: We had an initial conversation about this a few years ago. In 2019, we explored the idea more thoroughly and subsequently commissioned an assessment to evaluate DSW Kenya's readiness for this transition. The assessment report identified several areas that required strengthening. Over the past few years, we have worked on these areas, which has now improved our capacity and likelihood of success.

Who initiated the process?
ES: There was a joint discussion between DSW Kenya and the management team in Hannover.
AB: This discussion took into account the political developments of recent years and decades, namely the push for greater independence and self-reliance of the Global South. This has become an increasingly important factor for many donors. During this period, DSW Kenya and the management team in Germany started their own discussions on this topic.

What will change in concrete terms and what will remain the same?
AB: The localisation process will result in a fully independent organisation in Kenya. This will affect aspects such as the composition of the board in Kenya and the management of finances and accountability. Any structural and financial ties between the two organisations will be dissolved, with each organisation being responsible solely for its own financial and control systems.

How will the localisation benefit DSW Kenya and DSW in general?
ES: Many donors are increasingly inclined to support organisations in the Global South, which opens up new funding opportunities for us. This would be the first direct benefit for Kenya. Another significant advantage will be the decentralised, local decision-making, ensuring that decisions are more directly aligned with local contexts and realities.

Ethiopia

Healthy Youth @ Work: The seed is being sown

Many young Ethiopians work in industrial parks and flower farms, often with limited knowledge about sexuality education and sexual health. That is why the *Healthy Youth @ Work* programme was created. One example is Jiranus Nebretu Berihun's story: When she was 18, she experienced sexual assault. She believes that this might not have happened if she had completed the DSW training on sexuality education and gender-based violence at the time. "Then I would tell a different story about that evening," she says. Today, she leads the Ebistu Ada Youth Club and encourages other girls and young women to stand up for their right to self-determination and make sure their voices are heard.

Kenya

Reaching The Last Girl:
"I no longer ask my husband for money."

"How will you leave us now that you're going away?" Many women in Kenya ask their husbands this question when they leave for work. They ask for money for food, household expenses and daily needs. Leti no longer needs to ask her husband. She has started a business making mandazi (a type of doughnut) and has created her own company. "Since then, I no longer ask my husband for money," she says. The project Leti is referring to is called *Reaching the Last Girl*, which targets young mothers who are HIV-positive. DSW Kenya has organised numerous training sessions for young women on topics such as sexuality education, health and entrepreneurship. Leti's story is one of the project's success stories.

Uganda

The Youth Truck is on the move – with plenty of information on board.

The staff of DSW's partner organisation Action 4 Health (A4H) in Uganda, travel to the most remote regions of the country in their *Youth Truck*. "The *Youth Truck* makes our work easier because we can now spread our information and messages through a loudspeaker system," says peer educator Joram Kironde. The team offers HIV testing, contraceptives, and information on their proper use. They also address the consequences and complications of unplanned pregnancies among young girls. The project is co-funded by the Max Brose Foundation, continuing the support previously provided by Wertgarantie AG.

Tanzania

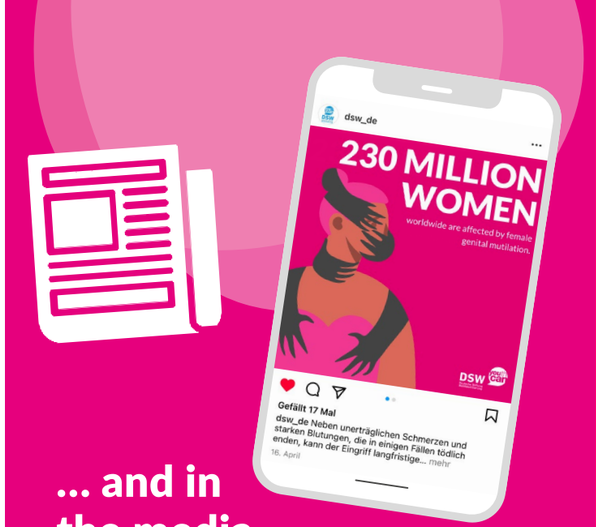
SAfA stages theatre against violence against women

27 percent of women in Tanzania between the ages of 15 and 49 have experienced physical violence, and 12 percent have experienced sexual violence. DSW Tanzania is working to reduce these figures. The "Red Apple" group takes an innovative approach, combining theatre and performance art to highlight sexuality education and gender-based violence. *SAfA* was founded by the Hanns R. Neumann Foundation, the Rossmann Foundation and the Kühne Foundation, with DSW as a partner. Each of the four foundations contributes its expertise to the projects. DSW focuses on its core themes of sexuality education, health, and self-determination in the *SAfA* programmes as well as in Tanzania in general.

Our topics in politics ...

In both Berlin and Brussels, our political work has been influenced by budget debates and austerity measures from EU member states, particularly the Federal Government of Germany. This underscores the importance of our teams' advocacy on issues related to global health and sexual and reproductive rights. Their efforts helped to largely prevent significant cuts to the development budget initially, though the issue remains pertinent. Another success was the implementation of the Youth Action Plan at the EU level, for which we fought hard. Our goal remains to keep the needs of Africa's youth, especially girls and young women, on the political agenda.

Members of Parliament Knut Gerschau (3rd from left), Susanne Menge (2nd from right), and Rebecca Schamber (right) demonstrate with our youth champions in front of the Bundestag.



... and in the media

What is the state of bodily autonomy 30 years after the Cairo Programme of Action? This question is at the heart of UNFPA's latest State of World Population report, of which we have published the German abridged edition. The fight against resurgent ultra-conservatism, along with issues of gender equality, global health, and population development, is also the focus of the journalistic work we have honoured with our media award and prominently featured in German media.

Learn more about how we bring DSW's concerns to politicians and the public on our recently relaunched Website: www.dsw.org/en

Financial overview

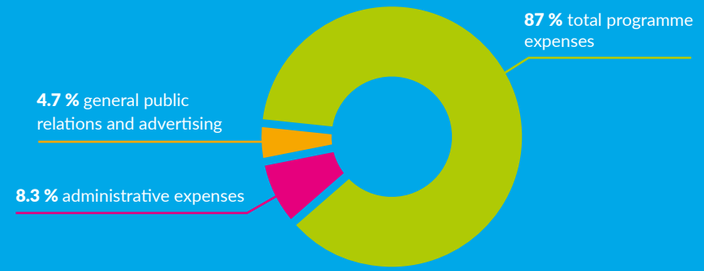
In 2023, DSW's income totalled 10.06 million euro. A significant part of this, almost 30 percent, came from donations, bequests, and endowments. The remaining income consisted mainly of funds from public donors and other organisations.

Expenditure totalled 10.1 million euro*. Of this, a substantial 87 percent went directly to our project work in 2023. Administrative costs accounted for 8.3 percent, while 4.7 percent was spent on advertising and general public relations.

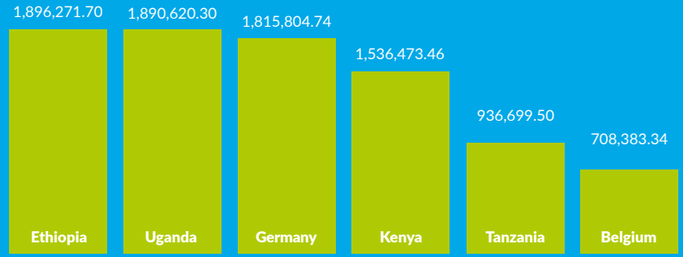
Our aim is always to maximise the effectiveness of our projects and make the most of every euro. We make sure that your contribution has a real impact!

*This includes the salaries of DSW's 178 employees and a total annual remuneration of 221,445 euro for the executive team.

Allocation of Resources 2023



Programme Expenses by Country (EUR)



Our goals always in sight

A team of experts from Ethiopia, Germany, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda monitors the progress and impact of DSW's projects. Using participatory methods and the monitoring tool WebMo, we can collect data in real time and improve our processes. Despite the dynamic environment and the evolving needs of young people, this approach keeps us closely connected to our target group and allows us to respond swiftly to changes. For 2023, all projects have been recorded in WebMo, and for the first time, cross-organisational metrics are available – a remarkable achievement!

Over **70,000** young people have been referred to health centres for SRHR* services with DSW's support and provided with modern contraceptives upon request.

650 healthcare workers have received training to offer youth-friendly SRHR* services.

1,503 peer educators have been trained.

Young people have participated in peer-led SRHR* training sessions **106,919** times.

None of this would have been possible without you –

THANK YOU!

*sexual and reproductive health and rights

Outlook

Bodily autonomy and economic independence are the foundations on which young people, especially young women, can shape their futures. That is why we are increasingly focusing on projects that integrate both. The *Flying Nurses* not only reach young people in the most remote communities with health services and contraceptives, but they also generate their own income. After a successful launch in Ethiopia, the concept is now being extended to the other three countries where we operate. Through the *POWER* Project, we are specifically supporting start-ups led by young women in Uganda that focus on family planning and sexual and reproductive health. The project will be permanently established in Uganda and subsequently implemented in Tanzania.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights remain a key focus of our advocacy, especially as ultra-conservative anti-rights movements gain strength around the world. We also continue to advocate for research and development in poverty-related and neglected diseases, as well as for innovations in women's health.

Jan Kreutzberg
Executive Director of DSW

An overview of DSW's governing bodies:

Board of Trustees
Advises, supports, and oversees the executive board.

Executive Board
Manages the ongoing business; delegates responsibilities to the executive management team.

Advisory Board
Advises the executive board and the board of trustees.

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DSW is an international development organisation that focuses on the needs and potential of the largest African youth generation in history.

For over 30 years, we have been providing young people in East Africa with access to age-appropriate health information and modern contraceptives. Additionally, we advocate at the political level for the right to bodily autonomy, particularly for young women and girls.

Our offices in Europe and East Africa are also committed to advancing gender-equitable research and innovation to address poverty related and neglected diseases.

Support us!

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www.dsw.org/en/donate

Your donation makes our work possible. For a strong youth and a strong future.

The donation seal of the German Institute for Social Issues (DZI) confirms that we handle the funds entrusted to us carefully and responsibly.

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DSW youth can

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