



**2024/2025
In Brief**

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

Since the start of his second term, U.S. President Donald Trump has dominated global headlines—and even this year’s DSW Annual Report cannot ignore his impact. One of his first actions—effectively shutting down US-AID and slashing aid budgets—has shaken international development cooperation. Africa has been hit especially hard: shortages of medicines, clinic closures, and in some places, the complete collapse of basic health-care. Budgets are also being cut in Europe and within Germany’s new federal government. This makes our work more essential than ever—both on the ground and in our advocacy in Berlin and Brussels.

There is also encouraging news: the localisation of DSW Kenya is now complete. With Youth for a Sustainable World (YSW), we have a strong new partner for constructive collaboration in the years ahead.

After more than 30 years, we have modernised our governance—streamlining structures, shortening reporting lines, and redefining responsibilities. You can find the details in this report.

We also saw a change in leadership: after five years as Executive Director, Jan Kreutzberg left DSW in June 2025 to establish UNFPA’s new Berlin office, where he will remain closely connected to us.

Our commitment remains unwavering: ensuring young people—especially young women and girls—have access to health information, contraception, and the right to bodily autonomy. When the wind changes, we adjust our sails accordingly.

Wishing you an insightful read,



Helmut Heinen
Chair of the DSW Board of Trustees



Keeping Our Goals in Sight

A team of experts from Ethiopia, Germany, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda continue to support the implementation and impact of DSW projects in 2024/2025. Using participatory methods and the digital monitoring tool WebMo, we collect real-time project data and continually refine our processes. This enables us to stay close to the needs of young people—even in a rapidly changing environment—and to respond flexibly to new developments.

This would not have been possible without you.

THANK YOU!



*sexual and reproductive health and rights | **In cooperation with national partners, such as Ministries of Health

Turning Point in Development Policy

Global development cooperation is in a period of profound change. While countries like Germany have embraced—or at least pursued—feminist approaches to foreign and development policy, conservative counter-movements are gaining strength worldwide, threatening sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in particular.

Donald Trump's return as U.S. President in 2025 marks a critical turning point. He has reinstated and expanded the "Global Gag Rule," which prohibits organisations receiving U.S. funds from providing information about, or performing, abortions—even with their own resources. The massive cuts to USAID funding have deepened the crisis: in many countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, clinics have closed, medicines are in short supply, and healthcare staff have lost their jobs. Entire regions now face a breakdown in healthcare provision.



Meanwhile, the "Geneva Consensus Declaration"—launched in 2020 during Trump's first term—is regaining momentum. It brings together more than 40 countries in an alliance opposing abortion rights, sexual diversity, and gender equality.

At the multilateral level, the pressure is also mounting: SRHR is once again an ideological battleground. Terms like "gender" and the use of gender-sensitive language are being stripped from international documents. Yet SRHR is essential—it means access to contraception, protection from violence, safe childbirth, and the right to bodily autonomy. For young people in countries with fast-growing populations, it is a matter of survival.



Now, more than ever, we need a **clear political stance, reliable funding, and strong partnerships.**



YSW: New Name – Same Mission

At the end of 2024, DSW Kenya became an independent organisation under its new name, Youth for a Sustainable World (YSW)—a milestone for local youth empowerment and self-determined impact.

YSW continues to champion SRHR, education, economic empowerment, and gender equality. The launch was celebrated in Nakuru, Mombasa, and Nairobi, highlighting topics such as teenage pregnancy, access to safe SRHR services, youth dialogue, and the creation of new youth centres. YSW Board Chair Ada Mwangola Owiti said: "As we start this new chapter, we will continue to equip young people with the skills, knowledge, and platforms to thrive and lead."



Ethiopia & Tanzania

Young Voices, Strong Impact: How SAfA Changes Lives

The SAfA project empowers young people in Tanzania and Ethiopia with training in sexual health, education, and life skills. After experiencing an unintended pregnancy, Rose Francis from Tanzania found new direction: today, she is a peer educator raising awareness among other youth, runs her own small business, and serves as a role model for many girls. In Ethiopia, SAfA also focuses on reaching young people in rural areas, who are often difficult to reach. Through radio broadcasts and discussion events, more than 66,000 young people and community members were engaged on topics such as sexuality education, health, and gender-based violence. SAfA shows that when youth gain knowledge, a voice, and opportunities, they can shape not only their own futures but also the future of their communities.

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.



Uganda & Tanzania

POWER for Female Entrepreneurs in Uganda and Tanzania

DSW's POWER project supports young women in Uganda and Tanzania in building start-ups focused on sexual and reproductive health. Since 2022, 42 entrepreneurs have completed the programme, with more than 70 expected by 2027. POWER combines economic empowerment with access to health-care and the creation of strong support networks. One success story is Winnie Nabukeera from Uganda. With POWER's support, she founded a company that provides nationwide training for nurses and midwives—training over 350 professionals to date, reaching 15,000 people, and partnering with 16 health facilities. Her work is improving healthcare for young people aged 13 to 30 across the country.





Politics

2024 was a politically challenging year: the shift to the right in the European elections and Germany's early federal election brought new tasks for DSW in both Brussels and Berlin. Even so, we made our priorities heard—notably through our "0.7%" election campaign calling for sustainable funding of German development cooperation.

The result: sexual and reproductive health and rights—particularly for women and girls—were once again included in the coalition agreement, a major success. At the same time, the pressure is mounting: like other European countries, the new German government is planning cuts to the development budget.

This makes our political advocacy—including the work of All-Party Parliamentary Group for Population and Development (APPG), which strengthens our voice—more important than ever.



Communications

In 2024, our communications work was shaped by the significant cuts to international development cooperation—from social media and our website to close collaboration with our advocacy colleagues in Berlin and Brussels. At major public events such as the Kirchentag (major convention of the German Protestant Church) and the Entdeckertag (Discovery Day) we reached thousands of visitors through direct, face-to-face dialogue. Our publications helped drive public debate: the 2025 World Population Report explored the question of decision-making freedom in family planning, while the 2024 Data Report shed light on the lack of basic medical care. Our "World Population" Media Award built on these themes, honouring outstanding journalism that highlights global interconnections, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa.



Former Minister-President of Thuringia Bodo Ramelow also visited our booth at the Kirchentag—pictured here with Angela Bähr, DSW's Chief Program Officer.

Financial Overview

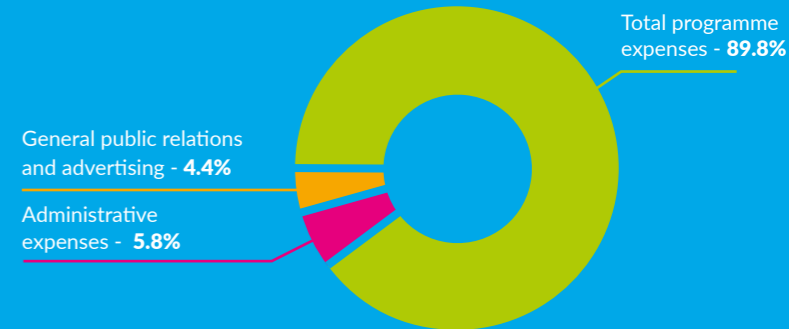
In 2024, DSW's income totalled €11.31 million. A significant part of this, almost 25 percent, came from donations, bequests, and endowments. The remaining income consisted mainly of funds from public donors and other organisations

Expenditure for the year totalled €11.39 million*. Of this, 89.8% was invested directly in our project work, 5.8% covered administrative costs, and 4.4% was used for advertising and general public relations.

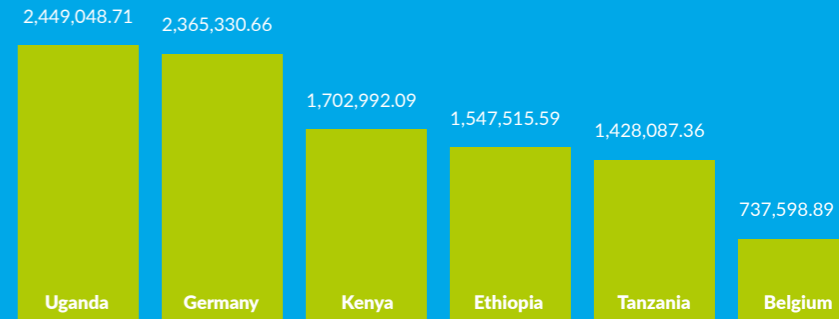
Our priority is always to maximise the impact of every euro—ensuring that your support delivers lasting change where it is most needed.



Use of Funds 2024



Programme expenses by country (in EUR)



*This includes the salaries for DSW's 177 employees and a total annual remuneration of €296.240 for the executive team.

Outlook

We are in the midst of a period of social and political upheaval that is far from over. For DSW, this means protecting the hard-won progress of the past three decades in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights—and reinforcing our case with facts and real-life stories from East Africa. We will continue to highlight the personal and societal impact of issues such as teenage pregnancy in Ethiopia and Uganda, while steadfastly developing our projects and partnerships to help young people in East Africa build self-determined futures.

In Berlin, a new APPG has formed following the federal election. Working with its members, we will keep our issues high on the political agenda and advocate for adequate funding of development cooperation. In Brussels, we will work for greater investment in urgently needed research and development, especially in women's health and modern contraception. Given today's global challenges, our message for the future is clear: Now more than ever!

Angela Bähr
Chief Program Officer (DSW)



DSW's Governing Bodies at a Glance

Board of Directors

The Board oversees the foundation's day-to-day operations on a full-time basis, in line with its rules of procedure.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is a voluntary body that appoints, advises, supports, and oversees the Board of Directors.

Publisher Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) | Loebensteinstr. 25 | 30175 Hannover
Tel. +49 (511) 94 37 3-0 | Fax: +49 (511) 943 73-73 | hannover@dsw.org

Editorial Team Elias Domsch, Nils Hartung, Nicole Langenbach, Leigh-Ann McSweeney, Celina Wild

Design Grafikbüro VISUELLE TATEN, Hannover | **Print** Druckerei Mantow GmbH

Cover and back cover photographs: © DSW/Brian Otieno

What your donation can achieve

Your donation enables us to promote education, health services and access to contraceptives for young people in East Africa. Donate now for the parents of tomorrow—for a better future for all.



Sina Rabe, Head of Fundraising Unit
Telephone: +49 511 94373-15
Email: sina.rabe@dsw.org



80 €

trains a youth club member to become a peer educator who will pass on their knowledge about sexual and reproductive health to their fellow young people.

50 €

covers the transport costs for one flying nurse per month.

250 €

covers the organisational costs of an in-school event.

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



Donation account

IBAN: DE56 2504 0066 0383 8380 00

BIC: COBADEFFXXX

Would you like to learn
more about our work?
Check out our website!



Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) is an international development organisation, which focuses on the needs and potential of the largest youth generation in history. Our objective is to empower young people, especially young women and girls, by creating demand for and access to youth-friendly health information and services including modern contraceptives, and by securing their right to bodily autonomy. With offices in Europe and East Africa, we achieve this through a combination of youth-oriented programmes and gender transformative advocacy that also champions for investments in research and innovation to fight poverty-related diseases and to foster women's health.



dsw_intl



DSWDeutscheStiftungWeltbevölkerung



deutsche-stiftung-weltbevölkerung



www.dsw.org/en



Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)

Loebensteinstr. 25 | 30175 Hannover

Tel.: +49 511 94373-0 | hannover@dsw.org

Liaison Office

Torstr. 49 | 10119 Berlin

Tel.: +49 30 24000690 | berlin@dsw.org