



REWiB

RESEARCHERS WITHOUT BORDERS

**Advancing
Feminist Research
for Peace and
Security in Africa**



Annual Report 2025



Researchers Without Borders

Annual Report 2025

Advancing Feminist Research for
Peace and Security in Africa

Table of Contents

Acronyms	ii
Foreword	iv
Introduction.....	1
Background: 2025 Objectives and Goals	3
Research and Knowledge Production	6
Policy Influence	8
Contribution to Global Policy Processes	10
Institutional Strengthening and Growth	12



Acronyms

ACCORD	The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
AfIP	African Feminist Collective on Feminist-Informed Policies
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSSF	Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
DCAF	Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
EWERS	Early Warning and Early Response System
F4FF	Financing for Feminist Futures
FES PSCC	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's Peace and Security Competence Centre
FFP	Feminist Foreign Policy
GAPS	Gender Action for Peace and Security
GIMAC	Gender Is My Agenda Campaign
IPI	International Peace Institute
ISF	Integrated Security Fund
ODA	Official Development Assistance
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
REWiB	Researchers Without Borders
UAF-Africa	Urgent Action Fund Africa
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
WPS	Women, Peace and Security



Foreword

As we present the Researchers Without Borders (REWiB) Annual Report 2025, I am honoured to reflect on a year that has been both significant and instructive in advancing feminist research and advocacy for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in Africa.



This year marked the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), a milestone that generated both celebration and critical reflection. While this landmark resolution has shaped global commitments to women's participation and protection in peace processes, our experience and evidence show that much remains to be done to translate these commitments into meaningful change in the lives of women and girls.

The context in 2025 was characterised by escalating conflicts, climate-related insecurity, and widening inequalities. From Sudan to the Democratic Republic of Congo and other fragile settings, women continue to bear the disproportionate burden of violence, displacement, and economic hardship. Yet, women remain at the forefront of peacebuilding; leading community responses, sustaining livelihoods, and advocating for justice despite enormous challenges.

In response, REWiB remained committed to generating credible, feminist-informed evidence to influence policy and practice. In 2025, our work contributed to the achievement of our Strategic Plan 2024-2028. During the period we strengthened research and knowledge

production, including studies on conflict and women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, continued publication of the WPS Bulletin, and contributions to thought leadership on feminist peacebuilding at 25 years of UNSCR 1325. We also deepened our engagement in continental and global policy spaces, including African Union processes, GIMAC Network engagements, and feminist foreign policy dialogues, amplifying African feminist perspectives and advocating for transformative, justice-oriented approaches.

These achievements were made possible through strong partnerships and collective action. I extend my sincere appreciation to our partners, collaborators, and networks, as well as to the REWiB team for their dedication and resilience in delivering impactful work in complex and resource-constrained environments.



At the same time, persistent challenges remain. Shrinking civic space, limited and unpredictable funding, and the dominance of militarised approaches to conflict continue to hinder progress on the WPS agenda. Addressing these challenges requires renewed solidarity, sustained investment in feminist movements, and a commitment to transformative change.

Looking ahead, REWiB will continue to strengthen locally driven research, deepen partnerships, and enhance its contribution to policy processes at all levels. We remain committed to centring the voices of women in conflict-affected contexts and ensuring that their experiences inform policies and practice.

Dr. Helen Kezie-Nwoha

“

Looking ahead, REWiB will continue to strengthen locally driven research, deepen partnerships, and enhance its contribution to policy processes at all levels.





Introduction

The Researchers Without Borders (REWiB) Annual Report 2025 presents an overview of the organisation’s work, achievements, and learning over the past year in advancing feminist research and policy engagement on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in Africa.

The report serves multiple purposes: to document progress against REWiB’s strategic objectives (2024–2028), to demonstrate accountability to partners and stakeholders, to contribute to knowledge and learning within feminist peacebuilding practice, and to inform future programming and policy engagement. It reflects REWiB’s continued commitment to generating credible, feminist-informed evidence that shapes peace, security, and development agendas at national, regional, and global levels.

The year 2025 marked a significant milestone for the global WPS agenda, commemorating the 25th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) a landmark framework that has shaped global commitments to women’s participation, protection, and leadership in peace and security processes. This anniversary provided an important moment for reflection, critique, and renewed advocacy at community, national, regional

and global levels. While important normative gains have been made over the past 25 years, 2025 also unfolded within a context of escalating global and regional crises, including protracted conflicts in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, rising militarisation, climate-related insecurity, and shrinking civic space. These dynamics reinforced the urgency of feminist approaches that address structural inequalities, amplify women’s leadership, and challenge militarised responses to conflict.

Against this backdrop, REWiB made significant contributions to feminist research, policy influence, and global advocacy. Key highlights include the production of evidence-based research on conflict and women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights in Port Sudan; the publication of the report “Beyond Rhetoric: Feminist Leadership for a Transformative Women, Peace and Security Agenda at 25”; and the dissemination of twelve editions of the WPS Bulletin, which provided ongoing



REWiB will also continue to advocate for transformative approaches to peace building that move beyond rhetoric toward structural change, centering justice, accountability, and the lived realities of women and girls across Africa



analysis of security trends across Africa from WPS perspective. The organisation also strengthened its role in continental and global policy spaces through active participation in African Union engagements, Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network Pre-Summits, and global WPS and feminist foreign policy platforms. These efforts contributed to advancing intersectional, rights-based approaches to gender justice, reparations, and feminist peacebuilding, while amplifying the voices and lived experiences of women in conflict-affected contexts.

Despite these achievements, the operating environment in 2025 presented several challenges. Persistent funding constraints, shifting donor priorities, and the increasing complexity of conflict contexts limited the scale of interventions. In some settings, such as Sudan insecurity and political sensitivities constrained access to communities and stakeholders, while the growing gap between global

policy commitments and local realities continued to hinder meaningful implementation of the WPS agenda.

Looking ahead, REWiB will build on the momentum of 2025 by deepening its investment in feminist research and knowledge production, strengthening partnerships with grassroots women’s organisations, and enhancing its influence in policy spaces at national, regional, and global levels. Priority areas will include advancing locally grounded evidence to inform WPS implementation, expanding work on the intersections of climate change, conflict, and gender, and strengthening institutional sustainability. REWiB will also continue to advocate for transformative approaches to peace building that move beyond rhetoric toward structural change, centering justice, accountability, and the lived realities of women and girls across Africa.



Background:

2025 Objectives and Goals

In 2025, REWiB focused on consolidating its role as a leading feminist research and advocacy organisation on WPS in Africa by generating credible evidence, strengthening policy influence, engaging in global discourse, and building a resilient institutional foundation.

The goals set for 2025 contribute to REWiB's overall goal of providing credible information to influence peace and development in Africa; through the following strategic objectives as outlined in REWiB's Strategic Plan 2024 to 2028;



To strengthen the production of credible, feminist-informed data on WPS in Africa.



To expand REWiB's contribution to regional and global policy processes on WPS.



To enhance the use of research and data for advocacy and policy influence.



To strengthen institutional capacity, governance, and sustainability of REWiB.



The activities implemented in 2025 contributed to the mission of using feminist research as a tool to advocate for sustainable peace and development in Africa, and resonated with the approach to use credible data to advocate for the implementation of the WPS agenda in Africa and globally to uphold the rights of women, girls and women of different categories.

In 2025, to strengthen the production of credible, feminist-informed data of WPS, REWiB conducted a research on ***'The Impact of Conflict on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Port Sudan'***; joined the Consortium of the WPS Help Desk hosted by SaferWorld, United Kingdom; produced the report ***'Beyond Rhetoric: Feminist Leadership for a Transformative Women, Peace and Security Agenda at 25'*** with Oxfam and held a knowledge exchange with women of Sudan to explore best practices in ensuring women's leadership in peace building. In addition, REWiB produced twelve editions of the ***'WPS Bulletin'*** that enabled the analysis of security trends in Africa and their impacts on the WPS agenda, positioning REWiB as a leading source of evidence on WPS in Africa. The data generated from research and emerging trends analysis provided credible evidence that fed into various advocacy engagements including

the two GIMAC Network African Union pre-summit events, strategic engagements with Sudan women and a webinar on 'Advancing Feminist Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Sudan'.

In 2025, REWiB deepened its engagement in global and continental policy spaces by participating in the following platforms: the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), various African Union Summits, the Women, Peace and Security 25th Anniversary celebrations and various Feminist Foreign Policy conferences and events. These engagements contributed to feminist analysis of global policies and the producing of thought leadership to bridge between African feminist research and global policy processes. REWiB also strengthened knowledge management, communications, and visibility through dissemination of research products, policy briefs, the WPS Bulletin and WPS data on social media and through the various webinars. In addition, REWiB strengthened its institutional capacity through enhanced governance functionality, operationalisation of institutional policies and advancing resource mobilisation and partnership strategies to ensure REWiB's effectiveness, sustainability, and ability to deliver on its strategic goals.



REWiB produced twelve editions of the 'WPS Bulletin' that enabled the analysis of security trends in Africa and their impacts on the WPS agenda, positioning REWiB as a leading source of evidence on WPS in Africa.





**FEMINIST RESEARCH AS A TOOL
TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE PEACE**

**WOMEN
FOR
PEACE**

**COMMUNITY
UNITY**

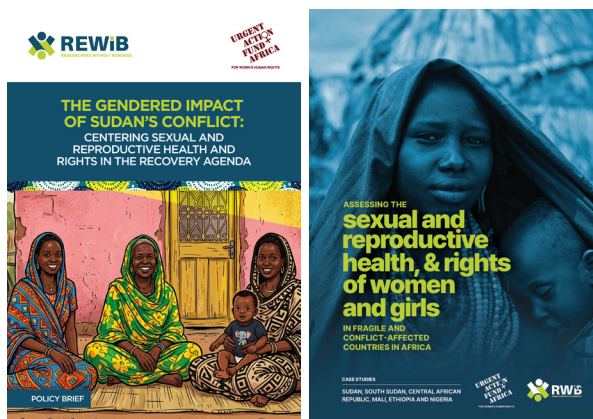
**BUILDING PEACE,
UNITING COMMUNITIES**
SOLIDARITY, DIALOGUE, JUSTICE

Research and Knowledge Production



Research conducted:

1. Assessing the impact of conflict on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights in Port Sudan in partnership with Urgent Action Fund Africa (UAF-Africa).
2. Evidence-based advocacy paper on the Women, Peace and Security agenda for 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in partnership with Oxfam Norway.
3. Localising National Gender and Climate Policy in Uganda.
4. Knowledge exchange with women of Sudan to explore best practices in ensuring women's leadership in peace building in partnership with University of Manchester and GIMAC Network.
5. Trends analysis of the women, peace and security agenda in Africa.





Capacity building outreach:

1. Training on Feminist Peace Building, the WPS agenda, and Early Warning and Early Response System (EWERS) in partnership with Open Culture Agency for its East African Feminist Peace Project, June 11, 2025



Knowledge products:

1. The Impact of Conflict on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Port Sudan
2. Beyond Rhetoric: Feminist Leadership for a Transformative Women, Peace and Security Agenda at 25
3. Twelve editions of the 'WPS Bulletin'



Summary of achievements:

1. 3 research conducted across 7 countries including Uganda, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Palestine, Afghanistan and Columbia; and trends analysis covering over 25 countries in Africa.
2. 2 research reports produced.
3. 30 young women trained on WPS and early warning and early response.
4. 12 WPS Bulletin published.



Key recommendations from research study:

1. End the war in Sudan, prioritize peace initiatives and restore international funding, particularly for reproductive health services.
2. Demilitarize peacebuilding approaches and adopt feminist peacebuilding practices such as dialogue, healing, community agency, and indigenous forms of justice, and invest in Women-Led Organizations.

Policy Influence

Advocacy Engagements:

- ★ 41st GIMAC Pre-Summit Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Consultative meeting on *“Advancing the Agenda for Justice and Reparations for African Women and Girls”* under the African Union’s annual theme, *“Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations,”* 6-12 February 2025 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- ★ Strategic engagement with Sudanese women leaders to amplify their voices and share their advocacy messages with the African Union, development partners, and CSO representatives.
- ★ Strategic Engagement to amplify the voices of Sudan women in calling for women’s participation in all civil and political processes for peace in Sudan.
- ★ 7th GIMAC Network Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Partners Coordination Meeting, on *“Transforming Policy into Action: Advancing Gender Justice and Reparations for Africans with Regional Economic Communities.”* Malabo Equatorial Guinea, 7-11 July 2025.
- ★ **25 Years of UNSCR 1325:** From Policy to Practice – Strengthening Women, Peace and Security in Africa.
- ★ Webinar on ‘Feminist Agenda for Peace in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo’ Organised by AfIP Collective.
- ★ West African Regional Consultation on the Implementing of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Organised by the Gender Programme of African Union Political Affairs Peace and Security Department. Dakar Senegal, 16-17 September, 2025.



Strategic Engagement to amplify the voices of Sudan women in calling for women’s participation in all civil and political processes for peace in Sudan.

Policy influence outcomes

- ★ Adoption of an intersectional and rights-based approach to advancing gender justice and reparations for Africans and people of African descent.
- ★ Launch of the GIMAC Network Solemn Declaration Index Scorecard and reparations tracking dashboard.
- ★ Launch of REWiB's research on *'The Impact of Conflict on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Port Sudan'*. This opportunity allowed REWiB to amplify voices from the field and advocate for evidence-based, gender-just policy approaches rooted in the lived experiences of women and girls in conflict-affected areas.

Communications and outreach

- ★ Throughout the year, REWiB leveraged digital platforms to advance feminist peacebuilding narratives, amplify women's voices, and translate WPS policy into accessible public discourse. This approach was implemented through a mix of targeted campaigns, live coverage of key events, monthly bulletins, and consistent social media engagement.

Major Campaign Highlights

- ★ **#Why1325MattersToMe:** To commemorate 25 years of UNSCR 1325, REWiB led a digital storytelling campaign amplifying reflections from young African women on the relevance of the WPS agenda. The campaign drew 8 total contributions — 5 individual submissions, 1 organisational contribution from Hope of Africa, and 2 independent posts using our hashtag. It emphasized lived experiences and intergenerational perspectives. The most impactful post had 429 impressions, 55 engagements and 94 views, contributing to the strongest engagement and network visibility.
- ★ **16 Days of Activism:** As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), REWiB produced a focused content series addressing GBV in conflict, digital violence, survivor-centered justice, and women's leadership. **Outputs included 11 daily posts:** 4 motion infographics, 3 static visuals, 2 further reading links, 1 quote card, and a call-to-action poster to strengthen WPS commitments.



Contribution to Global Policy Processes

Participation in global platforms

25th Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, New York, United States of America
27-31 October, 2025.

The Power of Regional Movements and Strategies

Advancing the Beijing Platform for Action through Feminist Foreign Policy, New York, United States of America.
12 March, 2025.

Operationalizing Feminist Foreign Policy

Strategizing Civil Society Priorities. International Peace Institute (IPI), New York.
18 March, 2025.

In partnership with **Aurora Metro/Supernova Books** hosted a thought-provoking webinar that explored how to build peace in the modern world.
16 May, 2025.

Contributions to Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP)

The African Feminist Collective on Feminist Informed Policies (AfIP Collective) participated in The Power of Regional Movements and Strategies: Advancing the Beijing Platform for Action through Feminist Foreign Policy and shared priorities of the African continent including the need for increased awareness of FFP to ensure leaders buy-in and ownership and the possibility of appointing an FFP champion and the need for western FFPs to reflect the lived realities and concerns of African women and girls.

Participated in the 4th Ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign Policy in Paris, France

AFiP contributed to an IPI-organised side event during the 4th Ministerial Conference that focused on applying feminist foreign policy (FFP) within local contexts.



AfIP contributed to discussions on knowledge production in global feminist and foreign policy spaces. The discussion examined who produces knowledge in these arenas, whose voices are legitimized and represented, and the political interests underpinning dominant knowledge-production practices.

AfIP participated in the Financing for Feminist Futures (F4FF) convening, a global gathering intended to catalyze new thinking and coordination around the feminist funding landscape, Madrid, Spain. October 2025

AfIP convened a well-attended side session during the F4FF Conference that examined whether Official Development Assistance (ODA) can, in practice, be feminist. The session generated significant interest in AfIP's analytical work and political positioning, and demonstrated the demand that exists for rigorous, Africa-centered critique in funding conversations.



Outcomes:

- ★ Recommendations articulated ahead of the FFP Ministerial Conference in France, such as: the need for FFPs to align with regional frameworks (e.g., Maputo Protocol) being context specific; and the need for increased transparency and demystification around FFPs.
- ★ The F4FF convening produced a set of 12 recommendations and a common ask framework intended to inform future global processes. These include increasing overall funding to women's rights organizations, networks and funds, aiming for 10% of gender equality principal investments flowing through these entities within five years and investing a minimum 20% of bilateral allocable assistance in both the humanitarian sector and climate financing allocations that have gender equality as a principal objective and that a minimum of 10% of these investments flow to women's rights organizations, networks and funds within five years.

Institutional Strengthening and Growth

New Partnership with Saferworld

In January 2025, REWiB entered into a strategic partnership with Saferworld as a consortium partner for the UK's Integrated Security Fund (ISF) Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Helpdesk. The WPS Helpdesk is a specialized expert advisory mechanism designed to deliver timely, flexible, and high-quality technical support on Women, Peace and Security and gender-responsive approaches in conflict and security settings. It provides on-demand services to the UK's Integrated Security Fund and other UK government stakeholders, both domestically and internationally. The Helpdesk is managed by Saferworld in collaboration with a consortium of expert organizations including Conciliation Resources, Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS), Durham University, DCAF, and REWiB. The initiative is funded by the UK government's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).

Outcomes

- ★ Paper on “A Global View of the UK's WPS Priorities and Practices: Perspectives from Women's Rights Activists”, contributing a grassroots and activist-informed lens to policy dialogue.
- ★ A pool of experts on Women, Peace and Security to contribute to providing gender-focused policy analysis and evidence-based recommendations for WPS programming; conduct thematic research and case studies on the intersection of gender, conflict, and security; designing and facilitating training sessions and stakeholder workshops; advising policymakers and multilateral institutions on WPS best practices; monitoring and evaluating the impact of ongoing WPS strategies; delivering tailored technical assistance to respond to emerging needs.
- ★ Commissioned and coordinated five Tasks, including the implementation of the new Yemen office Network WPS strategy; an investigation into the relationship between gender and biosecurity; integration of gender considerations into FCDO migration programming in North Africa; evaluation of the NISAAM project in Iraq and its contribution to advancing the WPS agenda; and a study on the prevalence of sexual violence perpetrated by state security forces in Nigeria.

This partnership underscores REWiB's commitment to advancing inclusive and gender-responsive peace and security efforts globally, grounded in rigorous research and collaboration with diverse stakeholders.



Networking

Coordination Meeting of the African Union and its Member States on the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa. Cotonou, Benin. 30-31 July 2025.

What future for the Women, Peace and Security agenda 2025 - 2050?, convened by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's Peace and Security Competence Centre (FES PSCC), 26-27 August 2025, Kampala, Uganda

High-Level Seminar "From Policy to Practice: Strengthening Women, Peace and Security in Africa", convened by ACCORD, 20-21 May 2025, Durban, South Africa.



VOICE

SPEAK
OUT

RIGHTS

JUSTICE

CHANGE
NOW

ADVANCE
FOR S

ADVANCING FEMINIST RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN AFRICA





 www.rewib.org

 info@rewib.org  +256 366 636 223

©2025, Researchers Without Borders