

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT HISTORY 1923-Present

Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US\$23.2 million to projects benefiting women in 45 countries.

### 2020-2022

#### Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru with UNICEF USA

Adolescents, especially girls, must have opportunities to empower themselves so they can speak up for their rights and develop the self-confidence and autonomy needed to take control of their lives and bodies. Significant inequities based on gender, age, geographic location, ethnicity and income persist for many Peruvian adolescents. This project will contribute to guaranteeing the rights of indigenous and rural adolescents, especially girls, and respond to their needs by preventing pregnancy, addressing mental health concerns and providing a protective environment from violence by providing quality, gender-sensitive, and culturally adapted health, education and protection services. (US\$1 million)



**Delivering Survivor-Centered Response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Survivors in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste with UNFPA**  
Despite growing awareness of GBV as a life-threatening violation of human rights, poor quality of services and lack of coordination among multiple response sectors have been a major impediment for effective response to GBV in Asia and the Pacific region. This project will focus on two countries in the region with the highest level of lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence and will build on the strong global and regional evidence base on what works for effective response to GBV. (US\$1 million)

#### Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA

By providing vulnerable girls with opportunities to realize their right to an education in a secure and protective environment, Let Us Learn aims to reduce poverty and ultimately empower Madagascar's next generation of female leaders. The program will be implemented in the Androy and Atsimo Andrefana regions and will support children as they transition from primary to lower secondary school. Specific objectives of Phase III are to ensure that more children, particularly girls (who drop out at higher levels in the post-primary level) have access to post-primary education and stay in school and ensure that Madagascar's education system has the capacity to offer quality teaching for enhanced learning outcomes. (US\$500,000)

#### Global Programme to End Child Marriage with UNICEF USA and UNFPA

Child marriage is globally recognized as a harmful practice and a human rights violation. However, despite laws against it, the practice remains widespread and can be found in cultures, religions, ethnicities and countries around the world. Ending child marriage requires addressing, over a period of time, the complex sociocultural and structural factors underpinning the practice. Overall goals of Phase II include elevating the voice and agency of adolescent girls, increasing resources and opportunities for adolescent girls and their families, and enhancing legal and political action to prevent child marriage and to support married, divorced or widowed adolescent girls. Zonta began supporting this project in 2018 through the ZISVAW Fund. (US\$1.5 million)



## 2018-2020



### Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA

Let Us Learn Madagascar addresses education and gender inequity in Madagascar through approaches targeted toward adolescent girls. Zonta's continued support of this project will allow for more than 20,000 girls to realize their right to an education in a secure and protected environment. Additionally, 600 children will benefit from catch-up classes and 200 students will benefit from four new classrooms with water points, latrines and school equipment. (US\$1 million)

### Eid bi Eid (Hand in Hand): A program to improve the resilience and empowerment of Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian women with UN Women

As of 2018, Jordan is hosting 1.4 million Syrian refugees, nearly 10% of Jordan's pre-crisis population. While existing programs that provide food and unconditional cash assistance have been instrumental in reducing poverty among Jordanians and refugees, they are not designed for long-term outcomes. This project will improve Syrian refugee and Jordanian women's access to sustainable and decent employment, coupled with protection services and community leadership/engagement, to enable greater equality and reduced violence against women. (US\$1 million)

## 2016-2018

### Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality in Liberia with UNFPA

As a result of Zonta's contributions to this project, more than 1,000 women and adolescent girls received treatment and more than 200 fistula survivors completed the rehabilitation program and were successfully reintegrated into their communities. However, in 2014, Liberia was hit by the Ebola outbreak and the number of new cases of fistula began rising. Zonta's continued support allowed UNFPA to scale up its capacity in order to eliminate obstetric fistula. (US\$1 million)



### Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA

About 90% of Madagascar's population lives on less than US\$2 per day, leaving children particularly vulnerable. UNICEF USA and Zonta worked to create opportunities for vulnerable and excluded girls to realize their rights to an education in a secure and protective environment. Partnering with the Ministry of National Education, the project promoted a common vision of investing in junior secondary education for girls as an entry point for equity. (US\$1 million)

## 2014-2016



### Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda with UNICEF USA

In the 2014-2016 Biennium, Zonta International continued working with UNICEF USA to contribute to a nation free of AIDS and new HIV infection among children, adolescents, women and families; to support the national scale-up strategy for One Stop Centers; and to invest in community-based prevention of violence against women and children. (US\$800,000)

### Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia with UNFPA

Zonta International's past partnership with UNFPA and support for this project has enabled the program to scale up and achieve impressive numbers of fistula surgeries and reintegration of survivors into their communities. (US\$600,000)

### Gender Responsive Schools Pilot Model in Vietnam with UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UN Women

Gender-based violence in and around schools is highly prevalent in Vietnam and is one of the main barriers to girls' empowerment and gender equality. With Zonta's support, Plan Vietnam—a UN Trust Fund grantee—promoted a model of safe, accountable and child-friendly schools where adolescent girls and boys received a quality education in an environment free of gender-based violence. (US\$644,00)





## 2012-2014

**Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda with UNICEF USA**  
Building off the success of a partnership that started in 2008, Zonta's support for the U.S. during the 2012-2014 Biennium continued to focus on treating HIV-positive women, preventing transmission of the virus to their offspring, and ensuring access to health care and reproductive services, as well as preventing and responding to the violence awoken by the brutalization of the society during the genocide—both critical issues for the development of Rwanda and the safety of its women and children. The project came to a critical turning point with the government of Rwanda calling to eliminate MTCT of HIV in Rwanda by 2015, which would mean reaching the country's target goal of a 2% transmission rate—less than the 5% set by other countries. (US\$1 million)

## **Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia with UNFPA**

In Liberia, the treatment of uncomplicated obstetric fistula has a 90% success rate due to properly trained surgeons, well-equipped facilities and the necessary aftercare. During the 2012-2014 Biennium, the program, which Zonta has supported since 2008, moved from project-based treatment to treatment integrated into the government's national health system. The project also expanded to provide support to women who have undergone unsuccessful fistula repair surgeries and women with fistula that cannot be surgically repaired (inoperable). (US\$1 million)

## 2010-2012

### **Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda with UNICEF USA**

This ongoing partnership between Zonta and UNICEF USA continued to focus on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by providing the full range of family package services at 20 UNICEF-supported PMTCT sites throughout Rwanda. In addition, the project sought to expand holistic care and services at support centers for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence to ensure access to proper medical, legal, psychosocial and police support. (US\$500,000)

An additional (US\$100,000) contribution from District 20 in honor of Past International President Helvi Sipilä supported the Matyazo Health Center in Rwanda.



### **Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and San Salvador, El Salvador, with UN Women**

Zonta International partnered with UN Women to increase the safety of women in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and San Salvador, El Salvador, by increasing visibility and impact by disseminating information on violence against women in the most violent districts of both cities and replicating the experience in all districts of the capital cities. The project, which Zonta first supported in the 2008-2010 Biennium, also expanded to incorporate the issue of violence against women in the context of HIV/AIDS. (US\$500,000)

## **Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia with UNFPA**

Zonta International partnered with UNFPA to continue to provide fistula treatment through the proper equipment of health care facilities and the training and capacity strengthening of health care providers to treat fistula. The project, which Zonta first supported in the 2008-2010 Biennium, also focused on the reintegration of survivors while raising awareness and conducting outreach among communities and health care providers about the definition, causes and treatment of obstetric fistula. (US\$500,000)

## 2008-2010

### **Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and San Salvador, El Salvador, with UNIFEM**

Zonta International partnered with UNIFEM to increase the safety of women in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and San Salvador, El Salvador, by helping local women collaborate with the local government and urban planners to create practical solutions, public policies and municipal plans that decrease the risk of violence against women in their cities. The project built on a larger, ongoing UNIFEM regional effort in four other Latin America urban areas. (US\$600,000)



### Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda with UNICEF USA

Zonta International and UNICEF USA provided health care, prenatal and obstetrical services, and linked reproductive health programs, nutritional support, psychosocial services and income-generating activities to HIV-positive mothers. (US\$600,000)



### Reduction of Obstetric Fistula (Within the context of Maternal and Newborn Health) in Liberia with UNFPA

Together with UNFPA, Zonta contributed to the elimination of obstetric fistula and the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in Liberia. UNFPA provided treatment, including medical supplies and equipment, free of cost to women who could not afford it. Specialty training was given to local doctors, raising the quality of care available. The project also provided women with counseling to help with the transition, a new set of clothes and an income-generating starter kit to help them learn to support themselves. (US\$450,000)

### 2006-2008

#### Support for Revival of Rural Community-based Self-Help Initiatives in Sri Lanka with UNIDO

Zonta teamed up with UNIDO to improve the livelihood of communities affected by the tsunami in the North and East regions by improving entrepreneurial and technical skills of women and women's groups engaged in agriculture-based productive activities. The project worked closely with the private sector, particularly small business enterprises, as well as various local support schemes and self-help initiatives. (US\$250,030)



#### Education and Leadership for Girls and Young Women in Bolivia with CARE

Zonta and CARE provided working girls and young women (ages 13-25) an opportunity to learn at night to improve their status, well-being and the opportunities available to them. The project strengthened the learning process for working girls and young women, providing them with literacy and numeracy skills—improving their chances of finding better jobs. There was a special focus on women's health education—since formal school curriculum does not adequately address this sensitive topic—and vocational training to develop marketable technical skills. The project reached 1,300 working women and 150 teachers of girls in night school. (US\$250,000)

#### Mata Masu Dubara (Women on the Move): MicroCredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger with CARE

In this project that started in 2004, Zonta and CARE supported efforts to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS and its physical, social and economic consequences for at least 5,100 women and their dependent children in the Bouza district. The project was centered on the establishment of all-female savings and loans groups where women received HIV/AIDS education, self-esteem and negotiation skills training, and support networks of female peers. (US\$300,000)

#### Women's Learning Center and Health Clinic in Mir Bacha Kot, Afghanistan with Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)

In a partnership that began in 2002, Zonta and AIL provided access to quality education and vocational skills training for approximately 650 women and girls each year in rural or poor urban settings by improving programs offered by community-based educational organizations. The project also supported basic health services and education for at least 24,000 women and children each year in clinics, community-based organizations and Women's Learning Centers. (US\$100,000)



### 2004-2006



#### CARE International Mata Masu Dubara (Women on the Move): MicroCredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger

This partnership between Zonta and CARE supported efforts to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS and its physical, social and economic consequences for at least 3,600 women and their families in the Bouza district of Niger. The project was centered on the establishment of all-female savings and loans groups where women receive HIV/AIDS education, self-esteem and negotiation skills training, and have access to support networks of female peers. (US\$297,393)



**Bosnia and Herzegovina Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilization Project with STAR Network of World Learning**  
Zonta and STAR continued this project that started in 2002, which worked to strengthen the capacity of women to lead campaigns to prevent trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation, and generated local involvement from health officials, police, teachers, cultural workers, religious leaders and youth groups. The project addressed both policy advocacy—for the education of public officials in designing enforceable laws and policies that stop trafficking, respond compassionately to victims, and punish offenders—and local prevention, through vigorous community education directed at young people, families and schools. (US\$300,000)

**Afghanistan: Improving Women's Lives with the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)**

Zonta continued to support AIL Women's Health Center and Health Clinic. AIL's project expanded its work to improve women's health and education by providing training to traditional birth attendants, opening its newly constructed health clinic, establishing an additional Women's Learning Center, providing women with teacher training and human rights classes. (US\$50,160)

**Eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) in Afghanistan with UNICEF USA**

Zonta's funding of the UNICEF's MNT project was part of a larger campaign to reduce MNT rates to less than one case per 1,000 live births in the country by 2005. Zonta's funding supported immunization efforts for more than 50,000 women, including three doses of the tetanus toxoid vaccine and vaccine delivery, as well as education on safe birthing practices, training, and national and district planning and coordination of the initiative. (US\$50,000)

**2002-2004**



**Bosnia and Herzegovina Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilization Project with STAR Network of World Learning**

Zonta and STAR Network of World Learning teamed up for this project, which funded capacity building, technical assistance, small grants and strategic media assistance in support of the first locally led anti-trafficking project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project was designed to help women lead local anti-trafficking campaigns and to generate a substantial amount of involvement from local leaders. (US\$320,000)

**Reinventing India: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, Phase II with UNIFEM**

This project, which started in 2002, continued to empower women by making information on their rights and services available to them and continued to raise awareness of the potential role of men in preventing gender-based violence. (US\$299,450)



**Afghanistan: Improving Women's Lives with the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)**

Zonta and AIL's project established a Women's Learning Center that provided quality education at all levels of learning, and a health clinic that provided basic health care and health education to women and children. (US\$52,800)



**Eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) in Afghanistan with UNICEF USA**

Zonta continued to support UNICEF's MNT project, which was part of a larger campaign to reduce maternal and neonatal tetanus rates to less than one case per 1,000 live births in the country by 2005. Zonta started partnering with UNICEF to support efforts to eliminate MNT in 2000. (US\$47,200)

**2000-2002**

**Prevention of Female Genital Circumcision (FGC) in Burkina Faso, Phase II with UNICEF USA**

Zonta International continued its commitment to reducing the incidence of female genital circumcision by expanding its support to this UNICEF project in seven additional provinces in Burkina Faso. Building on the 1998-2000 International Service Project in Burkina Faso, the second phase expanded the extensive public education, training and awareness raising efforts necessary to reduce the incidence of FGC in targeted populations by 50% by 2002. (US\$350,000)

**Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) in Nepal with UNICEF USA**

Zonta and UNICEF provided critical resources to initiate MNT elimination efforts targeting 679,541 women of childbearing age for immunization in eight Nepalese districts. Programming also focused on education to promote clean birthing practices.





(US\$350,000)

#### **Reinventing India: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls with UNIFEM**

This project instituted a multi-faceted approach to violence prevention. Three distinct project components addressed this complex issue: 1) the development, publication and dissemination of an Action Oriented Resource Directory with information on violence prevention of use to both victims and practitioners; 2) a nationwide film and television publicity campaign created positive role models for men and boys; and 3) a law enforcement officers' education project improved the

enforcement of existing laws protecting women and girls. (US\$395,000)

#### **1998-2000**

##### **Prevention of Female Genital Circumcision (FGC) Project in Burkina Faso with UNICEF USA**

Zonta assisted UNICEF and government agencies in their work to prevent the incidence of FGC. These joint efforts aimed to reduce the incidence of FGC to 30% in the year 2000 in seven targeted provinces. This project was chosen for Zonta support due to its strong linkage to one of Zonta's long-range program goals: the eradication of violence against women and children. (US\$300,000)



#### **1996-1998**

##### **Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW)**

This was the first international service project administered by Zonta International. ZISVAW was created to improve education about—and increase awareness of—violence against women and children. ZISVAW was adopted as an ongoing program of Zonta International at the Zonta International Convention in Paris in 1998. (US\$175,000)

##### **Girls' Education Project in South Africa with UNICEF USA**

Zonta and UNICEF supported the efforts of the South African government to develop public policies to increase access to quality primary education and improve attendance and learning among primary school students with a special focus on girls in the Northern Province. (US\$47,000)

#### **1994-1996**

##### **Gender, Women, and Development, Phase IV project in cooperation with UNIFEM and the U.S.**

This project, based in Guatemala and Central America, connected women from grass-roots organizations with policy makers to reach approximately 275,000 women through training programs, manuals and brochures. Zonta supported the UNIFEM portion of the project. (US\$200,000)



##### **Technical and Technological Support to Rural Women's Groups project in cooperation with UNIFEM**

Zonta and UNIFEM worked with four rural women's groups in Senegal to improve techniques used in the production, processing and marketing of fruits, vegetables and fish products. The project's goal was to promote economic independence. (US\$200,000)

#### **1992-1994**

##### **Organization of Mapuche Peasant Women project in cooperation with UNIFEM**

Zonta partnered with UNIFEM, which worked in Chile to improve the living conditions of Mapuche women through leadership development, as well as the development and expansion of markets for Mapuche products. The project worked with three women's micro-enterprises to introduce productive and commercial activities to generate higher income for women. (US\$211,873)

##### **Enhancing Opportunities for Women in Development project in cooperation with UNIFEM**

Zonta and UNIFEM worked in Ghana to improve women's productivity and their access to financial resources. This project involved 3,600 participants and set up 90 community credit committees to offer revolving loans to women. (US\$115,000)



##### **Women and Pesticides: Training and Education project in cooperation with UNIFEM**

In India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, Zonta and UNIFEM worked together to reduce damage caused by pesticides by training more than 500 women in correct pesticide usage. (US\$73,400)



## 1990-1992



### Integrated Development for Women in Sericulture project in cooperation with UNIFEM

Zonta International and UNIFEM partnered in India and worked with 500 women to improve crop and silk production and raise participants' awareness of related women's issues in development. The World Bank later expanded this pilot project. (US\$83,514)

### Agricultural Training of Young Rural Women project in Togo in cooperation with UNIFEM

This project (*right*), for which Zonta and UNIFEM partnered, resulted in the training of 256 women in agricultural practices and encouraged their participation in community and national development. (US\$283,300)



### Revolving Loan Fund for Village Women project in Egypt in cooperation with UNIFEM

Zonta and UNIFEM worked in the Delta and Upper Egypt (*right*) to establish a revolving loan program for women's income-generating activities that initially served 300 women. (US\$163,430)

## 1988-1990



### Production, Processing and Marketing of Rootcrops project in the Philippines in cooperation with UNIFEM

Zonta and UNIFEM worked to increase the income of 200 rural women and their families (*left*). (US\$50,000)

### Women's Agricultural Cooperative project in Brazil in cooperation with UNIFEM

This project assisted 800 participants through the establishment of agricultural cooperatives. (US\$100,000)

### Assistance for the Strengthening of the Women's Association for National Development (WAND) in Sierra Leone in cooperation with UNIFEM

Zonta and UNIFEM partnered in Sierra Leone, providing support to women's organizations and encouraging their participation in development issues. (US\$50,000)

### "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" Workshop in Nigeria in cooperation with INSTRAW

This project focused on involving women more efficiently in all aspects of water supply and sanitation projects. (US\$50,000)

### Textile Production Project in Guatemala in cooperation with the U.S.

This project supported the purchase of equipment and materials and the training of women to improve textile production, nutrition, gardening and food conservation. (US\$50,000)

### Young Mothers Hostel Project in Uruguay in cooperation with UNESCO

Zonta and UNESCO partnered to provide equipment for a workshop that annually provided five young mothers with job-skills training. (US\$50,000)

### Technical Training and Introduction of Appropriate Agricultural Technology to Increase Women's Productivity project in Mexico in cooperation with UNIFEM

Zonta partnered with UNIFEM to decrease women's household workload by introducing technology, such as water pumps, to provide additional time for income-producing activities. (US\$237,228)



## 1986-1988



### Training Women as Health Promoters project in Argentina in cooperation with UNIFEM

Zonta supported UNIFEM for this project, which focused on training 500 women as promoters of primary health care to provide services primarily in rural areas. (US\$71,050)

**Training and Income Generating Project to Improve Fish Processing Methods and Organize a Marketing System in Botswana in cooperation with UNIFEM**

Zonta worked with UNIFEM to introduce improved fish-smoking techniques and expand markets for smoked fish. (US\$40,000)

**The Hirondelles Training Center for Women project in the Comoros Islands in cooperation with UNIFEM**

This project provided technical instruction to women in the areas of health, food and clothing production. Women from the program went on to train other women. (US\$106,199)

**Marketing Network for Women's Handicrafts project in Thailand in cooperation with UNIFEM**

Zonta supported UNIFEM for this project, which expanded market outlets and established a network for women's handicrafts. (US\$38,000)

**Training and Support for Women in Food Processing Technologies project in Zimbabwe in cooperation with UNIFEM**

This project introduced low-cost, efficient food product technology and provided training to establish and sustain a revolving loan fund. (US\$160,237)

**1982-1988**

**The Well Water project in Sri Lanka in cooperation with UNICEF USA**

Zonta partnered with UNICEF USA, which worked in to provide safe drinking water to 350,000 dry zone settlers (*right*). (US\$880,000)<sup>1</sup>



**1976-1982**

**The Colombian Urban Slum project in cooperation with the U.S. and the Colombian Government**

This project resulted in the construction of and provision of equipment for health and education centers. (US\$516,000)

**1974-1976**

**The Pan African Training and Research Center for Women project in cooperation with UNICEF USA**

This program focused on the recruitment and financing of the African Women's Volunteer Task Force, which addressed the needs of women in rural areas. (US\$100,000)

**1972-1974**

**Mobile Medical Units project in Ghana in cooperation with UNICEF USA**

This project served the health needs of children and mothers in rural areas of Ghana. (US\$80,000)

**1962-1976**

Zonta International supported the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Vocational and Teacher Training Center for Women in Ramallah, Jordan. This was Zonta's first in partnership with a UN agency. (US\$309,945)<sup>2</sup>



**1959-1960**

Zonta International, in cooperation with the United Nations World Refugee Year, supported the Anne Frank Village (*left*) to aid refugee families in the Federal Republic of Germany. (US\$42,000)

**1956**

Zonta International provided direct aid for Hungarian refugees. (US\$8,000)

**1923**

Zonta International supported the Near East Relief in efforts to care for 115,000 orphan children in Smyrna, Turkey, and furnish means of self-support for the women.

<sup>\*</sup>Dates indicate years funds were collected by Zonta to support the project. The information was compiled from International Service Project files, Zonta International Service Program Highlights and past issues of *The Zontian*.



**INSTRAW** (United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women)  
**UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund)  
**UNFPA** (United Nations Population Fund)  
**UNIDO** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)  
**UNIFEM** (United Nations Development Fund for Women)—now UN Women  
**UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)  
**UN Women** (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)

<sup>1</sup> The US\$880,000 granted represents US\$607,954.80 in the 1982-1986 Biennium and US\$272,045.20 in the 1986-1988 Biennium

<sup>2</sup> The US\$309,945 granted represents US\$275,800 in the 1962-1974 biennia and US\$34,145 in the 1974-1976 Biennium.