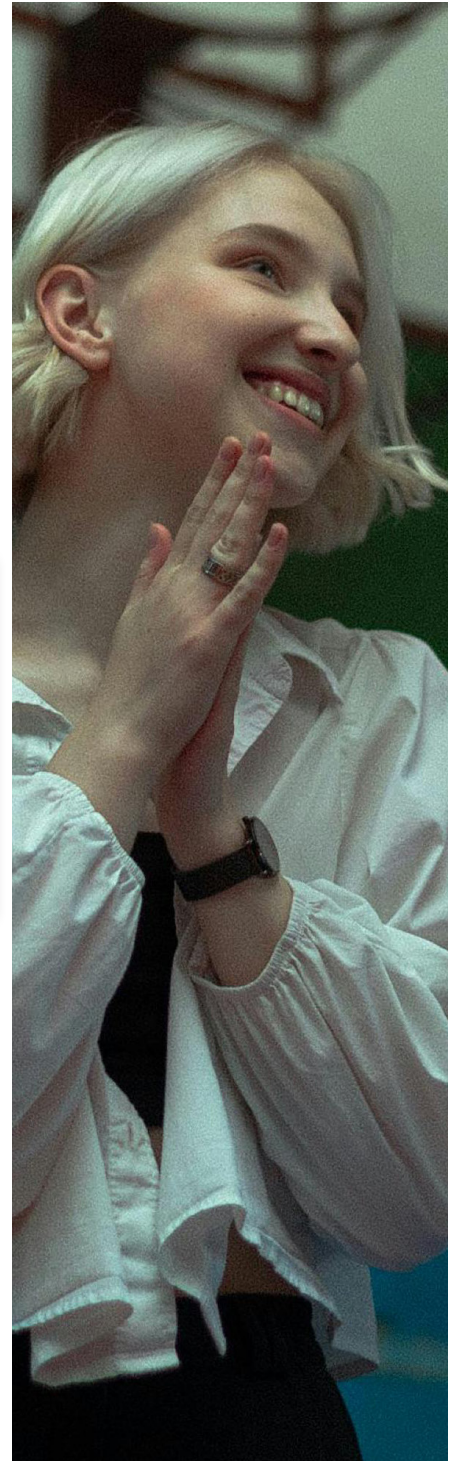




**STAND
SPEAK
RISE UP**
AN INITIATIVE OF HIGH GRAND DUCHESS
MARIA TERESA OF LUXEMBOURG

**TO END RAPE
AS A WEAPON
OF WAR**



2024 ACTIVITY REPORT

Together against sexual violence in conflicts





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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, HRH THE GRAND DUCHESS MARIA TERESA OF LUXEMBOURG, AND THE CO-FOUNDERS



Chékéba Hachemi, Stéphane Bern, and HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg – Co-Founders of Stand Speak Rise Up!

In 2024, we celebrated the five-year anniversary of Stand Speak Rise Up!. We often say that we wish our work were no longer necessary, that our projects would become obsolete because sexual violence in conflict had finally come to an end. But in the face of the ongoing crises that continue to shake the world, we are proud to say that Stand Speak Rise Up! has carried on its fight with strength and conviction.

Since its creation in 2019, our association has been committed to **making heard the voices that others try to silence, to healing where violence has left deep wounds, and to supporting women and their children born of rape on their path to recovery, with dignity and respect.**

In 2024, thanks to the dedication of our teams, our partners, the Survivors themselves, and their children born of rape, we reached new milestones, both in our fieldwork and in our advocacy efforts.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, and in refugee camps

in Iraq, we have seen the emergence of projects that bring autonomy, hope, and justice. Giving these women and children new life perspectives means guaranteeing them fundamental access to healthcare, housing, education, training, and justice. This is precisely what Stand Speak Rise Up! strives to do, every single day.

Each Survivor is the beating heart of our mission.

We have also seen our international mentoring program grow, a true bridge of solidarity between committed professionals and Survivors ready to share their talents with the world. These human connections embody the very essence of our vision: a world where Survivors are no longer silent victims, but powerful agents of change.

In November, we were deeply honored to once again welcome to Luxembourg, Paris, and Brussels the very women who inspire our work every day, for a week entirely dedicated to the fight against violence against women.

These reunions with our “big sisters”, filled with joy, shared courage, and sisterhood, also bring us back to a stark reality: **conflicts around the world continue to multiply, and sexual violence shows no signs of abating.**

That is why we must continue our fight, and keep doing everything we can to support Survivors and children born of sexual violence.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who make these actions possible: our Board of Directors, our field partners, our donors, and above all, the women we support, who inspire us every single day.

Together, let’s continue to amplify the voices that refuse to be silenced.

Let’s keep speaking out against the unacceptable, supporting Survivors, and working to prevent violence. **Because as long as rape is used as a weapon of war, our fight will go on.**

HRH THE GRAND DUCHESS MARIA TERESA OF LUXEMBOURG, CHÉKÉBA HACHEMI, AND STÉPHANE BERN

« TODAY, AS IN THE PAST, INDIGNATION IS NO LONGER ENOUGH, WE MUST MOVE FROM DEBATE TO ACTION. »

HRH THE GRAND DUCHESS MARIA TERESA OF LUXEMBOURG,
Founding President of Stand Speak Rise Up!

« STAND SPEAK RISE UP! EMBODIES CONCRETE ACTIONS TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS ON THEIR PATH TO RECOVERY, RESTORING HOPE, DIGNITY, AND VOICE. IN THE FACE OF OBLIVION, WE CHOOSE COMMITMENT. »

CHÉKÉBA HACHEMI

Co-Founder of Stand Speak Rise Up!
Afghan Activist

THE CAUSE

Together against sexual violence in conflicts

Rape used as a weapon of war is defined by the United Nations Secretariat as encompassing “rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity committed against women, men, girls, or boys, that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict.”

This weapon of war is used to terrorize, humiliate, and destroy not only women, but also their families and, more broadly, their entire communities. Rapes are often gang-related, public, and sometimes committed in front of the victim’s loved ones, further deepening the suffering and the intent to dehumanize.

Women thus become primary targets in many conflicts, as sexual violence against them is used as a strategy to break the enemy as a whole. In addition to the physical and psychological harm they endure, they are often subjected to social stigma, which can lead to rejection by their own families or communities.

Rape as a weapon of war is a ticking time bomb, with consequences that ripple across generations. It is not merely an individual crime, but a political and military

act aimed at destabilizing, dominating, or erasing entire groups.

The risk of sexual violence is ever-present for women living in conflict zones. Even after the official end of hostilities, rapes may continue in complete impunity, prolonging the trauma in silence.

Sexual violence in conflicts often serves so-called “strategic” objectives: ethnic cleansing, destabilization of social structures, spreading terror, political repression, territorial domination for the exploitation of natural resources... These acts are not isolated excesses, they are deliberately used tools of war.

In response to this reality, Stand Speak Rise Up! stands alongside Survivors to help restore their voice, dignity, and agency.

We firmly believe that fighting these forms of violence is also a step toward achieving lasting peace.



TO END RAPE
AS A WEAPON
OF WAR

Since its creation in 2019 by HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Stéphane Bern, and Chékéba Hachemi, **Stand Speak Rise Up!** has been supporting Survivors of sexual violence in fragile environments, as well as children born of rape, through its advocacy efforts led by the Board of Directors and its concrete actions on

the ground.

The association funds holistic projects around the world aimed at the recovery and socio-economic integration of Survivors and their children. Stand Speak Rise Up! is committed to helping rebuild lives shattered by such atrocities.

Through access to education, housing, healthcare, economic independence, and justice, Stand Speak Rise Up! brings hope, dignity, and opportunity to Survivors of sexual violence and children born of rape across the globe.

OUR VISION

Stand Speak Rise Up! supports projects that aim to:



Heal the physical, psychological, and social wounds of Survivors by working directly with them to better understand their specific needs.



End the stigma surrounding victims of sexual violence through awareness campaigns and efforts to change mindsets.



Strengthen legal frameworks and fight impunity so that victims can obtain truth, justice, and reparation.



Repair the harm suffered by supporting processes of justice, remembrance, and both individual and collective healing.



Leverage technology and finance to support Survivors through innovative, participatory projects that promote their economic and social empowerment.



Improve the inclusion of children born of rape or victims of sexual violence, who are often forgotten or marginalized.



Make Survivors visible, empower them as agents of change, and continue to amplify their voices through empowerment projects.



Highlight the essential role of women in building peace and social cohesion, particularly in education, humanitarian efforts, and community dynamics.

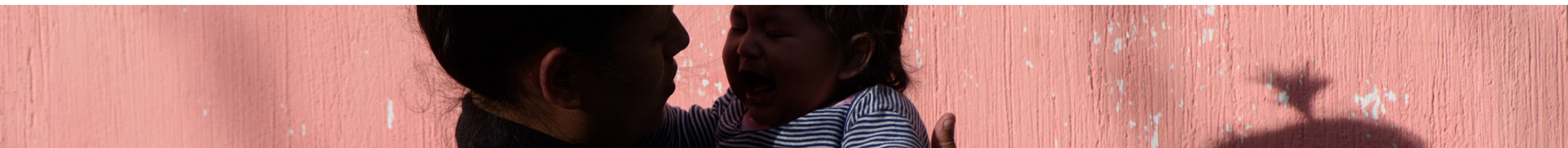
CHILDREN BORN OF RAPE: BREAKING THE SILENCE, RECOGNIZING THEIR RIGHTS

Children born of sexual violence in times of war often face stigma, rejection, and discrimination, sometimes from the moment they are born. Their existence is frequently denied, their identity questioned, and they may be denied access to education, healthcare, or nationality, placing them at risk of statelessness and social exclusion.

Since 2019, **Stand Speak Rise Up!** has been working toward the legal recognition and social inclusion of these children, with notable progress such as in **Bosnia**

and **Herzegovina**, where in 2022 they were officially granted the status of **civilian victims of war**, giving them access to reparation rights.

In 2024, the association intensified its advocacy and awareness efforts, notably through the screening of films and documentaries (*Hawar, Our Banished Children* and *The Wound Is Where the Light Enters*) and the development of strategic partnerships, to amplify the voices of these children and defend their fundamental rights.



OUR BOARD MEMBERS



A part of the board of directors during the 2024 annual meeting

Our Board of Directors is composed of global leaders from diverse backgrounds, all committed to the fight against sexual violence.

Under the presidency of HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, the Board provides strategic guidance for our initiatives and strengthens our global support network.

Stand Speak Rise Up! brings together internationally renowned figures around this cause: Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Survivors, experts, legal professionals, doctors,

NGO founders, business leaders, publishers, prominent journalists, and activists.

The association fosters synergies between project leaders, committed individuals, and Survivors.

In doing so, it becomes a true « megaphone », giving Survivors visibility and a voice through the support of our expert community.



President

**HRH the Grand Duchess
Maria Teresa of Luxembourg**



Secretary General

Stéphane Bern
Journalist and Broadcaster



Treasurer

Chékéba Hachemi
Founder and President
of Afghanistan Libre



Céline Bardet

Founder and President
of We are NOT Weapons
of War



Charles-Eric Clesse

Director of the Belgian
Training Institute,
Teacher



Hugues Dewavrin

President of La Guilde
du Raid and Manager
of DP Investissements



Pr. François Heisbourg

Senior Adviser for Europe
at the International Institute
for Strategic Studies



Tatiana Mukanire

Member of SEMA DRC,
National Coordinator of the
Survivors' Movement
in the DRC



Dr Denis Mukwege

Gynecologist and women's
rights activist, Nobel Peace
Prize Laureate 2018



Elisabeth Nicoli

Lawyer, MLF activist, Founder
of the Alliance of Women for
Democracy, Director of Éditions
des Femmes – Antoinette
Fouque



Philippe Peyrat

General Delegate
of the ENGIE Foundation



Olena Suslova

Teacher, researcher, activist, and
founder of the Women's Infor-
mation Consultative Center



Dr Frédéric Tissot

Lecturer, medical doctor, and
former Consul General
of France in Erbil



**Professeur
Muhammad Yunus**

Founder of Grameen Bank

OUR HONORARY MEMBERS



Philip Grant

Director of TRIAL International



Paulette Lenert

Luxembourgish Member
of Parliament, former Minister
of Health



Pramila Patten

United Nations Special
Representative on Sexual
Violence in Conflict

STAND SPEAK RISE UP!’S IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Stand Speak Rise Up! transforms the lives of Survivors of sexual violence, women who once dared not speak, silenced by fear and stigma. Thanks to the support of Stand Speak Rise Up!, they have reclaimed their voices and their power, and today, they stand as leaders and entrepreneurs in their countries.

OUR MEASURABLE IMPACT IN 2024

3 441

direct beneficiaries, women and children, of Stand Speak Rise Up! projects

22 759

indirect beneficiaries, women and children, of Stand Speak Rise Up! projects

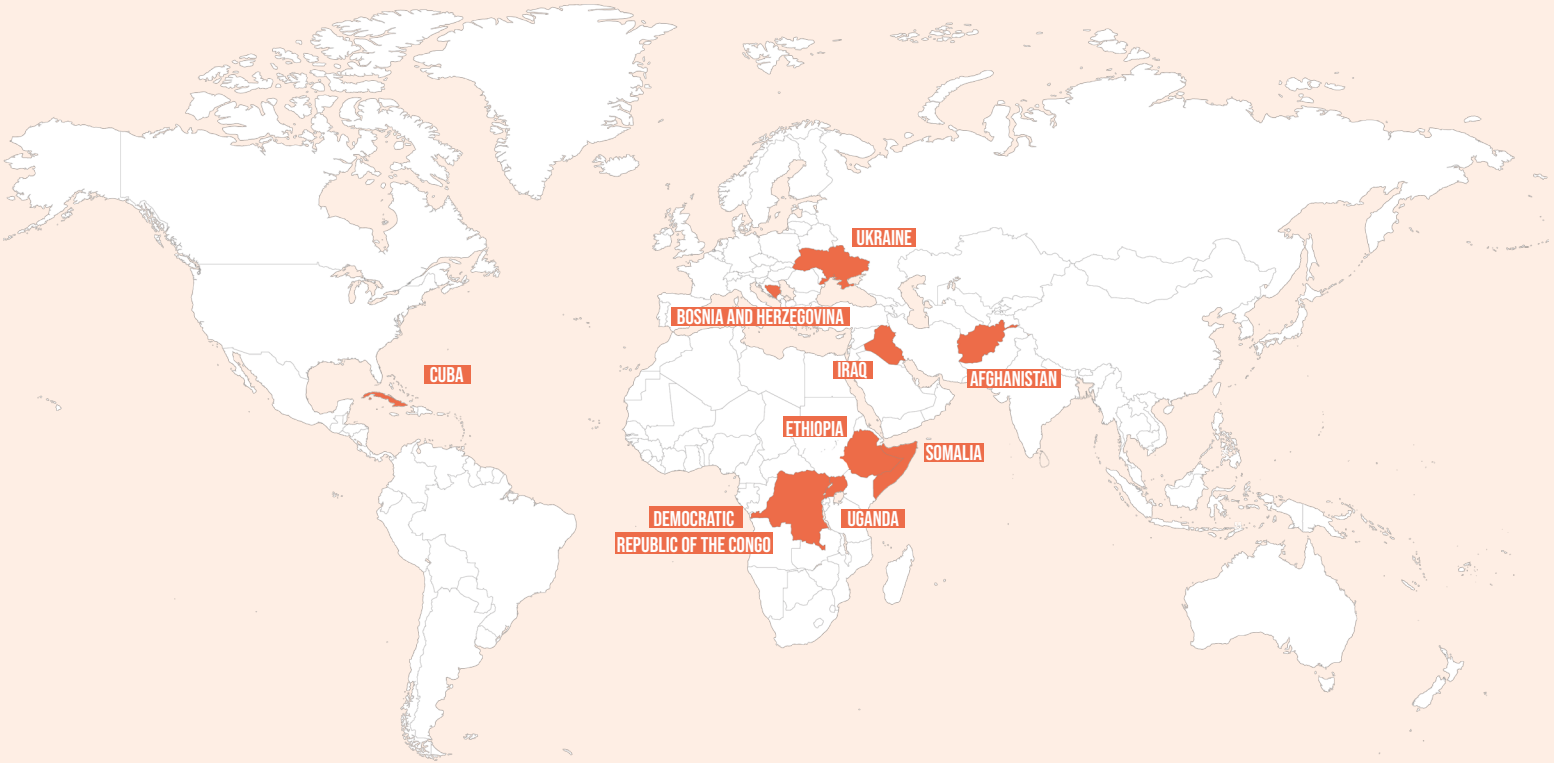
13

projects supported in 2024, including 3 implemented directly by Stand Speak Rise Up!

110 160

People reached through advocacy and awareness-raising actions led by Stand Speak Rise Up!

STAND SPEAK RISE UP!’S GLOBAL PRESENCE IN 2024



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WE CONTRIBUTE TO

The holistic projects supported by Stand Speak Rise Up! are designed according to the approach adopted since 2019: “nothing about us, without us”, placing dignity, justice, and empowerment at the heart of our commitment.

In line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda, Stand Speak Rise Up! aligns its actions with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the ambition of contributing to a fairer, safer, and more inclusive world for Survivors and children born of rape.

By supporting the economic empowerment of Survivors (SDGs 1, 2, 8), access to health, water, and education (SDGs

3, 4, 6), and by combating all forms of sexual violence, both visible and invisible (SDGs 5, 10), the projects of Stand Speak Rise Up! directly address the SDGs.

We work towards inclusive and safe communities (SDG 11), more effective justice for victims (SDG 16), and sustainable partnerships for global change (SDG 17).

By documenting crimes, supporting resilience pathways, and advocating at the international level, we contribute to building a more just and lasting peace.

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

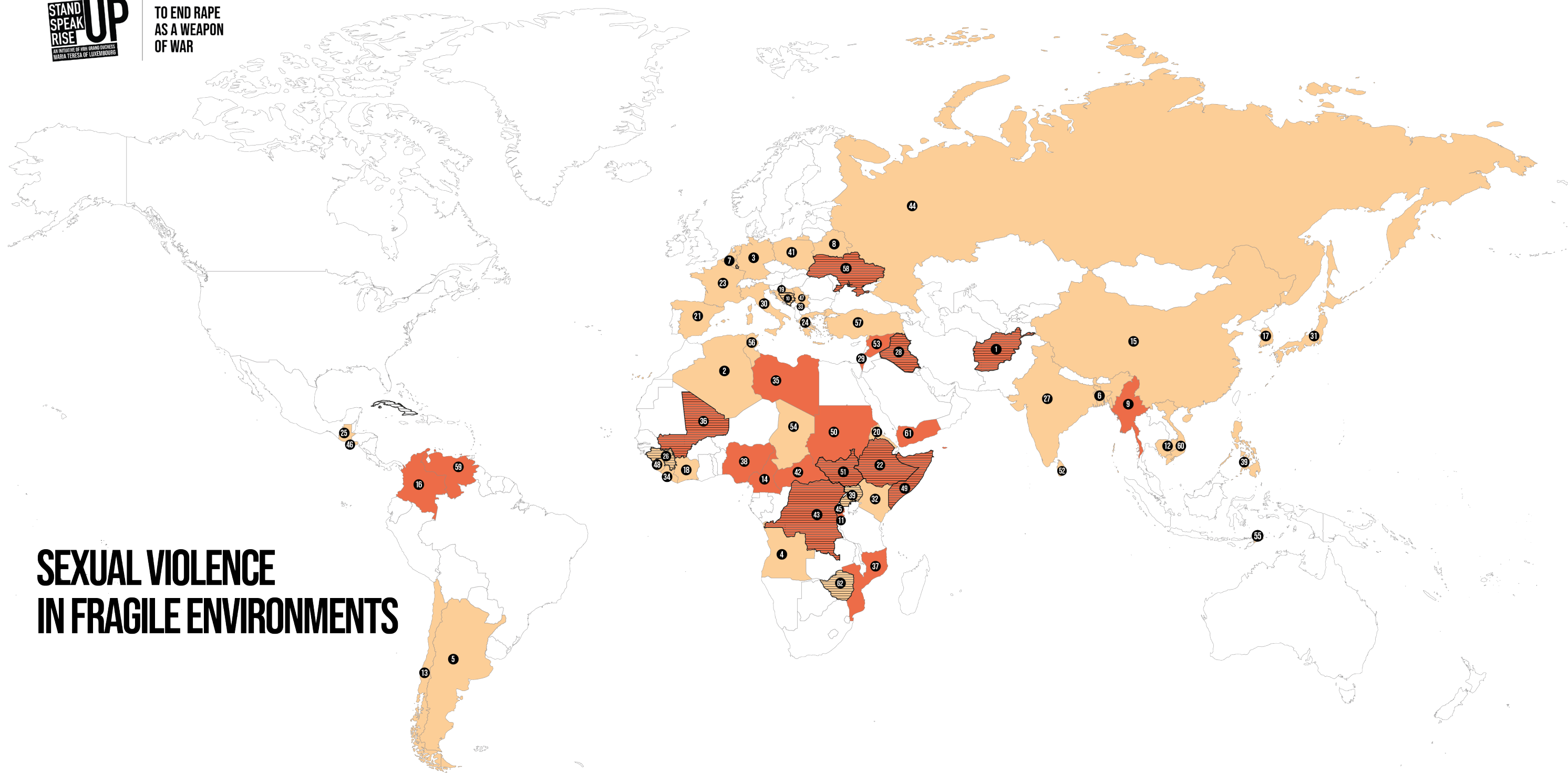
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN FRAGILE ENVIRONMENTS






- 1 AFGHANISTAN: since 1996
- 2 ALGERIA: 1954-1962 and 1991-2002
- 3 GERMANY: World War II
- 4 ANGOLA: 1975-2002
- 5 ARGENTINA: 1976-1983
- 6 BANGLADESH: 1971
- 7 BELGIUM: World War II
- 8 BELARUS: World War II
- 9 BURMA: since 1948
- 10 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: 1992-1995
- 11 BURUNDI: since 1993
- 12 CAMBODIA: 1975-1979
- 13 CHILE: 1973-1990

- 14 CAMEROON: since 2017 in English-speaking regions
- 15 CHINA: 1937-1938 Nanking Massacre
Since the 2010s in Xinjiang
- 16 COLOMBIA: since 1964
- 17 SOUTH KOREA: 1937-1945
- 18 IVORY COAST: 2010-2011
- 19 CROATIA: 1992-1995
- 20 ERITREA: 1998-2000
- 21 SPAIN: 1936-1939
- 22 ETHIOPIA: since 2020
- 23 FRANCE: World War II
- 24 GREECE: 1946-1949

- 25 GUATEMALA: 1960-1996
- 26 GUINEA: 2009
- 27 INDIA: since 1994
- 28 IRAQ: since 2011
- 29 ISRAEL: since 2023
- 30 ITALY: World War II
- 31 JAPAN: 1937-1945
- 32 KENYA: 2007-2008
- 33 KOSOVO: 1998-1999
- 34 LIBERIA: 1983-2003
- 35 LIBYA: since 2011
- 36 MALI: since 2012
- 37 MOZAMBIQUE: since 2017

- 38 NIGERIA: since 2002
- 39 UGANDA: 1987-2006
- 40 PHILIPPINES: 1945
- 41 POLAND: World War II
- 42 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: since 2004
- 43 DR CONGO: since 1996
- 44 RUSSIA: World War II
Chechen wars
- 45 RWANDA: 1994
- 46 SALVADOR: 1979-1992
- 47 SERBIA: 1998-1999
- 48 SIERRA LEONE: 1992-2002
- 49 SOMALIA: since 1990

- 50 SUDAN: since 2003
- 51 SOUTH SUDAN: since 2013
- 52 SRI LANKA: 1983-2009
- 53 SYRIA: since 2011
- 54 CHAD: 1982-1990
- 55 TIMOR ORIENTAL: 1990-1999
- 56 TUNISIA: 1989-2011
- 57 TÜRKİYE: 1915-1916
- 58 UKRAINE: since 2014
- 59 VENEZUELA: since 2014
- 60 VIETNAM: 1963-1975
- 61 YEMEN: since 2014
- 62 ZIMBABWE: 2008

-  COUNTRIES OF INTERVENTION OF STAND SPEAK RISE UP!
-  PAST CONFLICTS
-  ONGOING CONFLICTS



« WOMEN ARE THE FIRST VICTIMS OF WARS WAGED BY MEN. BUT THEY ARE ALSO THE FIRST ACTORS OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT. »

DR DENIS MUKWEGE

Gynecologist and women's rights activist
Board Member of Stand Speak Rise Up!
2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



OUR ACTIONS IN THE FIELD

Survivors are involved at the heart of every process aimed at their recovery. They are given a choice where they once had none. They finally feel empowered to act, to take ownership of their decisions, and to move beyond the status of victim.

Stand Speak Rise Up! provides support in particular to the Survivors who came forward to testify during the 2019 Forum in Luxembourg. Projects are designed and developed alongside them, taking into account their needs and the best ways to address them. At every stage, Survivors are consulted. Local associations, in which they are represented, are the ones implementing the projects on the ground.

By placing Survivors of sexual violence at the center of its actions, Stand Speak Rise Up! not only amplifies their voices but also contributes to building fairer and more sustainable solutions.

600 MILLION WOMEN

lived within 50 km of a conflict zone in 2024,
twice the number compared to the 1990s.



OUR 2024 PROJECTS



CONTEXT

- In 2024, the situation of women in Afghanistan continued to deteriorate under the Taliban regime, with increasingly severe restrictions aimed at excluding women from public life and limiting their fundamental rights. Since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, women have been the first victims of a multidimensional crisis, humanitarian, political, ecological, and economic, that is affecting the country.
- Afghanistan is considered the worst country in the world for a girl to be born. The suicide rate among young Afghan women aged 15 to 25 is the highest in the world, with many preferring death over enduring the living conditions imposed by the Taliban. Women are rendered invisible, deprived of education, freedom of movement, and freedom of speech, under the guise of so-called “rules on vice and virtue.” They live under a regime of gender apartheid, marked by institutionalized violence.
- Between January 2022 and June 2024, 840 cases of gender-based violence were documented, more than half of which involved the Taliban, a figure that is likely to be largely underestimated.
- In this context, humanitarian aid is today tolerated only in the fields of health and food assistance. Stand Speak Rise Up! is committed to acting within this restricted framework to provide concrete support to Afghan women and girls.



THE PROJECTS

ACCESS TO MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTHCARE

In partnership with Première Urgence Internationale

The ban on women practicing medicine, combined with the prohibition on receiving care from male doctors, has created a dramatic deadlock in healthcare. In remote areas, pregnant women and children face alarming health risks, in a country where infant and neonatal mortality rates remain among the highest in the world.

3 644

estimated women and girls beneficiaries



EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Faced with an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, where more than half of the Afghan population depends on aid to survive, Stand Speak Rise Up! provides a targeted response in support of women and children, the first victims of growing food insecurity.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Each month, a food basket made up of essential goods is distributed to 25 women, providing direct support to around 200 people. These distributions help meet basic needs while offering immediate relief in a context of severe hardship.

We are committed to meeting each beneficiary personally in order to better assess their needs, adjust our support if necessary, and ensure the relevance of our actions. Feedback from the field highlights a high level of satisfaction, demonstrating the concrete and positive impact of the project.

ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Stand Speak Rise Up! supports three family health centers in the Nuristan region, with the aim of sustainably improving:

- access to quality integrated healthcare, including sexual and reproductive rights;
- nutrition and psychological support for women and children;
- access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

« AFGHANISTAN IS THE WORST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD FOR WOMEN TO LIVE IN. AND WHAT HAVE WE, AS WOMEN, TRULY GAINED, IF THERE IS A PLACE ON THIS PLANET WHERE THEY HAVE LOST EVERYTHING—WHERE, BEFORE OUR VERY EYES, THEY ARE BEING WALLED IN ALIVE? »

CHÉKÉBA HACHEMI

Co-founder of Stand Speak Rise Up!
Afghan activist

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To meet the immediate food needs of the most vulnerable communities, particularly women heads of household and their children, in order to stabilize their nutritional status and improve their health and well-being.

232

families assisted

1 174

people supported

OUR 2024 PROJECTS

SOMALIA



CONTEXT

In Somalia, the protracted conflict, compounded by climate-related disasters, has displaced 3.8 million people, the majority of whom are women and children.

Since 2021, the United Nations has reported a significant increase in sexual violence, including rape, forced marriage, and other abuses, committed by armed groups, clan militias, and government forces. Survivors, often mothers as a result of rape, face multiple challenges: physical and psychological trauma, extreme poverty, stigma, and rejection by their communities.

THE PROJECT

CAPACITY BUILDING AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR SURVIVORS

In partnership with the Somali Women and Child Care Association (SWCCA)

Stand Speak Rise Up! is carrying out a project to strengthen economic empowerment and psychosocial recovery for 40 Survivors of sexual violence and young girls born of rape in Mogadishu.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Promote the economic empowerment of beneficiaries through a six-month vocational training program ;
- Strengthen participants' self-confidence and future prospects ;
- Reduce reliance on harmful survival strategies, such as prostitution.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

- Vocational training in sewing, hairdressing, embroidery, cooking, and tailoring ;
- Distribution of start-up kits to encourage self-entrepreneurship



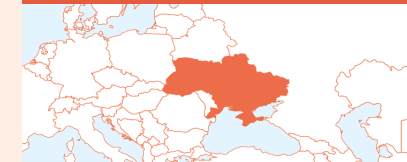
40 SURVIVORS
from Somalia accompanied

- psychosocial support to overcome trauma and stress, and to strengthen emotional well-being ;
- development of basic skills: leadership, decision-making, communication, problem-solving, language and numeracy skills.

Since the launch of the partnership in 2020, more than 180 Survivors have already been supported.

Building on this positive experience, we are continuing our support in 2025, in close collaboration with local actors and community stakeholders.

UKRAINE



CONTEXT

Since the Russian invasion in February 2022, sexual violence of extreme brutality has been used as a weapon of war in Ukraine: rape, gang rape, sexual torture, often perpetrated during occupations or in detention. Survivors, mostly women and girls, face a lack of support, stigmatization, and major obstacles in accessing justice.

These crimes, recognized as war crimes, leave deep scars. Stand Speak Rise Up! works to support Survivors, document atrocities, and strengthen local actors providing protection and care.

THE PROJECT

SUPPORT FOR THE REPORTING APP "BACK UP"

In partnership with We Are NOT Weapons of War



As part of its commitment to fighting sexual violence as a weapon of war, Stand Speak Rise Up! supports the deployment of the digital tool "Back Up" in Ukraine, in partnership with the NGO We Are NOT Weapons of War (WWoW).

Developed with the technological support of the Luxembourg-based company InTech, "Back Up" is a secure mobile platform that enables victims of conflict-related

sexual violence to anonymously report incidents, preserve evidence, and contribute to the documentation of war crimes.

This tool plays a crucial role in recognizing Survivors by giving them a voice, while also strengthening the documentation capacities of NGOs and local actors for legal purposes.

STAND SPEAK RISE UP! CONTRIBUTES TO THE FUNDING OF:

- the deployment of the tool in Ukraine and its cultural and linguistic adaptation ;
- the dissemination and training of local partners in its use ;
- as well as the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data collected

In parallel, Stand Speak Rise Up! and WWoW partnered with the Ukrainian organization WICC (Women's Information Consultative Center) to organize a national symposium in Ukraine at the end of 2024.

This event provided an updated overview of the situation of Survivors of sexual violence in the context of the war, amplified their voices, and strengthened cooperation between grassroots actors, institutions, and justice mechanisms.

OUR 2024 PROJECTS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



CONTEXT

Since 1996, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been marked by armed conflicts where sexual violence is widespread: more than 30 rapes are recorded every day, a figure that is likely underestimated.

In Kavumu, Survivors live in extreme poverty, facing compounded challenges of trauma, isolation, and family responsibilities. Their recovery depends on financial autonomy, psychological support, and social recognition.

Stand Speak Rise Up! works to strengthen their training, resilience, and leadership roles within their communities.

THE PROJECTS

SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN KAVUMU

In partnership with La Maison de l'Espoir

This project aims to sustainably improve the living conditions of women Survivors of sexual violence in Kavumu by promoting their economic empowerment and social reintegration. By acquiring professional skills and generating income, women gain independence, self-esteem, and reclaim an active role within their community.

OBJECTIVES AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

- establishment of a sewing and embroidery workshop to train a group of 40 women in textile production techniques ;
- strengthening of agricultural and therapeutic activities, benefiting 100 Survivors ;
- implementation of personalized follow-up to measure progress, adapt support, and ensure the sustainability of activities.



This project enables women to once again become actors in the local economy while supporting their psychological recovery within a collective, supportive, and caring environment.

Since 2023, 285 Congolese Survivors have been supported through this initiative.

IN 2024

40 WOMEN

Survivors of sexual violence in the sewing workshop

100 WOMEN

Survivors of sexual violence in agricultural and therapeutic activities



OBJECTIVES AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

- support for the development of income-generating activities for 150 Survivors ;
- assistance to local initiatives in agriculture, livestock, and fish farming, contributing to food security and the sustainable development of host villages ;
- promotion of the role of Survivors as economic and social pillars of their new communities.

This project reflects a dynamic of resilience and collective commitment. By investing in the capacities of these women, we support their path towards autonomy while strengthening social cohesion in territories deeply affected by conflict.

“EACH PERPETRATOR WHO GOES UNPUNISHED INCREASES THE SENSE OF IMPUNITY. THERE CAN BE NO PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE.”

TATIANA MUKANIRE

Board Member of Stand Speak Rise Up!
Coordinator of La Maison de l'Espoir
Survivor

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

In partnership with the Movement of Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence

This project is led by the Movement of Survivors of Rape and Sexual Violence in the DRC, an initiative born from the mobilization of women themselves to rebuild their lives and their communities.

It addresses the urgent needs of displaced populations from the North and South Kivu regions, forced to flee violence and resettle in safer areas such as Combo, Kakenge, and Goma.

570 SURVIVORS

have already been supported through this program since 2020



OUR 2024 PROJECTS



CONTEXT

Nearly 30 years after the war in the former Yugoslavia, thousands of Survivors of sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina are still living with deep scars, without justice or reparation. Between 1992 and 1995, around 20,000 people were victims of rape used as a weapon of war.

Today, many continue to suffer from trauma, poverty, and a lack of access to healthcare, employment, and recognition. Stand Speak Rise Up! works alongside local organizations to support their autonomy, resilience, and rightful place in memory and justice policies.

THE PROJECTS

LEGAL SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF WAR CRIMES

In partnership with TRIAL International

For several years, TRIAL International has been providing free legal assistance to Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, the organization has been actively advocating for changes in national legislation to ensure full alignment with international human rights standards, particularly the right to reparation for victims.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Strengthen transitional justice by fighting impunity, while ensuring that victims have better access to justice and recognition. To this end, TRIAL International works in close collaboration with victims' associations, partner NGOs, local public authorities, and international bodies present in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Stand Speak Rise Up! specifically supports the advocacy activities carried out by TRIAL International, which aim to:



- formulate and voice the specific needs of Survivors and children born of rape;
- raise awareness among national authorities, judicial personnel, and the media for a better understanding of the consequences of rape as a weapon of war;
- support Survivors in their reparation cases before national and international bodies.

A major breakthrough was achieved in 2022, after more than two years of advocacy: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a law officially recognizing Survivors of sexual violence and children born of rape as civilian victims of war. This historic legislation finally grants them specific rights to address their needs.

Thirty years after the war, this victory stands as a powerful symbol: it shows that laws can be changed to restore dignity and justice to Survivors.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SURVIVORS OF WARTIME RAPE

In partnership with Forgotten Children of War

The organization *Forgotten Children of War* works to defend the rights and needs of children born of wartime rape, while also supporting their Survivor mothers. It strives to ensure them access to education, social protection, psychological support, and sustainable economic opportunities.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

In partnership with Stand Speak Rise Up!, this project aims to create concrete future opportunities for Survivors through:

- vocational training sessions (agriculture, vegetable and flower cultivation);
- access to material resources to start their own business;
- psychological support throughout the process.

Beyond training, the approach enables women to regain self-esteem, financial stability, and an active role in their community. An empowered woman is an agent of local change.

PROJECT REPLICABILITY

The positive impact of this initiative demonstrates its strong potential for replicability in other post-conflict contexts. By sharing best practices and lessons learned, the Survivors of Bosnia and Herzegovina can inspire other women around the world to rebuild their lives, gain autonomy, and become pillars of local development.

50 SURVIVORS
trained



OUR 2024 PROJECTS



“BY AMPLIFYING THE STORIES OF THESE WOMEN, STAND SPEAK RISE UP! HAS HELPED TO EXPOSE A REALITY THAT MANY HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO SEE. YOU HAVE NOT ONLY GIVEN VISIBILITY TO THEIR SUFFERING, BUT ALSO RESTORED THEIR DIGNITY, THEIR HOPE, AND THEIR BELIEF THAT JUSTICE IS POSSIBLE.”

MESERET HADUSH

Tigray

ETHIOPIA – TIGRAY

150 WOMEN
trained

CONTEXT

Since November 2020, the conflict in Tigray has given rise to sexual violence of extreme brutality, used as a weapon of war against Tigrayan women and girls.

Gang rapes, sexual slavery, and abuses in detention: these acts are intended to terrorize and destroy communities. In the midst of a severe humanitarian crisis, Survivors — displaced and unprotected — endure lasting consequences. Their recovery requires comprehensive, community-based, and trauma-sensitive responses.

THE PROJECT

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN TIGRAY

In partnership with Hiwyet Charity Association

In response to this emergency, Stand Speak Rise Up! supports a comprehensive project to assist Survivors of sexual violence, with an indirect impact on several thousand women in the Tigray region.

The objective of the project is to foster the resilience and economic empowerment of Survivors while ensuring their access to justice, healthcare, and quality psychosocial support.

STAND SPEAK RISE UP! CONTRIBUTES TO THE FUNDING OF:

- access to medical and psychological care;
- establishment of vocational training in various fields (handicrafts, agriculture, small businesses);
- creation of community support clubs focused on women’s leadership, rights, financial management, and mutual aid;

- organization of emotional healing programs, inspired by trauma-sensitive care techniques;
- partnership with community leaders, religious institutions, and local NGOs to strengthen women’s inclusion and safety in their environment;
- collaboration with local human rights organizations and authorities to support access to justice and fight against the impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence.

This project is part of an approach of reparation, restored dignity, and sustainable reconstruction, building on the capacities and resilience of Survivors.

OUR 2024 PROJECTS

UGANDA



CONTEXT

For more than 20 years, northern Uganda endured the atrocities of the Lord's Resistance Army, responsible for abductions, rapes, sexual slavery, and forced marriages.

Many women gave birth to children conceived through rape, often rejected by their communities. Today, these mothers and their children continue to suffer from stigma, poverty, and exclusion, with very limited access to education, especially for girls. In the districts of Acholi, Gulu, and Omoro, the lack of resources perpetuates inequalities and hinders their reintegration.

THE PROJECT

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN BORN OF RAPE

In partnership with Golden Women Vision

The project aims to sustainably improve access to quality education for girls and boys born of rape in the most affected regions of northern Uganda.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- break the taboo and fight against the stigma surrounding children born of sexual violence;
- provide financial support and guidance to 33 children, from primary to university level;
- promote gender equality by placing particular emphasis on girls' education;
- encourage beneficiaries to become agents of change in their communities.

RESULTS

- better access to education and zero school dropouts;
- improved academic performance;



- strengthened self-confidence of supported children;
- visible reduction of gender inequalities within the supported group.

Indirect impact: The project benefits families and local communities by creating the conditions for social transformation and a more inclusive future.

ALIGNMENT WITH UGANDAN PUBLIC POLICIES

The project is fully in line with national strategic priorities:

- Post-conflict rehabilitation,
- Promotion of gender equality,
- Social protection and child rights,
- Universal access to education,
- Poverty reduction and human development.



PROJECTS BUILT WITH AND FOR SURVIVORS

True to the fundamental principle of "Nothing about us without us," Stand Speak Rise Up! places Survivors of sexual violence at the heart of all its actions. Their experience, expertise, and needs are the foundations of our projects.

We work hand in hand with local associations led or supported by Survivors, in order to co-design concrete initiatives tailored to realities on the ground. This participatory approach ensures that each project truly responds to the expectations of those most concerned and promotes their long-term autonomy.

Co-construction is a living process: we regularly organize working sessions bringing together Survivors engaged in our

different countries of intervention. These meetings not only make it possible to jointly evaluate ongoing actions, but also to share best practices, adapt projects to evolving contexts, propose solutions to the challenges they face, and strengthen solidarity ties between Survivors across borders.

This dynamic of exchange has, for example, enabled the transposition of Sylvia's project for children born of rape into another country, adapting it to local realities with the participation of the Survivors and children born of rape concerned. Such synergies reflect the richness of the network we are collectively building and the shared commitment to providing concrete, sensitive, and sustainable responses to the consequences of sexual violence in conflict zones.

OUR 2024 PROJECTS

CUBA



CONTEXT

In Cuba, decades of economic crises, shortages, and restrictions have heightened the vulnerability of women, girls, and adolescents.

In a context of extreme hardship, sexual and domestic violence is on the rise, particularly in overcrowded households. Young people, faced with school dropout, lack of opportunities, and gender-based violence, are often pushed into illegality or risk their lives attempting to emigrate.

THE PROJECT

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN HAVANA

In partnership with Sant'Egidio Cuba

Stand Speak Rise Up! supports adolescents and women living in disadvantaged neighborhoods of Havana through an integrated program of capacity building, psychological care, and awareness-raising.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- strengthen the economic autonomy of women by offering entrepreneurship training, enabling them to develop concrete, income-generating skills;
- support adolescents through psychological assistance and awareness workshops on healthy relationships and the fight against gender-based violence;
- provide psychological support to women victims of violence through support groups and dance therapy, fostering emotional healing and self-reconstruction.



560 WOMEN AND GIRLS
beneficiaries



IRAQ



CONTEXT

On August 3, 2014, the Islamic State carried out a genocidal attack against the Yazidis in Sinjar, killing nearly 5,000 people and abducting 6,800 women and children, who were subjected to sexual violence and slavery.

The village of Siba Sheikh-Kheder was completely emptied of its population. Ten years later, Siba remains in ruins, without access to essential services. Survivors, orphans, and the sick live there in extreme poverty, with insufficient aid.

THE PROJECT

DIRECT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVORS

In partnership with Yazda



In collaboration with Yazda, a major humanitarian actor in Sinjar since 2014, the project aims to provide direct, targeted, and tailored assistance to the most vulnerable Survivors and families in the village of Siba.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

- humanitarian assistance (health, food);
- documentation and awareness-raising: production of a short video on the situation in Siba and of the Survivors, to be screened as part of the commemorations of the 10th anniversary of the Yazidi genocide.

321 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES



OUR 2024 PROJECTS

MULTIZONE PROJECT



THE PROJECT

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT MENTORING

This project, designed to restore voice and power to Survivors of sexual violence, also aims to provide them with an opportunity for real and lasting transformation.

This program is a genuine pathway to empowerment and independence, enabling participants to acquire essential skills that help them not only to share their experiences but also to inspire within their communities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- strengthen Survivors’ capacities in communication, project management, and team management;
- facilitate co-construction among Survivors for mutual support and collective resilience;
- encourage knowledge-sharing and the transfer of best practices between Survivors on their respective projects;
- improve Survivors’ personal and professional opportunities through training and exchanges with academics and professionals;
- strengthen their confidence, expand their networks, and engage in initiatives that will have a positive impact on their community.

5 WOMEN

beneficiaries of the mentoring program in 2024



COUNTRIES CONCERNED

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| • Cuba | • Uganda |
| • Colombia | • South Sudan |
| • Guinea | • Ukraine |
| • Mali | • Zimbabwe |
| • Democratic Republic of the Congo | |

“STAND SPEAK RISE UP! ALLOWED ME TO LEARN HOW TO BUILD MY PROJECT. TODAY, I CAN SHARE MY SKILLS WITH OTHER SURVIVORS.”

GUILLAUMETTE TSONGO

Survivor
Coordinator of the Survivors’ Movement in the DRC





OUR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Advocacy has been at the heart of Stand Speak Rise Up!'s work since its creation and represents a collective commitment carried by the Board of Directors.

The association is dedicated to amplifying the voices of Survivors by regularly involving them in advocacy actions, enabling them to testify, call on decision-makers, and contribute to building sustainable solutions.

The Board of Directors also ensures that this commitment is passed on to younger generations. Stand Speak Rise Up! regularly carries out awareness-raising activities with students to strengthen understanding and encourage engagement from all around these issues.



**WATCH THE VIDEOS
OF OUR EVENTS ON OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

1 IN 2 WOMEN

who die during pregnancy/childbirth are in a conflict zone.
They are also exposed to sexually transmitted diseases
that affect both them and their children.



Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg and Chékéba Hachemi at the EIB

#STANDSPEAKRISEUP



“WE KNOW THAT FOR EVERY SURVIVOR WHO COMES FORWARD, MANY OTHERS ARE SILENCED BY SOCIAL PRESSURES, STIGMA, INSECURITY, LACK OF SERVICES, AND LIMITED PROSPECTS FOR JUSTICE.”

PRAMILA PATTEN

UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict
Honorary Advisor of Stand Speak Rise Up!

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF STAND SPEAK RISE UP! AND THE LUXEMBOURG FORUM

2024 marks an important milestone in the history of Stand Speak Rise Up!: five years of commitment, five years of struggle, but above all, five years of sisterhood, resilience, and progress. Since its creation in 2019, the association has continuously carried the voices of Survivors of sexual violence in conflict zones, as well as children born of rape.

These five years have been marked by achievements but also immense challenges. In March 2019, the Stand Speak Rise Up! Forum in Luxembourg was launched at the initiative of HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg: two days of conferences and meetings bringing together experts, humanitarians, Nobel Prize laureates, representatives of international organizations, and above all, 50 Survivors who came to testify. This Forum was a true platform for raising awareness, mobilization, and the implementation of concrete solutions for Survivors. It amplified the voices of those who had too often been silenced and opened the way to new perspectives for reconstruction.

From the creation of the association onwards, and over the years, the 2019 Forum has played a key role in shaping the vision of Stand Speak Rise Up!, creating strong bonds and strengthening our field actions by supporting projects led by the Survivors present in Luxembourg.

The past five years stand as a true testimony to the power of sisterhood, resilience, and collective commitment. Thanks to our partners, our supporters, and above all, thanks to the Survivors themselves—who are at the heart of our mission—Stand Speak Rise Up! has been able to implement projects across the world, ranging from psychosocial support to training, economic reintegration programs, housing access, and mentoring.

Five years of work, concrete projects, legal progress, exceptional partnerships, and above all, transformed lives. The lives of thousands of Survivors and children born of rape. This is a moment to reflect on the importance of these five years of struggle, to take stock of successes, and to look ahead with hope at the challenges that remain.

We cannot ignore the scale of the task that lies ahead, but with the strength of our commitment and our allies, we will continue to work for a world where rape as a weapon of war has no place.

In 2024, we celebrate not only the fifth anniversary of Stand Speak Rise Up! but also the fifth anniversary of the Luxembourg Forum, which embodies our values and mission. We continue this fight, more determined than ever to defend the rights of Survivors and to ensure their voices are heard.



**“TODAY, I MAKE A CALL
TO WOMEN: LET US COME
TOGETHER TO FINALLY
PUT AN END TO THE
SYSTEMATIC VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN,
WHICH CONTINUES TO BE
SILENCED.”**

**HRH THE GRAND DUCHESS MARIA TERESA OF
LUXEMBOURG, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF STAND SPEAK
RISE UP!**

THE STAND SPEAK RISE UP! EXHIBITION

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Stand Speak Rise Up! Forum, the traveling exhibition revisiting the highlights of the 2019 Forum was presented at the European Investment Bank (EIB). This exhibition showcases the testimonies of experts, representatives of international organizations, and Survivors of rape as a weapon of war who were present in 2019. It pays tribute to the courage of the Survivors and recalls the commitments made during the Forum to defend their right to justice, reparation, and reconstruction.

The exhibition is designed to raise awareness among a broad audience and to strengthen the call to action. It highlights the origins of Stand Speak Rise Up!’s work, which, five years later, continues to strive to ensure that the voices of Survivors are heard and respected.





JANUARY

PRIVATE VISIT OF THE LOUVRE MUSEUM

The Friends of Stand Speak Rise Up! gathered for a prestigious visit to the Louvre Museum, alongside TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, Stéphane Bern, and Chékéba Hachemi. The purpose of this gathering was to support the association's work. This day at the Louvre was not only a cultural visit but also a testament to solidarity and determination.



FEBRUARY

CHARITY SCREENING OF "THE WOUND IS WHERE THE LIGHT ENTERS"

Organized with the British NGO GRACE, this screening raised awareness among the Luxembourg public about the situation of children born of rape in Uganda. It was a powerful moment of sharing, attended by HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, director Dheeraj Akolkar, and GRACE co-founders Sabine Lee and Rachel Canty.



MARCH

ROUNDTABLE FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LES ÉDITIONS DES FEMMES

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Les Éditions des Femmes and the tribute to Antoinette Fouque, HRH the Grand Duchess and Chékéba Hachemi paid tribute to Antoinette Fouque's activism. She is a historic figure of the Women's Liberation Movement.

They took part in the roundtable "S'engager" ("Commitment") alongside women activists, artists, journalists, and lawyers. During this discussion, they highlighted their commitment to the fight against wartime rape through Stand Speak Rise Up!.



MARCH

CONFERENCE AT BARREAU DE PARIS ON MARCH 8

HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg and Chékéba Hachemi were invited to the Paris Bar (Paris Bar Association). They were joined by Tatiana Mukanire, Survivor and Board Member of Stand Speak Rise Up!, who came especially from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Together, they raised awareness among lawyers about rape as a weapon of war. This event took place as part of International Women's Rights Day.



APRIL

INTERVENTIONS IN LUXEMBOURG SCHOOLS

HRH the Grand Duchess and Chékéba Hachemi spoke respectively at the Athénée High School and Vauban High School. These sessions helped raise students' awareness about sexual violence in times of war and encouraged them to become actors of change. Through these interventions, young people gained a better understanding of the impact of sexual violence on Survivors and the importance of fighting for justice and women's rights.



MAY

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BAVEREZ GROUP HOTELS

Stand Speak Rise Up! and the Baverez Group Hotels announced an exceptional partnership during an event at the prestigious Regina Hotel in Paris. This collaboration aims to raise awareness among guests of the Regina, Raphael, and Majestic hotels about Stand Speak Rise Up!'s initiatives in the fight against wartime rape, by placing more than 250 informational brochures in the hotel rooms.



JUNE

CHARITY SCREENING OF "HAWAR, NOS ENFANTS BANNIS"

For the first time in Luxembourg, the award-winning documentary "Hawar, Our Banished Children" was screened at Utopia Cinema. The event took place in the distinguished presence of HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, Chékéba Hachemi, as well as directors Pascal Bourgaux and Mohammad Shaikhow. Participants had the opportunity to engage with the speakers, addressing crucial topics such as the recognition of children born of wartime rape and the daily struggle of Yazidi Survivors rejected by their community.



OCTOBER

OPENING OF THE 68TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS (UIA)

The Grand Duchess took part in the opening of the 68th Congress of the International Association of Lawyers (UIA) in Paris. She was invited as Guest of Honor during a special session dedicated to sexual violence in conflict zones.

"Today, as in the past, indignation is no longer enough — we must move from debate to action."



OCTOBER

CONFERENCE ON RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR AT THE EIB

Stand Speak Rise Up! visited the European Investment Bank (EIB) for a conference dedicated to rape as a weapon of war, aiming to raise awareness among staff about this too often overlooked reality. The event amplified the voices of Survivors within a major European institution. HRH the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and Chékéba Hachemi powerfully conveyed the testimonies of women victims of sexual violence in conflict, calling for collective mobilization. They emphasized the urgency of funding concrete reconstruction projects for Survivors, highlighting their courage and resilience. This meeting marked an important step in the institutional recognition of the fight against sexual violence in times of war.



NOVEMBER

CONFERENCE AT THE MERODE BRUSSELS: TOGETHER AGAINST RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR

HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg and Chékéba Hachemi were invited by Béa Ercolini to The Merode for a conference on rape as a weapon of war, highlighting the association's fight.



NOVEMBER

EXCEPTIONAL TRAINING WITH THE JUDICIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE IN BRUSSELS

Aimed at Belgian judicial staff, this pioneering training, initiated by Stand Speak Rise Up! board member Charles-Eric Clesse, strengthened the skills of justice actors in understanding and qualifying rape as a weapon of war.

EXCEPTIONAL JUDICIAL TRAINING: RAISING JUDGES' AWARENESS OF RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR

In 2024, Stand Speak Rise Up! organized, in collaboration with the Belgian Judicial Training Institute (IFJ), an exceptional training session dedicated to raising awareness among magistrates about the use of rape as a weapon of war. This event, aimed at strengthening understanding of the legal issues and humanitarian consequences of such violence, is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring that rape as a weapon of war is recognized globally through concrete actions and awareness initiatives.

The training focused on several crucial aspects: the recognition of rape as a war crime, the need to strengthen judicial prosecutions against perpetrators, and the establishment of reparation measures for victims. It enabled magistrates to better grasp the specific nature of these crimes—often relegated to the background in armed conflicts—while emphasizing the importance of guaranteeing fair judicial proceedings for Survivors.

This initiative forms part of Stand Speak Rise Up!'s broader approach to reinforcing the role of national and international judicial systems in the fight against

impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict zones. By training key actors within the judicial system, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of the gravity of these crimes and to encourage a more empathetic and determined response to Survivors.

Rape as a weapon of war is not only a crime of individual violence; it is a strategic act, often used to terrorize and destroy entire communities. It is imperative that justice fully recognizes this dimension and takes appropriate measures to support Survivors in their pursuit of justice and reparation. Through this training, Stand Speak Rise Up! continues to raise awareness, provide training, and advocate for a future where those responsible for such atrocities are held accountable before the law.

Building on the success of this initiative and the strong interest expressed by participants, Stand Speak Rise Up! is planning a new training session in 2025, this time in Luxembourg, in collaboration with national and international judicial institutions, with the aim of later extending it to the European level in partnership with the Federation of European Bars.



NOVEMBER

CONFERENCE IN KYIV ON RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR IN THE UKRAINIAN CONTEXT

Stand Speak Rise Up! co-organised a conference in Ukraine alongside We Are Not Weapons of War (WWoW) and the Women's Information Consultative Center (WICC). This pivotal event brought together Survivors, activists, lawyers, and both local and international authorities to amplify the voices of Ukrainian Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The conference provided an overview of the scale of sexual violence in Ukraine and encouraged concrete responses in terms of justice, psychological support, and the recognition of Survivors. A white paper is set to be published in 2025.



NOVEMBER

SURVIVORS' WEEK IN EUROPE: BETWEEN INSPIRATION AND RESILIENCE

For several days, Survivors and activists from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Cuba, and Afghanistan came together to share their experiences and strengthen their skills as part of our mentoring program. Workshops, trainings, and meetings with partners — every moment was designed to foster resilience, celebrate courage, and support these leaders working towards a more just and inclusive future.



SOLIDARITY MARCH DURING ORANGE WEEK



PARTNERS' LUNCH IN PARIS



LAUNCH OF THE PARTNERSHIP WITH LUXAIR AIRLINE



RECEPTION IN HONOR OF SURVIVORS IN BERG



MEETING AND DISCUSSIONS AT THE GRAND DUCAL FOUNDATION



WORKSHOPS AT BGL-BNP PARIBAS



DECEMBER

CONFERENCE ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN EXILE WITH GROUPE SOS

In December 2024, Stand Speak Rise Up! organized an important conference in partnership with Groupe SOS on the theme of sexual violence in exile. This gathering addressed the specific challenges faced by Survivors of sexual violence in contexts of migration and exile, often exacerbated by precariousness and isolation. The event brought together experts, activists, and NGOs to exchange on strategies for support, prevention, and assistance for victims in these particularly vulnerable situations. The white paper is available on our website.

AWARENESS-RAISING: IN SCHOOLS AND COMPANIES

- In December 2024, Chékéba Hachemi spoke at Becker & Mackenzie, sharing her journey and highlighting the importance of commitment in the fight against rape as a weapon of war.
- The Stand Speak Rise Up! team also raised awareness among students at Lycée Vauban and Lycée Technique du Centre about sexual violence and the resilience of Survivors.



DECEMBER

BUSINESSES AND THEIR EMPLOYEES STAND ALONGSIDE STAND SPEAK RISE UP!

Partnerships for sustainable change



The commitment of companies alongside Stand Speak Rise Up! is an essential lever to ensure lasting impact in the fight against rape as a weapon of war. Since its creation, the association has surrounded itself with visionary and responsible partners committed to building a fairer and more inclusive world. The year 2024 marks an important milestone, with the launch of two major partnerships: the Baverez Group Hotels and the airline Luxair, which have joined Stand Speak Rise Up! to support Survivors of wartime sexual violence.



THE BAVEREZ GROUP

With its prestigious hotels Regina, Raphaël, and Majestic, the Baverez Group embodies a model of responsible commitment. This partnership has actively supported the association's work, not only by providing logistical support through hosting Stand Speak Rise Up! events, but also by raising awareness among their guests about the association's mission. In each of these hotels' rooms, an informational brochure is made available, helping to sensitize an international clientele to the issue of sexual violence in conflict zones.



LUXAIR

The Luxembourg airline also marked 2024 with a strong commitment alongside Stand Speak Rise Up!. One of its planes was decorated in the association's colors, creating a powerful emblem of the company's dedication to the cause. In addition to this remarkable visibility, Luxair implemented awareness-raising initiatives on board its flights, reaching a wide audience on the issue of sexual violence in times of war.



These partnerships highlight the importance of corporate involvement in major social causes. They demonstrate that, to drive lasting change, it is essential for the private and non-profit sectors to join forces and create positive, sustainable synergies.

SOLIDARITY EVENTS

A valuable mobilization throughout the year

EVERYONE CAN GET INVOLVED IN THEIR OWN WAY

In 2024, numerous events were organized in support of Stand Speak Rise Up!, reflecting the strong commitment of the association's supporters. Among them, the charity dinner hosted by Murielle Grillo, the Christmas evening at Eric & Laurent salons, and the prestigious Fleur de Lys gala orchestrated by Tom Meyer all helped raise awareness and essential funds to continue our work.

Personal initiatives also left their mark on the year: the solidarity birthdays of Prince Félix and Claire Schaus, as well as the solidarity retreats organized by Michel Gomez, demonstrated that every gesture matters in supporting Survivors.

These moments of generosity and sharing embody the strength of a united network, where everyone contributes, in their own way, to amplifying the voices of victims of sexual violence in conflict.

EVERYDAY PURCHASES SERVING GREATER CAUSES

In 2024, inspiring initiatives emerged thanks to the commitment of companies that place solidarity at the heart of their mission. The renowned Parisian delicatessen Maison Vérot, as well as Leclerc Luxembourg, enabled their customers to support Stand Speak Rise Up! through the "round-up at the register" initiative: a small gesture with a big impact.

In Luxembourg, Cactus continues to offer solidarity products (the Chouchous du Cœur and Bruno fairtrade coffee), with part of the proceeds donated to the association. These partnerships help raise awareness among a wide audience about our cause while generating concrete support for our projects on the ground.



Charity Dinner Organized by Murielle Grillo



Eric & Laurent Salons Evening



Solidarity Products at Cactus



Cash Rounding at Leclerc



STAND SPEAK RISE UP! IN THE MEDIA

Non-exhaustive list: find all our news on our website standspeakriseup.lu



12.03.2024 / **PARIS MATCH**

"Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Honored for Her Commitment Alongside Catherine Deneuve"



03.09.2024 / **FRANCE 24**

"Afghanistan: How Far Will the Erasure of Women Go? A Conversation with E. Cheysson and C. Hachemi"



26.11.2024 / **ELLE**

"Luxair and Stand Speak Rise Up!: Together Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones"



01.12.2024 / **Forbes**

"María Teresa Mestre – Ukraine, Middle East: Rape as a Weapon of War"



26.08.2024 / **ELLE**

"Afghanistan, a Cry of Alarm: 'They Are Burying Women Alive Behind Walls'"



18.09.2024 / **RTL INFOS**

How Luxembourg Is Taking Action for Afghan Women



05.12.2024 / **Libération**

"Women in Exile: Confronting the Violence of Their Journey, Let's Act with Determination"



04.10.2024 / **PUBLIC SENAT**

"Chékéba Hachemi, Coming to the Aid of Afghan Women"



06.11.2024 / **28**

Afghan Women Under the Taliban



22.11.2024 / **PAPERJAM**
Business zu Lëtzebuerg

Maria Teresa: 'I Could Not Abandon These Women'



23.11.2024 / **POINT DE VUE**

"Maria Teresa of Luxembourg: An Unwavering Determination to Protect Women"



24.11.2024 / **Histoires Royales**

"Grand Duchess Maria Teresa Demonstrates in Orange to Support Women Victims of Violence"

A NEW COMMUNICATION STRATEGY



TO END RAPE
AS A WEAPON
OF WAR

5 YEARS = 5 EUROS

STAND SPEAK RISE UP! HAS BEEN WORKING TO SUPPORT
SURVIVORS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE
AND CHILDREN BORN OF WAR FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS.

SUPPORT OUR CAUSE WITH A 5€ DONATION!



TO END RAPE
AS A WEAPON
OF WAR

In 2024, Stand Speak Rise Up! strengthened its strategy to raise greater awareness and mobilize more support: more advocacy, more reports, more content!

NEW VISUAL IDENTITY

- A new logo highlighting the association's core mission: "to end rape as a weapon of war."

ENHANCED DIGITAL STRATEGY

- Recruitment of a part-time Communications Officer
- Redesign of the website for more intuitive and informative navigation
- New editorial direction on Instagram: awareness, education, and testimonies

DIGITAL CAMPAIGNS

- "5 Years, 5 Euros": a symbolic fundraising appeal marking the association's 5th anniversary
- Participation in Giving Tuesday, the global day of generosity



JUSTINE MASIKA BIHAMBA
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Activist

“When you are abused, you lose hope, you lose your dignity. But the work we do is work that restores a smile. Why? Because often, women come to us and no longer want to live — they have been destroyed. But with our support, these women say, ‘I am a strong woman, I must fight, and I must also fight for others.’ That is why I fight: to give back a smile and strength to the victims of sexual violence.”

In Democratic Republic of the Congo

**1 WOMAN IS RAPED
EVERY 4 MINUTES**

Source: United Nations



AJNA JUSIC
Bosnia and Herzegovina

President and Founder of *Forgotten Children of War*

“During the war of aggression in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), between 30,000 and 50,000 women, girls, and men were raped. As a result of these war crimes, children were born. These children of war, of whom I am one, are often called a ‘hidden population’ because if people knew the circumstances of our birth, we would be exposed to stigma and discrimination. We are still subject to social condemnation, including political and legal rejection. This is precisely why our mothers often try to conceal the identity of our fathers, making it more difficult to map and bring together children born of rape in a given country.

We believe that children are independent individuals who should not suffer additional discrimination, and yet, in most cases, our mothers and Survivors are still denied the status that would grant them the rights they deserve as survivors of wartime sexual violence.”



SYLVIA ACAN

Uganda

**Director of Golden Women Vision in Uganda
Project Leader with Stand Speak Rise Up!**

"The partnership with Stand Speak Rise Up! has created great hope for these children. It used to be very difficult for them to access quality education.

Today, Stand Speak Rise Up! supports them, and they feel good, they are doing better! These children were deeply traumatized, [...] but the support from Stand Speak Rise Up! has helped them find the courage to say: 'Yes, I will not be chased out of the classroom, [...]. I have my school supplies, I can read, I can write, I can pay attention to what the teacher is teaching. I will listen and I will get the best grades.' And these are the very children who are now excelling the most in their classes, at all levels."



THE STAND SPEAK RISE UP! TEAM

The operational team of Stand Speak Rise Up! implements the strategic directions defined by the Board of Directors, which leads the association with commitment and high standards.

On a daily basis, the team manages and monitors projects, oversees partnerships, coordinates advocacy actions, handles communication, and organizes events. In close collaboration with Survivors, field partners, and

financial supporters, the team ensures the impact, consistency, and ethical standards of all actions carried out.

Its mission is also to embody and promote the association's values: listening, dignity, justice, and lasting support for Survivors and children born of rape.



The Stand Speak Rise Up! team: Clémence Lainé, Project Manager; Chloé Thomas, part-time Communication Officer; Emmylou Drys, replaced in 2025 by Valeria Rizzo, Fundraising Officer.

The Health and Afghanistan projects are implemented remotely and monitored by Dr. Hameed Haami.

Our amazing interns: Noussaïba Askar (2024), Margot Lemaire (2025), Mathilde Aubry (2025).

The Stand Speak Rise Up! team works in collaboration with the private team of Her Royal Highness for communication and event organization.

OUR PARTNERS

We thank each of Stand Speak Rise Up!'s partners who support us in our projects and events.



Would you like to support Stand Speak Rise Up!'s actions and stand alongside Survivors and children born of wartime rape?

Contact us at: followup@standspeakriseup.lu

Transparency with our donors and sponsors is essential.

Stand Speak Rise Up!’s accounts are audited annually by a certified accountant, approved at the General Assembly, and filed with the relevant state authorities. The association is committed to minimizing operating costs while ensuring fair compensation for its team.

Bilan Stand speak rise up! 2024	
1. PRODUCTS	
Earmarked donations	317 082,71€
Unrestricted donations	305 951,03€
Total products	623 033,74€
2. CHARGES	
OBJET SOCIAL	
Projects	
Project costs	-378 702,17€
Advocacy	
Survivor Encounters	-21 827,06€
Projections	-2 586,52€
Communication and awareness	
Publications	-5 442,57€
Support for social media and fundraising communication strategy	-6 200,17€
Website and licenses	-1 734,95€
Post-production of network content	-1 594,13€
Subtotal Corporate purpose	-418 087,57€
OPERATING COSTS	
Public repositories and monitoring	-7 965,13€
Rent	-1 800,00€
Assurances	-88,40€
Office supplies and telecommunications	-3 540,05€
Personnel costs	-55 459,29€
Employer charges	-11 425,53€
Travel and representation expenses	-5 467,79€
Bank charges	-1 493,58€
Social secretariat fees	-1 831,64€
Accounting and auditing fees	-2 925,00€
Subtotal Operating Costs	-91 996,41€
Total charges	-510 083,98€
RESULT	112 949,76€

Notes to the Annual Accounts
For the financial year ending December 31, 2024

NOTE 1 – General Information

The association Stand Speak Rise Up! (hereinafter referred to as SSRU) was incorporated on April 11, 2019, for an unlimited duration in accordance with the law of April 21, 1928 on non-profit associations and foundations.

The Association changed its corporate name following the extraordinary general assembly of November 16, 2019. The Association now exists under the name Stand Speak Rise Up!, abbreviated as SSRU.

The registered office is located at L-7739 Colmar-Berg, 8, an der Sang.

The financial year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of each year.

The purpose of the SSRU Association is to undertake any action of any nature and to take all initiatives deemed appropriate to put an end to sexual violence in sensitive areas.

NOTE 2 – Accounting Principles, Rules and Methods

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The annual accounts are prepared in accordance with Luxembourg legal and regulatory requirements, using the historical cost method and generally accepted accounting principles.

VALUATION METHODS
Foreign currency conversion

The Association keeps its accounts in EUR, and the balance sheet and profit and loss account are expressed in this currency.

All transactions denominated in a currency other than EUR are recorded in EUR at the exchange rate prevailing on the transaction date.

At the balance sheet closing date:

- Formation expenses and fixed assets denominated in a currency other than EUR are converted into

EUR at the historical exchange rate prevailing at the time of the transaction;

- Bank balances are converted at the exchange rates prevailing at the balance sheet closing date. Resulting exchange gains and losses are recorded in the profit and loss account of the financial year;
- Other assets and liabilities denominated in a currency other than EUR are valued individually at the lower (for assets), respectively the higher (for liabilities), of their value converted at the historical exchange rate or their value determined on the basis of exchange rates prevailing at the balance sheet date. As such, only unrealized exchange losses are recorded in the profit and loss account. Exchange gains are recognized when realized.

Where there is an economic link between an asset and a liability, they are assessed together according to the method described above, and only the net unrealized exchange loss is recorded in the profit and loss account.

RECEIVABLES

Current assets receivables are valued at their nominal value. A value adjustment is recorded when the estimated realizable value is lower than the nominal value.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recorded at their repayment value.

DONATIONS, BEQUESTS AND SUBSIDIES

Donations made to the SSRU Association are recorded as income on the date of receipt. Following a legislative change dated December 19, 2009, bequests and donations in favor of the Association exceeding EUR 30,000, which require a ministerial order, are only recognized as income on the date of receipt of such ministerial order.

GROSS RESULT

The gross result is reported in the “Income and Charges” account annexed hereto.

STAFF NUMBERS

On average during the 2024 financial year, the SSRU Association employed 2 full-time equivalent staff members. The headcount in 2023 was 1 employee.

OFF-BALANCE SHEET FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The Association has no financial commitments.

REMUNERATION, ADVANCES AND LOANS GRANTED TO MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OR SUPERVISORY BODIES

There were no remunerations other than those related to an employment contract. No loans were granted to members of the administrative and supervisory bodies. The function of administrator is honorary and does not give entitlement to any remuneration.

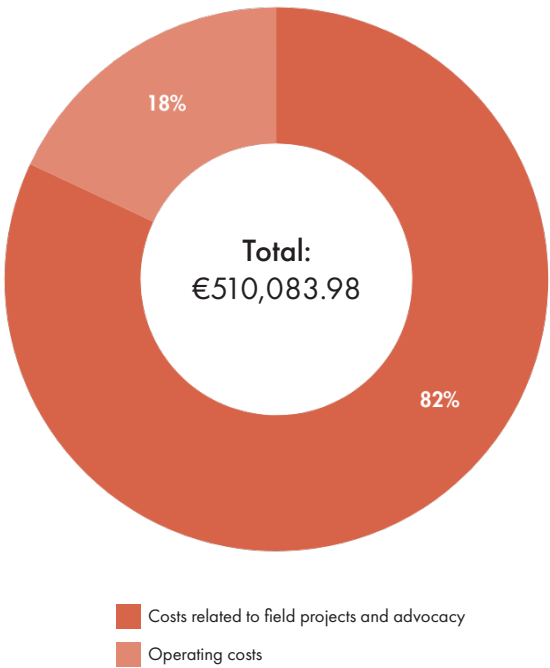
VALUATION OF VOLUNTEERING

In 2024, volunteer engagement within the association represented a significant contribution, estimated at EUR 163,200. This valuation highlights the dedication and invaluable involvement of the members of the Board of Directors, in particular Chékéba Hachemi, who, through their time and expertise, actively support the actions of the non-profit association Stand Speak Rise Up!.

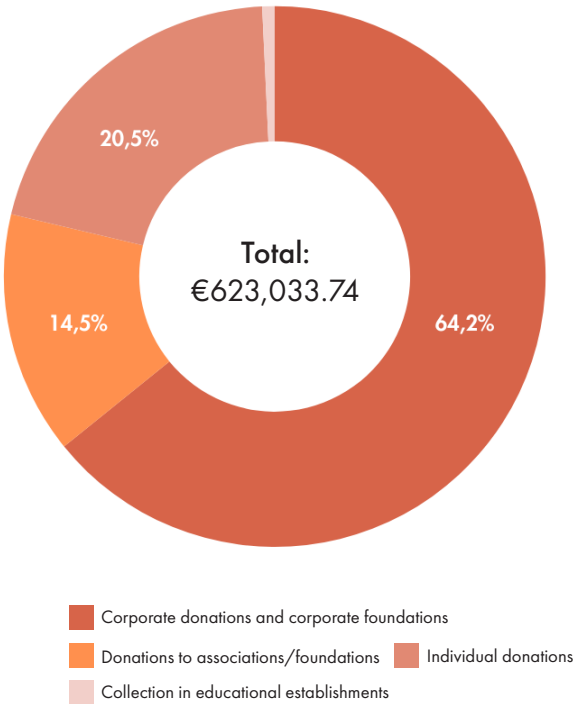
SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No significant events occurred after the closing date of these annual accounts.

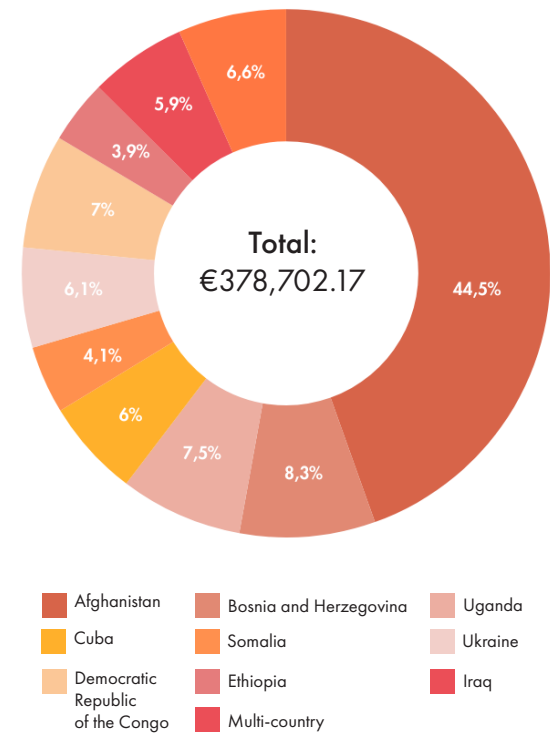
DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES



DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS



2023/24: Exceptional figures for Afghanistan, postponement of Afghanistan Libre projects via Stand Speak Rise Up!
Many donors want their donations to be allocated to Afghan women.



Stand Speak Rise Up! : 8, an der Sang 7739 Colmar-Berg, Luxembourg
followup@standspeakriseup.lu - standspeakriseup.lu

Editorial Direction: HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Chékéba Hachemi

Coordination and editing: Clémence Lainé, Shannez Touati

Graphic design: Chloé Thomas, Sophie Quinet

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TO END RAPE
AS A WEAPON
OF WAR

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Benefit from a tax deduction according to the legislation in your country of residence (100% for donations from €120 in Luxembourg, 66% of the donation in France).

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