

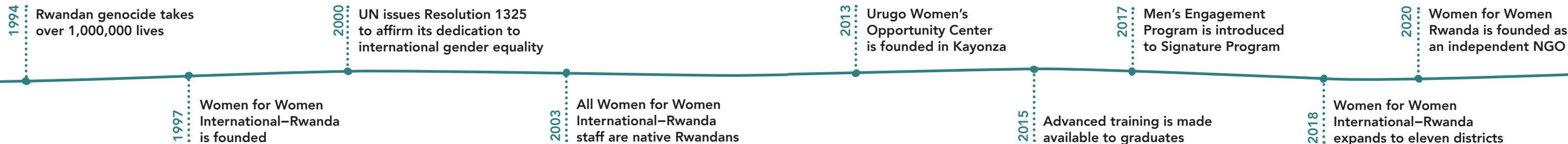


From Rwanda

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# Making the Leap





## From the Ground Up

It has been 26 years since the hundred-day genocide ripped through Rwanda. The massacre tore children from their mothers and cost nearly one million Rwandans their lives and even more their futures. Women make up the majority of survivors of the Rwandan genocide, and their steadfastness in the face of such daunting conflict represents a fraction of their strength. They were going to be the ones to pull their country forward, and we knew they needed global support. So, we teamed up with them. In 1997, Women for Women International–Rwanda was founded in Kigali. With little more than a handful of staff, a network of early and dedicated supporters, and a vision for something greater than what was, Women for Women International–Rwanda established itself as a stronghold of women and a pillar of our organization’s force for change.

Over the course of several years, Women for Women International–Rwanda blossomed into a program in eleven districts and a cornerstone of the communities that it served. Now, after reaching nearly 80,000 Rwandan women, partnering with the national government to establish the Urugo Women’s Opportunity Center, and weaving a support network that reaches every corner of the country, Women for Women International–Rwanda is bounding toward the next great step.

**“There is no woman amongst us that has no profitable skill...**

**Once you train a woman, you train a nation, you train the whole world.”**

— Valentine Mukarusa  
Graduate Network Chairperson, Nyaruguru District

## A Running Start

Through it all, you’ve been an essential force behind Women for Women International–Rwanda. It’s thanks in part to you that Rwandan women are taking an enormous leap forward, and it will be thanks to your continued support that they will go even further.

After almost two and a half decades of success, Women for Women International is extraordinarily proud to announce the graduation of Women for Women International–Rwanda into an independent, national organization. Founders Jacqui Sebageni, Radegonde Ndejuru, Immaculée Mukankubito, and Laurie Adams welcome you as a vital part of this milestone. We invite you to celebrate Women for Women Rwanda not just by making a charitable donation now but by joining and supporting a future for their program and community.

Your support made the Urugo Women’s Opportunity Center (WOC) possible, and through the WOC, Women for Women Rwanda has built a sturdy local brand at the crux of its community and national development. While the WOC is local, its impact is national. With access to income and a platform in the national market, women’s skills are extendable beyond the household, they are forces behind strong businesses, and they are assets to their global economy.

When people like you come together as links in our global community, no woman can fall through the cracks. As Women for Women Rwanda soars to new heights, we are heartened to have you alongside.

## The Leap

In this founding moment, Women for Women Rwanda is looking to the future. Women for Women Rwanda will be governed by a Board made up of leading actors from the public, community, and business sectors and it will be chaired by co-founder Jacqui Sebageni. Nationally sourced trainers and leadership will allow Women for Women Rwanda to continue programming seamlessly, and independence means a future determined by and for Rwandan women.

## Charting the Course: Antoinette Uwimana, Country Director

I joined the team six years ago when my country was in its most formative years. Following the genocide, for years, millions of women suffered lack of food and medicine and bore the burden of intense psychological and sexual trauma. Since Women for Women International–Rwanda was founded in Kigali, we have lengthened and deepened our training to include Village Savings and Loans Associations, formed a training-to-job pipeline with local private businesses including a large hotel chain, built a safe and peaceful community for women and their loved ones, and created lasting bonds with our national government.

There will always be more steps to take, and we’re prepared to take them in stride. In the coming years, Women for Women Rwanda will begin looking into how to enroll younger women and teenage mothers and will research potential relationships with local NGOs.

What we do is bring hope to the families of our participants. This transition is an opportunity to continue the legacy we have been building for 23 years.

## A Companion for Life

As we have from the very beginning, we will continue to support Women for Women Rwanda’s growth and see that they have everything they need to be everything they can be. **Between 2021 and 2023, we want to contribute \$1,697,000 to Women for Women Rwanda. This will help continue the core program with 300 graduates and 300 new enrollments each year, as well as provide staffing and cover other direct costs.**

As they take this momentous leap, Women for Women Rwanda will need unprecedented support and they’ll need it before the end of this year so they can begin 2021 with confidence and momentum. Today, at the intersection of so many pivotal international moments, Women for Women Rwanda shines through as a beacon



**We envision a society where women and girls have the economic and social power to lead communities towards sustainable development.**

for a hopeful future. They’ll always be part of our beginning, a companion for life in the fight for gender equality; now, they have created a future for themselves with boundless potential.

As they prepare to make this leap, we have a question for you: **Will you invest today in the future of Women for Women Rwanda?**

In solidarity, Rwandan women helped their country out of one of the deadliest conflicts in modern world history. Today, as one, they are building infrastructure to support their daughters, fighting for their voices, and striding towards equality for all. That’s the power of women, for women.

**Thank you for your support in the past and your partnership in the future.**

**Laurie Adams**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Antoinette Uwimana**  
Country Director, Rwanda



WOMEN *for* WOMEN  
*International*

**Hend Altamimi**

Director of Development

**202.521.8084**

haltamimi@womenforwomen.org

**Women for Women International**

2000 M Street, NW

Suite 200, Washington DC 20036

**202.737.7705**

[womenforwomen.org/rwandamakingtheleap](http://womenforwomen.org/rwandamakingtheleap)

