



# WAGE

*Our vision is a world in which women and girls enjoy equality, freedom from violence and poverty, and meaningful inclusion in the processes that shape their communities, nations, and international affairs.*

## About Women and Girls Empowered (WAGE)

Women and Girls Empowered (WAGE) is a global programming consortium to advance the status of women and girls, led by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in close partnership with the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), Grameen Foundation, Search for Common Ground (SFCG), and 43 resource partners. WAGE works to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) in target countries to improve the prevention of and response to gender-based violence; advance the women, peace, and security agenda; and support women's economic empowerment. In this context, WAGE provides direct assistance to women and girls, including information, resources, and services they need to succeed as active and equal participants in the global economy. WAGE also engages in collaborative research and learning to build a body of evidence on relevant promising practices in these thematic areas.



### Crosscutting Approaches

WAGE empowers women and girls by offering them the tools they need to increase their agency and collective voice, assert their rights, and thrive as changemakers. To account for the deeply interconnected nature of women's and girls' experiences, WAGE's initiatives employ approaches that are highly collaborative, integrated, multidisciplinary, and inclusive. For example, WAGE's first strategic initiative, Reducing Barriers to Women's Economic Empowerment in El Salvador and Honduras, takes a holistic view of the challenges that female entrepreneurs face in starting and growing sustainable businesses, including linkages between financial inclusion, intimate partner violence, and conflict.

### Reducing Barriers to Women's Economic Empowerment in El Salvador and Honduras

WAGE's first strategic initiative focuses on women's economic empowerment in El Salvador and Honduras. Together with Kiva—an online loan platform that connects lenders to indigent entrepreneurs across the globe to alleviate poverty—WAGE provides financial support to women entrepreneurs and works with local microfinance institutions (MFIs) and CSOs to reduce barriers that women face in starting and growing sustainable businesses. Under this initiative, a loan matching fund will revolve over the course of three years to match loans posted on Kiva's platform and financed by individual lenders. Recognizing that credit alone is not sufficient to meet the multifaceted needs of women entrepreneurs, WAGE will implement a series of technical assistance interventions, informed by *de facto* and *de jure* in-country assessments, to improve women's financial inclusion and economic participation in El Salvador and Honduras.



### Global Connections

In addition to core partners, WAGE includes 43 international, regional, local, and corporate resource partners with niche specializations in women's and girls' empowerment to complement the consortium's broad expertise and extend its global reach. WAGE has strong ties to a broad and growing global network of over 370 women-led and women-focused CSOs that implement initiatives in WAGE's core thematic areas.

## Consortium Partners

WAGE brings together four leading international organizations with decades of experience implementing long-term and rapid response programming to promote gender equality. The strength and uniqueness of our consortium lie in our complementary expertise in analyzing and addressing gender gaps around the world and a track record of successful programing in more than 100 countries, including some of the most fragile and conflict-affected environments globally.

### American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative

ABA ROLI is an international development program that promotes justice, economic opportunity, and human dignity through the rule of law. For more than 25 years, ABA ROLI has worked with local partners in more than 100 countries to strengthen legal institutions, support legal professionals, foster respect for human rights, and advance public understanding of the law and of citizen rights. ABA ROLI is a leader in improving women's legal protections, enhancing their access to justice, responding to sexual and gender-based violence, and promoting women's inclusion in the legal profession and in legal reform processes.

### Center for International Private Enterprise

CIPE has over 30 years of experience working with chambers of commerce, business associations, think tanks, and other CSOs to strengthen democracy around the globe through private enterprise and market-oriented reform. CIPE is a renowned expert in building gender-inclusive business ecosystems, empowering female entrepreneurs, supporting women's business associations, and promoting women's leadership in chambers of commerce. CIPE has worked with local CSOs in more than 60 countries and has implemented over 300 programs empowering women.

### Grameen Foundation

Grameen is an award-winning organization which has worked for 20 years to enable the poor, especially women, to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty through a mix of vital financial, health, and agricultural services. Grameen increases women's access to information and finance (including through digital financial services), builds their financial literacy, and strengthens their networks and sources of capital. To accomplish its goals, Grameen brokers cross-sectoral partnerships with CSOs, financial service providers, government agencies, and other actors.

### Search for Common Ground

SFCG is the world's largest dedicated conflict transformation organization. Founded in 1982, SFCG works to change the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and toward cooperative solutions. As a leader in implementing "women, peace, and security" programs, SFCG empowers women and girls to engage in peacebuilding and civil society leadership, to act as mediators, to prevent gender-based violence, and to be leaders in countering violent extremism. SFCG has worked with women-focused CSOs in over 45 countries.



STAY CONNECTED

Photos by Paulina Rudnicka