WOMEN ENABLED INTERNATIONAL

Our Existence Is Resistance!

ANNUAL REPORT | 2025

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Dear Community,

The world feels like it is on fire. Literally and metaphorically. Today, more than ever, the responsibility to preserve democracy and human rights must be shared and intersectional.

Amidst increasing backlash against gender equality and disability rights, shrinking civic spaces, and chronic under-resourcing, 2025 reminded us that working at our intersection is more important than ever before. Amplifying the voices of women and girls with disabilities, and gender-diverse people with disabilities is not a luxury; it's a necessity in the current global polycrisis.

It may seem that we are perpetually angry when we demand that gender and disability be included everywhere. We are. However, our rage is as transformative as it is justified. It is what pushes us forward, grounded in the hope we hold for a better world.

This is why, in 2025, we positioned our work and our partners' work in regional and global convenings; connected our movement with solidarity, strategy, and joy; shared our research, knowledge, and experience; and used storytelling to rewrite the narrative about our lives and our leadership.

At Women Enabled International, we are proud to say:

OUR EXISTENCE IS RESISTANCE.

Our bodies are territories and they count.

Our voices are loud.

Our stories matter.

We are delighted to be part of a powerful and global feminist disability collective, and we keep doing the work we do with a deep commitment and responsibility to the communities we are a part of and accountable to.

With this report, we celebrate where we are and look to a future of continued soli-darity and collaboration.

Thank you, always, for fighting alongside us,

Maryangel García-Ramos
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Catherine Hyde Townsend
BOARD PRESIDENT

2025 Snapshot: Impact by the Numbers

WEI's transformative work has impact beyond our organization. During 2025 we expanded programs to support and train feminist disabled leaders across myriad advocacy and movement building initiatives. The numbers below are a snapshot of the broad scope and influence WEI has at the intersection of gender and disability.

1500+

people took part in crucial conversations around gender and disability. Across **10** regional and global convenings, WEI staff and **11** WEI-supported partners co-hosted and spoke at **30+** events, bringing intersectional perspectives to spaces where decisions are made and ideas are shaped.

400+

partners and allies connected, built solidarity, and shared knowledge. Representing communities around the world came together across **6** online events to strengthen the movement and advance shared priorities.

26,000+

followers engaged with disability rights and intersectional justice online. Through **16** WEI-developed virtual campaigns, our community amplified the rights of women, girls, and gender-diverse people with disabilities and brought these issues to a wider audience.

280+

partners helped create knowledge grounded in community realities. Their expertise and insights informed **4** publications, ensuring that our work continues to be reflective of our communities' knowledge and responsive to our communities' needs and priorities.

40+

organizations of people with disabilities and 17 individual activists partnered with us to stand together for the rights of women, girls, and gender-diverse people in Palestine. Together, we organized, drafted and signed the Solidarity Submission on Article 11 of the CRPD on the Situation of persons with disabilities in Palestine, Gaza, and the West Bank, which we distributed widely through collaborations with partners and allies.

400+

activists with disabilities from 16 organizations helped shape global standards on intersectional discrimination through WEI-led information sessions, submissions, and consultations on the ***CRPD Draft Guidelines on Multiple and Intersectional Discrimination Against Women and Girls with Disabilities.***

10

submissions to the guidelines involved WEI, leading 3 and providing technical and/or financial support for 7. These submissions enabled local realities and the most excluded intersections to be centered in the shaping of international human rights standards.

350+

academics from different fields engaged with gender and disability justice. Through WEI-led panels and workshops, academics explored disability inclusion, human rights, intersectionality, and research rooted in the lived experiences of people with disabilities.

35

community members with disabilities from 3 grassroots organizations were reached through our inaugural cohort of the "Our Bodies, Our Rights" train the-trainer workshop curriculum, launched in India, Nigeria, and the United States. By equipping leaders with knowledge, tools, and rights-based approaches to take back to their communities, these workshops impacted **100s** of women and gender-diverse people with disabilities in 2025.

590+

people with and without disabilities accessed essential SRHR services in Fiji this year, through WEI's Community-Based Health Officers Program. 2025 also marked a big milestone: our community-based SRHR officers program reached **1500+** beneficiaries since its launch.

We continued to strengthen our internal culture through a feminist and disability justice approach.

We launched the WEI Care Program to make rest, connection, and collective well-being part of our organizational feminist practice and commitment. This included:

- » **7** care sessions.
- » Countless Care Buddies meetings.
- » **48** Community Coffees for informal connections and community building.

30

days of organizational-wide closure and a practice of rest as disability justice, to recharge and resist burnout.

16

community learning spaces to learn, connect, and grow together. From Disability Culture Club to Staff Book Club, we fostered feminist reflections, knowledge-sharing, connection, and joy.

Our Work During 2025

2025 was a year of connection, collective action, and change. Across communities, movements, institutions, and global forums, WEI and our partners amplified the voices, rights, and leadership of women, girls, and gender-diverse people with disabilities.

On women, girls, and gender-diverse people being increasingly activated and organized:

Our Bodies, Our Rights!

To respond to the increased restrictions women and gender-diverse people with disabilities are facing in accessing information about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV), WEI developed the Our Bodies, Our Rights! program.

In 2025, WEI supported its first cohort of feminist disabled leaders to facilitate, in their own communities, the workshop, Our Bodies, Our Rights! Addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Gender-Based Violence for Women and Young People with Disabilities.

The workshop, designed by WEI and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with significant collaboration from grassroots organizations, provided tools and technical guidance for facilitators with disabilities to teach other women, gender-diverse, and young people with disabilities about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and their right to a life free of gender-based violence.

Following a train-the-trainer model, participants concluded the workshop better equipped to both advocate for these rights themselves and support others in their community in doing the same.

29 of WEI's partners from different regional and global networks of women and gender-diverse people with disabilities were invited to apply for funding to host the workshop in their own communities. After careful review of the applicants' goals for the workshop, WEI selected, trained, and funded three feminist disabled leaders and their organizations from three different continents.

Advocacy Across Continents

With dedicated funding, WEI's technical assistance, and their own expertise, these leaders organized and trained **35 women** with disabilities in **India, Nigeria, and the United States.**

"Now, I know much better than what I [knew] earlier about sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence. Now I will not whisper anymore...This type of workshop is needed more. It helps us to share the experiences and knowledge."

—Workshop participant, India

"I will use the knowledge to educate others, support people in my community, and speak up against violence and discrimination... [This workshop] has given me confidence and the right information to advocate for inclusion and protection of persons with disabilities against all illegal actions."

—Workshop participant, Nigeria

"Now, with the knowledge I gained through the workshop I feel more inclined to use my voice in certain situations."

—Workshop participant, United States

These **35 trained participants** now have the tools and knowledge to **impact hundreds more in their communities.** In fact, **84%** said they would feel very comfortable leading their own workshops in the future, and many shared how the workshop strengthened their resolve and capacity for changemaking.

40% OF FEMINIST DISABLED LEADERS REPORTED AN INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS.

68% OF FEMINIST DISABLED LEADERS REPORTED AN INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

On key stakeholders and changemakers recognizing and investing in feminist disabled leadership:

Gender on the Agenda at the Global Disability Summit

The Global Disability Summit (GDS) convenes governments, philanthropies, UN agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and civil society leaders to shape the future of disability rights and inclusive development. As one of the most influential global convenings in the disability movement, it offered a critical opportunity to influence agendas, build partnerships, and mobilize resources. However, this important global space, once again, left gender and intersectionality out of the official agenda.

In response, WEI championed a bold message at GDS 2025:

The Future of Disability Rights is Feminist.

Together with feminist disabled leaders from around the world, we worked to elevate the voices, priorities, and expertise of women and gender-diverse people with disabilities. At the same time, we engaged funders and influential decision-makers on the urgent need for greater investment in organizations working at the intersection of gender and disability.

Our goal was not only to ensure feminist perspectives were present in the conversation, but to help shift who is recognized, resourced, and empowered to lead.

Building Collective Power

Ahead of the Summit, **WEI convened with more than 30 feminists with disabilities and allies to assess the current political and funding landscape,** identify shared priorities, and develop key advocacy messages.

With a common agenda, participants carried these messages throughout the Summit, from the Civil Society Forum to side events and high-level discussions. Together, we called for sustained, core, and flexible funding, while making the case that feminist disabled leadership must be recognized as essential to achieving disability justice.

Creating Space for Feminist Leadership

To resist the lack of focus on gender and disability, WEI transformed its exhibition booth into a **vibrant community hub, opening the space to 10 feminist-led organizations and allies** that did not otherwise had a space. The spot was theirs to showcase their work, engage with Summit participants, and spotlight commitments advancing gender and disability justice.

More than a physical presence, the booth became **a feminist safe space and a catalyst for connection, visibility, and influence for our community and by our community.**

"It felt like a real act of solidarity. Having this physical space has really made a difference—just to share our message, to meet people who come up to speak to us."

—Anna Ruddock, Health and Disability Justice Consultant, supporting ADD International's Fairer Funding Campaign.

During its takeover, Anna used the platform to advocate for **funding that is longer-term, flexible, participatory**, less restrictive, and directly accessible to disability justice activists.

"We are committing to bridging the gap between the global gender and disability justice movements. This is something that Women Enabled knows well. This means funding organizations at the nexus of gender and disability, supporting leadership development, and new narratives about the power and resilience of women and girls."

—Catherine Hyde-Townsend, Senior Advisor for Disability Inclusion at the Ford Foundation. Board President at Women Enabled International.

Catherine used her featured spot on the booth to highlight the Ford Foundation's **US $15 million, three-year investment to advance global disability rights,** which was announced during GDS.

Making a Feminist Future Visible

Our work during GDS contributed to a growing recognition that **disability rights and gender justice are inseparable.** The coordinated movement of gender and disability helped move feminist disabled leadership further into the mainstream of global disability advocacy and strengthened momentum for the investments needed to sustain it.

Our Impact at GDS

500+

people were mobilized by WEI in an act of solidarity for an intersectional disability movement to wear a purple bandana throughout the Summit—a Latin American feminist resistance symbol that signaled to others their commitment to intersectional feminism and disability rights.

200+

Summit participants joined three side and parallel events co-sponsored by WEI on discrimination and violence against women with disabilities and their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

60+

participants engaged in key conversations and reflections around disability and feminism in our booth.

The purple (violet) bandana has been used across Latin American countries, and other countries in the Global South, to represent feminist activism, and the feminist movement overall.

30+

feminist disabled leaders and allies came together for a strategic meeting to identify shared priorities and advance a collective agenda for GDS.

10

feminist-led disability and ally organizations from around the world —including GDS commitment makers— shared WEI's exhibition space, taking over the space to showcase their work, share their priorities, and connect with Summit participants, reflecting WEI's understanding that our work is stronger when done in community.

On human rights standards continuing to be developed and being increasingly implemented on the ground:

Setting Standards for Inclusive Feminist Research

Legal capacity violations disproportionately impact women and gender-diverse people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities. Yet, qualitative data on how these violations impact SRHR remains scarce. This is why we created the Legal Capacity Project.

Recognizing the importance of data to inform human rights standards and solutions responsive to the needs and priorities of women, girls, and gender-diverse people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, **WEI partnered with 8 organizations of persons with disabilities*** to develop qualitative research connecting legal capacity and SRHR violations.

This report is **unique and innovative** not only because it gathered crucial data, but also because of its **inclusive methodology.** It was **designed to center the leadership and expertise of women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, both as researchers, advocates and participants.**

The methodology, first of its kind, intentionally equipped and compensated women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to co-design the project and lead the field research, challenging their deep-rooted exclusion from traditional research processes.

The **2-year global research project gathered the lived experiences of over 100 women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and led to the report, "My Body, (but not) My Choice,"** published in both **a technical and an easy-to-understand version.**

* Disability Rights Fund (DRF), Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) Global, Inclusion International, Asociación Liber (Liber), Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH), Psychiatric Survivors Association of Fiji (PSA), Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), and Triumph Mental Health Support and Recovery Program (TRIUMPH)

The report includes:

- An exploration on the many ways in which denials of legal capacity negatively impact how women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities access SRHR, including accessing healthcare and information and making decisions about marriage and having children.

- An analysis of the compounding factors that perpetuate these injustices, showing how institutionalization and gender-based violence fuel legal capacity violations.

- Conclusions with actionable recommendations to stakeholders working at the intersection of disability and gender.

To ensure the recommendations were practical, WEI sought the input of States, UN agencies, and representatives from the disability and SRHR movements through an interactive legal capacity and SRHR workshop convened by WEI during CoSP 2025.

> *"What I liked the most [about the Legal Capacity Project] was that I was able to do the project with people from other countries [...] And at all times, I felt heard; I didn't feel different from others. Totally different [from what happens] in real life."*
>
> *— María Pino, researcher with an intellectual disability, Spain*

Our Numbers

7

feminist leaders—who are exceptional researchers—with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities led focus groups and interviews of **103** research participants from 5 countries (Fiji, Kenya, Spain, Uganda, and the United States).

30

high-level stakeholders, representatives of States, disability and SRHR organizations, donors, and UN agencies, participated in our CoSP multistakeholder workshop.

200+

people from around the world attended the online launch of the "My Body, (but not) My Choice" Report.

40+

people attended our in-person launch of the Easy Read version at the Inclusion International World Congress.

On WEI being a resilient and innovative organization, accountable to the diversity, priorities, and needs of our broader global community:

Meeting the Moment for Our Movement

2025 saw a sharp decline in funding for human rights and international development, along with targeted political attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion. As always, women, girls, and gender-diverse people with disabilities found themselves at the frontlines of the consequences of this rollback of rights. Being a community-led organization with global reach, our political and financial landscape quickly changed. And we responded.

18 months into our 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, we took stock of this shifting environment, reallocating our time and resources to where our global community most needed us. This internal analysis confirmed that our theory of change is still sound: **progress depends on feminist disabled leaders harnessing our full potential and power as changemakers to shape a world that values our voices and experiences.** However, we also identified a need to be more focused in how we harness this power, and more intentional in how we build an ecosystem that recognizes that disability inclusion is essential to addressing the world's biggest problems.

2025 Strategic Realignment Timeline

The result of this strategic realignment is a bold strategy that centers our movement to continue creating real, tangible change for women, girls, and gender-diverse people with disabilities around the world. Over the next three years, we will:

- Identify, invest in, and collaborate with **100 Feminist Disabled Changemakers** to strengthen their work, further its reach, and ensure its sustainability.
- Work hand in hand with these leaders to advance **100 Advocacy Initiatives** at the local, regional, and international levels.
- Co-create an ethical and participatory method to tell **100 Feminist Disabled Stories**, rewriting the narrative around gender and disability, one story at a time.
- Identify, collaborate with, and strengthen the organizational capacity of **100 Allies for Inclusive Action** across sectors who recognize that gender equality depends on disability inclusion and are committed to building a truly intersectional feminist future.

"Centering the leadership of feminist disabled changemakers, resourcing our work, and supporting our communities is not only the right thing to do—it is an urgent strategic imperative for effectively resisting democratic backsliding and advancing human rights in this rapidly evolving context."

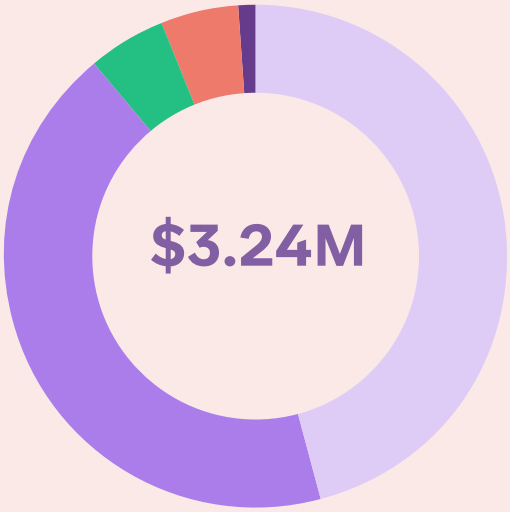
—Maryangel García-Ramos, Executive Director, WEI

Our initiatives are ambitious, but the moment is NOW. Our response to the ever-evolving polycrisis will continue to be rooted in local realities, and our communities will continue to guide our priorities.

2025 Financials

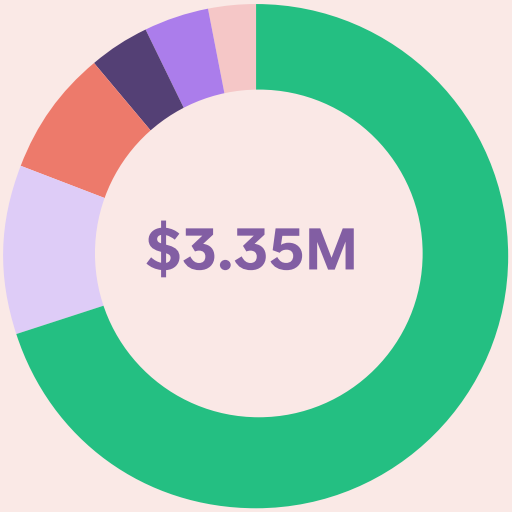
2025 was a year of uncertainty with significant turbulence in the political and fundraising landscape, but it was also a year of careful stewardship and resilience for WEI. We acted decisively by fortifying our reserves, containing costs, and forging ahead with our core mission. The asset base we had previously built up gave us the opportunity to strengthen our organization to be well poised to implement our ambitious initiatives in 2026. The financial future will not be easy, but we are seasoned and prepared for the challenges to come.

Funding



- Carryover Funds — 46%
- Private Foundations — 43%
- Public Funding — 5%
- Multilateral — 5%
- Other — 1%

Expenses



- Personnel — 70%
- Travel — 11%
- Partner Payments, Consultants — 8%
- Development — 4%
- Accessible Meetings — 4%
- Other — 3%

WEI invests a significant share of our resources in the invaluable staff expertise that is required to generate our mission impact.

Key Stats

81%
of budget spent

$5.72M
in assets available within 1 year

$1.56M
6-month operating reserve maintained

To those who believe that the intersection of gender and disability is crucial and cross-cutting: Thank you!

Women Enabled International is profoundly grateful to the following organizations for their support in 2025. Your continued investment is both a powerful act of solidarity, reflecting a shared understanding that disability is an everything issue, and a commitment that has helped us continue our vital work defending the rights of women, girls, and gender-diverse people with disabilities.

Channel Foundation • Disability Rights Fund • Equal Justice Works • Ford Foundation • Foundation for a Just Society • Gucci Foundation International Community Foundation • Kering Foundation • PRBB Foundation • The New York Women's Foundation • The Wild Gifting Project • UNFPA • UN Women • Wellspring Philanthropic Fund • WITH Foundation • Women Deliver

Credits

Women Enabled International (WEI) is the leading global organization at the intersection of gender and disability. As feminists with disabilities and allies ourselves, we work to create structural change by centering and amplifying the work and knowledge of local leaders to push for meaningful participation and impactful solutions.

This impact report was brought to you by:

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