



Women's
Justice
Initiative

**ANNUAL REPORT
2018**



— A YEAR OF GROWTH —

Dear Friends,

2018 was a year of significant growth for WJI as we expanded our work to a second municipality, reached more individuals, and made substantial progress toward ending the cycle of violence and gender inequality in Guatemala. In July 2018, WJI began replicating our work in the municipality of Tecpán. With a grant from the United Nations Democracy Fund, WJI will expand its work to 12 new communities in Tecpán over the next two years.

In 2018, 4,857 women, men, and girls participated in our programs, benefiting over 20,000 individuals and transforming families and their communities. WJI provided legal counsel in 444 cases and 651 women and girls graduated from our legal empowerment courses. WJI's 31 Community Advocates were at the center of our work, teaching rights-based workshops in their communities, taking on local leadership roles, and providing accompaniment to women seeking legal services. WJI trained 125 government service providers including police, judicial, and health officials, and partnered with 155 community leaders to establish community-based responses to gender-based violence.

The challenges remain great. Over the past five years,

we have witnessed a transformation in the face of migration at the U.S. southern border. In 2018, 40% of the migrants apprehended were children and families, up from 10% in 2012. Many of those families were Guatemalans escaping violence, lack of government protection, and poverty. Experts point to violence against women and girls and impunity for perpetrators as critical factors in the new migration trends. Many women are forced to flee Guatemala with their children for their safety and survival. WJI's work to combat violence against women and girls is addressing one of the root causes of migration. By protecting women and girls and building safer communities, WJI is creating conditions in which fewer families will be forced to flee their homes.

In 2018, WJI surpassed its goals and continued its work to build a safer and more just society for Guatemalan women and girls. We hope you will join us in supporting and protecting the rights of women and girls.

With gratitude,

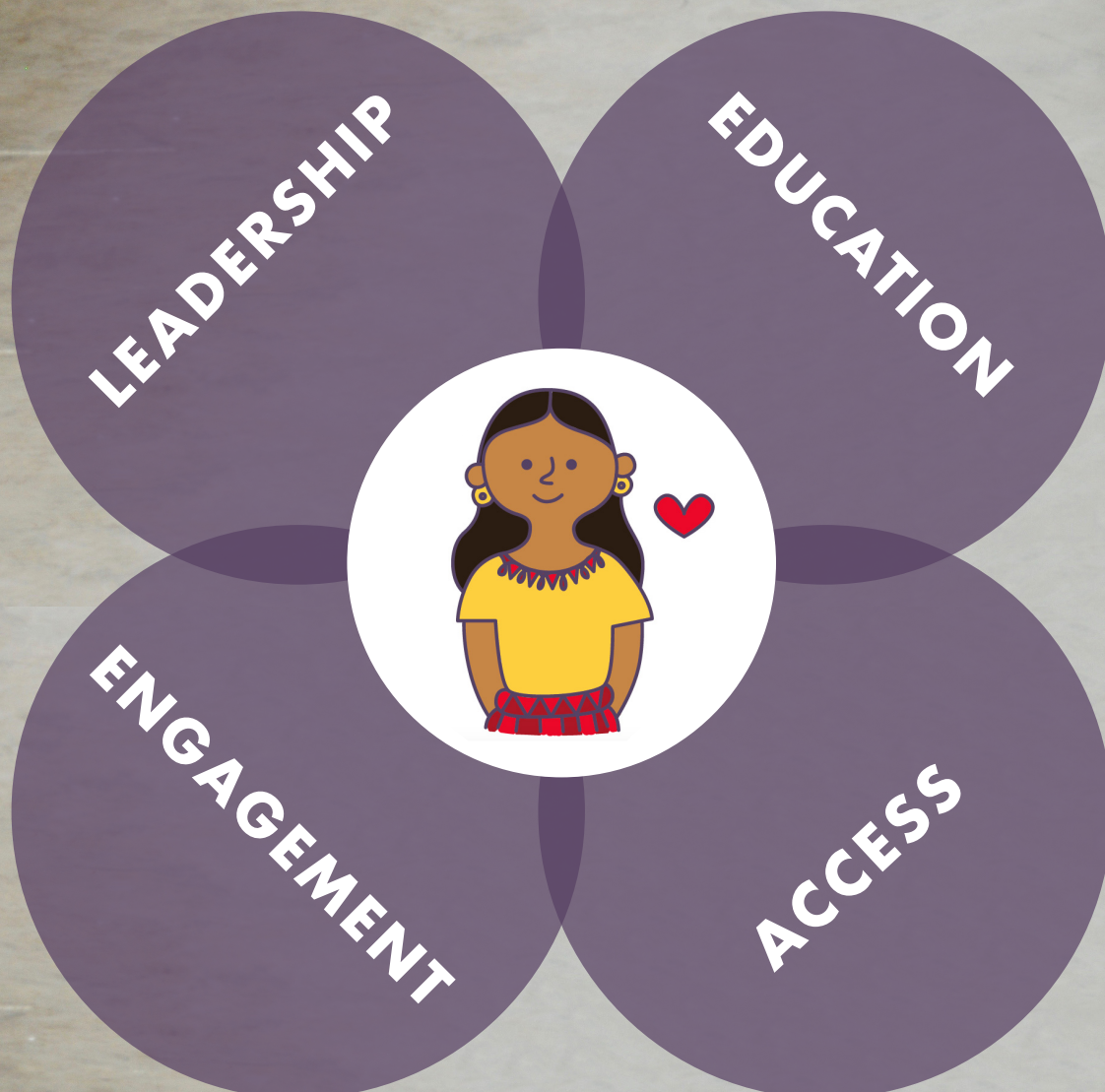
Clara Ferraro
*President of the Board
of Directors*

Kate Flatley
Executive Director



ABOUT WJI

The Women's Justice Initiative (WJI) improves the lives of indigenous Guatemalan women and girls through education, access to legal services, and gender-based violence prevention. WJI invests in women's empowerment through an innovative, community-based approach.



OUR APPROACH

WOMEN AT RISK

Guatemala ranks
3rd lowest
in Latin America
on the
Gender Inequality Index

By age 18,
40%
of indigenous
girls are married

1 in 3
women experience
intimate partner
violence

2018 RESULTS

4,857

individuals participated in WJI's programs, benefiting over

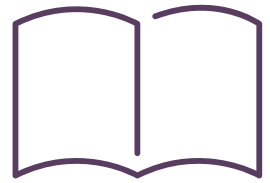
20,000

people in 30 communities



WJI expanded into a **second** municipality

100%



of WJI's services were offered in Kaqchikel



444

legal cases



651

women and girls graduated from legal empowerment courses



ACCESS

Legal Services Program

The Legal Services Program provides free bilingual legal services directly to women and girls in need by bringing lawyers and paralegals to their communities. WJI's mobile outreach ensures that the most marginalized women can access legal support and counseling.

WJI provided
legal services for:

290

survivors of
violence

145

property
rights cases

158

child support, custody,
and paternity cases

87

survivors of
violence received
psychological
counseling

20

women
received
land titles

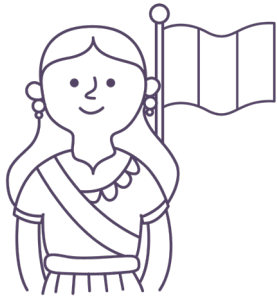




LEADERSHIP

Community Advocates Program

The Community Advocates Program supports local women and girls to become women's rights educators, grassroots legal advocates, and mentors to their peers. Advocates multiply WJI's impact by facilitating workshops in their communities and providing accompaniment to women seeking legal services.



31 Women were trained as Community Advocates



18 Advocates facilitated rights education workshops with women and girls

Advocates conducted
436
home visits



Community Advocate Spotlight:

FLORY'S STORY

"It is important that women support other women. I can provide help to other women in my position as a Community Advocate.

When we women dare to leave our homes, to participate in community activities, or to seek help in institutions, then other women see this and it helps them to also stop living with violence. Sometimes you cannot imagine the places where women find us and tell us their problems, sometimes even at the community washing area. We tell the woman that she has rights and deserves to live a life without violence and that we can help her to seek support.

Those of us who have already received training from WJI and know about our rights can guide other women. The first time I accompanied a woman to WJI's office, I felt so nervous, my heart was in my throat. After that experience, I had more courage and now I feel at ease. When I first accompanied a woman to the police station for her case, I felt nervous again, but each experience helps a lot. The police know me now and they say hello to me in the street. That means that little by little the authorities are recognizing us.



Now, I am not afraid
anymore. Now, I value
myself, and this is
what I would like for
other women in my
community.

We women can do many things, that perhaps at one time we thought only men could do. For example, participating in a community meeting or speaking in public, now I realize that we can also do all of this. This is how I have begun to feel over the past two years, but all of this has come from my work with WJI. **Now everything is different."**

EDUCATION

Women's Rights Education Program

The Women's Rights Education Program is a six-month legal literacy and empowerment course that educates women on asserting their rights.

Women receive training on issues of gender equality, violence against women, sexual and reproductive rights, and property rights.



1,116
women
participated in the
program



42% of participants sought legal aid from WJI,

an increase
from 4%

97% of participants could describe at least three of their rights

an increase
from 3%



“As an indigenous woman, I have faced many challenges in my life. For that reason, I want to inspire other women from communities like mine and show them that it does not matter if we are women or indigenous, that it does not matter what obstacles are in our way; we have rights.”

— ELVIA RAQUEC —

Programs Director

Elvia Raquec, WJI’s Programs Director has been with WJI since our founding in 2011. Elvia grew up in a small rural community in Patzún, Guatemala. When she was twelve, her father took her out of school because she was a girl. Elvia spent the next two years convincing her father to let her continue her studies. She vowed to show her parents and community that women, and not just men, can study and become professionals. She is the first person, man or woman, from her community to graduate from university. Although Elvia broke the cycle of inequality and became an example for girls in her community, her success is far from the norm in Guatemala and she has become an advocate and mentor for women in rural communities.

Since joining WJI, Elvia’s extensive experience implementing and overseeing women’s rights programs in indigenous rural communities has shown her passion, leadership, and dedication to fueling social change in Guatemala. Elvia has played a critical role in the development and execution of innovative initiatives to provide access to justice for women and girls. Elvia is an inspiring leader and champion of women’s rights.

JUSTICE

EDUCATION

Adolescent Girls Program

WJI's Adolescent Girls Program works to prevent early and forced marriage by improving girls' knowledge of their rights, transforming local norms that condone child marriage, and ensuring parents and community leaders take action to delay early marriage.



320

girls participated in the **Girls Empowerment, Rights, and Leadership Course**



157

parents and community leaders gained skills to **prevent child marriage**

40%

increase in girls who plan to get **married after 21 years of age**





ENGAGEMENT

Partnering with Community Actors

WJI trains community leaders and government officials to improve local responses to violence against women and girls. WJI partners with local leaders to develop Community Action Plans that prevent and respond to gender-based violence and child marriage. By building the capacity of police, health, and judicial officials, WJI improves their responses to cases of violence to ensure that women and girls receive adequate support and protection.



From 2016 to 2018, case referrals **increased by**

192%

18

Community Action Plans were enacted to combat violence against women and girls



WJI TRAINED:

125

police officers, health providers, government officials, and teachers and

+

155

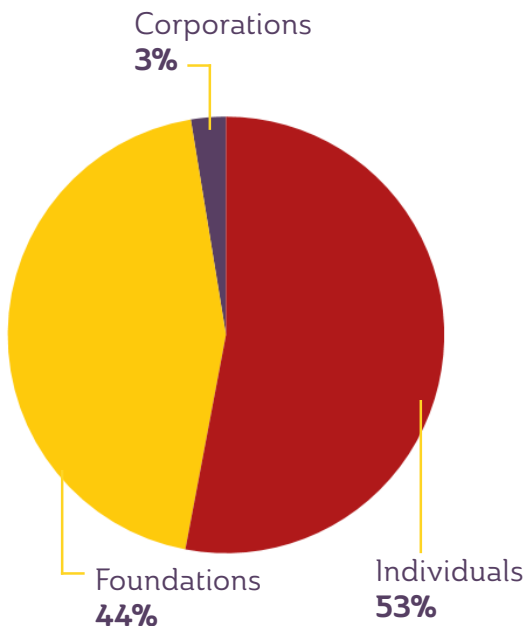
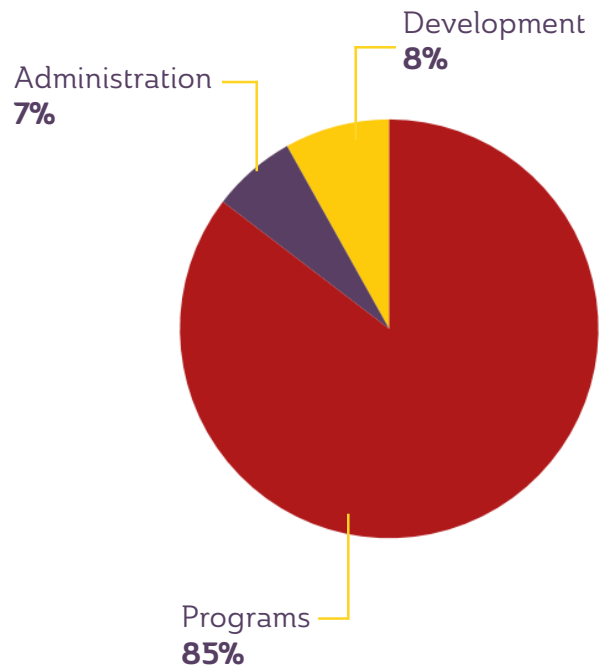
community leaders

**TO IMPROVE
RESPONSES TO GENDER-
BASED VIOLENCE**

FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

Programs	\$199,445
Administration	\$15,190
Development	\$18,959
TOTAL	\$233,594



REVENUE

Individuals	\$159,198
Foundations	\$133,538
Corporations	\$7,750
TOTAL	\$300,486

RESERVE \$66,892

2018 financial information
reflects audited results

OUR IMPACT TO DATE



100%

of women affirmed that they felt stronger and safer because of WJI

98%

of women reported that WJI has improved their lives

95%

of women affirmed that WJI's programs prevented violence in their lives



+15,000
direct beneficiaries

+50,000
indirect beneficiaries

+500 community leaders,
police, and government
officials trained

+1,300 legal cases



**THANK YOU
for your
support!**



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