



# DSW IN 2017

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

# DSW: WORKING TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE!

# AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Renate Bähr  
Executive Director, DSW

THROUGHOUT 2017, DSW SUCCESSFULLY RAN **39 PROJECTS**

WE RAISED AROUND **7.9 MILLION EUR** FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DONORS.

ALMOST **84 PERCENT** OF OUR EXPENSES WENT INTO PROJECT FUNDING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

OVER **35,000 YOUNG PEOPLE** RECEIVED SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND SUPPLIES FROM HEALTH CENTRES THROUGH OUR YOUTH-TO-YOUTH INITIATIVE IN ETHIOPIA, KENYA, AND TANZANIA.

WE ARE RUNNING **THREE TRAINING CENTRES** IN ETHIOPIA, TANZANIA, AND UGANDA.

A TOTAL OF **172 DEDICATED STAFF** IN **SIX COUNTRIES** WORKED TIRELESSLY TO REALISE DSW'S VISION OF A BETTER WORLD WHERE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE CAN FULFIL THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL.

We asked Renate Bähr about her thoughts on DSW's lasting success and her vision for the future.

**You have been working at DSW for more than 20 years, and have been Executive Director for over ten years. What are you most proud of during this time?**

I am particularly proud of the lasting impact of our work. Even many years after a project has ended, I am happy to say that most of our groups and clubs are still active – and without our intervention! This shows me that our approach works. It also shows that sustainability only works once all facets of the community are included such as parents and decision-makers.

I am also proud of the trust that donors have placed in our work, such as the European Union and the Hewlett Foundation, who approved large projects worth more than one million euros each. This, of course, also applies to other organizations, and indeed political decision-makers, who continue to stand with us and support us in our work.

**You were in our project countries in east Africa several times in the past year. What impressed you most?**

I am always fascinated by the great enthusiasm with which young people are involved in our projects, with how they pass their newly gained knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights to others in their communities. They are the real drivers of change in their societies! Often, it only takes a small nudge by us to develop their self-confidence and to fully develop their own potential.

**What do you feel were the biggest challenges for DSW in the past year?**

DSW, as well as many other non-US organizations around the world, were dismayed when the US Administration cut their funds for international family planning. This has dramatic consequences especially for girls and women in developing countries. Due to the lack of education and contraception, unintended pregnancies, and thus unsafe abortions will increase. DSW is also affected by these budget cuts. Therefore, we are now increasingly relying on other sources of funding for our vital work – both from private donors and from foundations and public donors.

**What plans does DSW have for the near future?**

On the one hand, we want to further expand the capabilities of local organizations in east Africa – especially in advocacy, but also in communication, and impact measurement. In this way, we want to enable independence. By doing this, we will ensure that the changes introduced are continued and have a lasting, sustainable effect. I am very hopeful for the future of our work and the incredible achievements we will continue to make long into the future.



Renate Bähr visiting a DSW Youth Club in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia.



# FOUR GOALS...

We launched a new Strategic Plan in 2017.  
As we work towards 2030, DSW will focus on:

# ...ONE VISION!

Our VISION is for a healthy and sustainable world in which all young people can realise their true potential.

## GOAL 1

### FOSTERING DEMAND FOR, AND ACCESS TO, HEALTH INFORMATION, HEALTH SUPPLIES, AND YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES, PARTICULARLY FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

#### We COMMIT to:

- 1 Improving young people's access to affordable, quality health supplies, comprehensive sexuality education, and to youth friendly services.
- 2 Increasing demand for gender-sensitive health information, youth-friendly services, and sexual and reproductive health supplies.

#### Our IMPACT:

**Matilda Mwambogo, 15, Kenya**

At my school, early pregnancies, drugs and sexual violence were widespread. Many girls had to drop out of school because they got pregnant. Or they could not attend classes during their period.

Fortunately, this has changed. Ever since DSW came to my school, we talk a lot more about sexuality, contraception, and menstruation, both with our parents and also with other students. And even when it comes to our rights, we girls have become much more self-confident!



## GOAL 3

### EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL LEVELS.

#### We COMMIT to:

- 1 Improving young people's gender awareness, as well as their leadership, advocacy, and life skills.
- 2 Increasing decision-makers' awareness of and commitment to meaningful and inclusive youth participation.

#### Our IMPACT:

**Kevin Kocheli, 24, Kenya**

Already as a child I loved to get involved and take responsibility. Later, during a DSW training course, I learned how young people in their communities can defend their rights.

One of the biggest problems for us teenagers is that we know too little about sexuality and contraception. As one of 300 'Youth Champions' of the DSW, I make politicians aware of the needs of young people...and with great success! For example, we convinced the government of our district to invest in youth-friendly health services. When we started our work two years ago, there was just one youth-friendly health station - now there are four!



## GOAL 2

### ADVANCING THE RESPECT AND PROTECTION OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR), WITH A FOCUS ON ELIMINATING GENDER RELATED DISCRIMINATION AND INEQUALITY.

#### We COMMIT to:

- 1 Promoting the inclusion of and investment for SRHR in international and national policy and legal frameworks.
- 2 Increasing stakeholders' awareness and knowledge of SRHR as well as its application.

#### Our IMPACT:

**Aikande Mushi, 23, Tanzania**

I was 14 years old when I was kidnapped by strangers on the way to school. It is a tradition for us to consider it a marriage if the kidnapper detains a girl for three days. At that time my parents did not dare to contradict the man.

Now I am 23 years old and have two children. But that does not stop me from making myself strong for girls and young women. It is particularly important to me that girls can stay in school, even if they have experienced violence and discrimination. Due to a number of DSW trainings, I am now able to train girls and young women about their rights, and especially help girls when they have experienced sexual violence.



## GOAL 4

### ENHANCING ACCESS TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE.

#### We COMMIT to:

- 1 Developing partnerships and networks to enhance young people's socio-economic opportunities.
- 2 Providing young people with training and capacity development to foster their economic and social resilience.

#### Our IMPACT:

**Hyline Kwamboka, 23, Kenya**

I have been involved with DSW since 2013. At first, I volunteered at one of the youth clubs where I advised adolescents on sexuality and contraception...but actually it was always my desire to have my own little business.

When I heard about DSW training, which offered courses about accounting, leadership, market analysis, and business plans, I wanted to participate immediately. Thanks to the training I received, I was able to successfully apply for a loan which I used to build a kiosk. I now have five employees who are very close to my heart. The business has changed me and my future.



# DSW: WORKING HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE NEXT GENERATION!



## RIGHT BY HER

Rukia Abdallah Sebit works as a teacher in Kibera, Nairobi; one of the world's largest slums. Here she experiences first-hand the gap in implementation of Africa's commitments on women's rights, and the negative impact this gap has had on the lives of vulnerable girls. Through our #RightByHer campaign, we work to make women's rights a reality across Africa, focusing on four key areas: SRHR, HIV & AIDS, harmful practices, and gender-based violence. Together with our partners, and our donor the EU, we research the status of inequality, advocate for change, raise awareness, and build the capacity of civil society.

To learn more about this project visit: [www.rightbyher.org](http://www.rightbyher.org)

In east Africa, sexual and reproductive health services are particularly lacking for young people. This presents a high risk to girls and young women in particular, as it increases the likelihood of unintended pregnancies or becoming infected with sexually transmitted diseases. To help change this situation, DSW has been working directly with young people in building **networks of youth clubs in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda**. In order to sustainably improve young people's prospects for a healthy life, we follow a comprehensive approach:

- We support young people in their **education and training**. This enables young people living in poverty to sustainably improve their life situation.
- We also provide the adolescents with other **important skills** to help them cope better in life. These include self-esteem and moderation training.
- We include the **social environment** of young people such as parents, teachers, and local and religious opinion leaders.
- Together with the young people, we produce **educational materials** such as brochures and posters that reach **tens of thousands of young people** every year outside the clubs. In addition, the youth clubs independently organize educational campaigns in their communities.
- We advocate that **policymakers** in the project countries pay more attention to the health sector and provide more funding for it.



Alemnesh,  
15, Ethiopia

» **SINCE I BECAME INVOLVED WITH DSW, A LOT HAS CHANGED IN MY LIFE. I CAN NOW TALK MUCH MORE OPENLY ABOUT SEXUALITY AND HELP OTHERS. I ALSO NOW RUN A DSW YOUTH CLUB! THANKS TO THE NUTRITION TRAINING COURSES, MY YOUTH CLUB EVEN EARNS MONEY FROM HOME-GROWN VEGETABLES.** «

» **I AM ALWAYS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY HOW ENGAGED AND DEDICATED OUR YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS ARE. THEIR ENERGY AND COMMITMENT GIVE ME GREAT HOPE THAT WE WILL ACHIEVE A BETTER FUTURE WHERE EVERY YOUNG PERSON KNOWS ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING - AND HAS ACCESS TO IT!** «

Angela Bähr,  
Programme Director, DSW





# HOW OUR WORK HAS IMPACTED THE EU: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017



## WHY DO WE DO ADVOCACY AT THE EU LEVEL?

DSW's EU liaison office is an established voice in the advocacy and policy environment in Brussels, working since the opening of our office in 2001 to advance the cause of universal access to SRHR, as well as advocating for European leadership in the fight against poverty-related and neglected tropical diseases.

Our office's expert knowledge on EU policy and budget processes has been built up through years of experience, in partnership with others, and working with decision-makers at the European Parliament, European Commission, and the EU Council of Ministers. This means that DSW is well-positioned to influence key legislative and policy proposals, including securing support for global health R&D, advancing EU funding for gender equality and SRHR, and informing EU policymakers through award-nominated communications campaigns.



## ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND WOMEN

Building upon DSW's proactive advocacy, the European Commission (EC) launched a global call for proposals for gender equality worth 32 million EUR, which now includes a provision for SRHR. In addition, the EC allocated 500 million EUR to a joint initiative with the UN, on eliminating violence against girls and women. And, as a result of DSW's coordinated North-South advocacy, the European Commission announced a new bilateral funding agreement in Uganda that includes a dedicated envelope for family planning worth 3.8 million EUR over five years.

## LAUNCH OF THE 2017 EUROMAPPING REPORT



Together with our partners in the European Parliamentary Forum for Population and Development (EPF), we published the latest edition of the Euromapping report, highlighting how – and by how much – global donors are spending on reproductive, newborn and child health, and family planning. Using data from the report to hold decision-makers to account on their commitments, and by working in close collaboration with European Parliament allies and civil society partners, DSW helped leverage an increase of **12.5 million EUR** in EU funding for human development, including SRHR.

## INCREASING SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



Building on groundwork established in 2016, we have worked tirelessly with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in Brussels to secure support for global health research and development. As a result of efforts to raise the awareness on the need for more EU support to global health R&D, the European Parliament **reversed the cuts** proposed by the Council on the budget line related to global health R&D.

## WE IMAGINED A WORLD WITHOUT DISEASES OF POVERTY...

DSW's successful **Imagine2030** media campaign called for the EU to take the lead in supporting global health innovation, and ran parallel to DSW's advocacy work on the EU Horizon2020 research programme mid-term review. The campaign received significant positive feedback, and was subsequently followed by the "TrumpetHealth" campaign, which caused quite a stir in the Brussels policy and media community – including engagement by EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation **Carlos Moedas**.

The Trump campaign resulted in DSW being nominated for **three awards** at the 2017 European Public Affairs Awards – best NGO campaign, best use of social media, and best consultancy campaign.



Interested to find out more? Visit us at [dsw.org](http://dsw.org) to stay updated! >>



# HOW OUR WORK HAS IMPACTED GERMANY: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017



## WHY DOES DSW DO ADVOCACY IN GERMANY?

DSW's expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights, demographic questions, and investments in research to deal with poverty-related diseases, is coupled with our deep understanding of political processes within Germany. This makes the DSW advocacy team in Berlin a sought-after partner for joint advocacy with other NGOs and international institutions. We also work very closely with an All-Party-Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (APPG) to nurture and support parliamentary champions for our issues.



## NEW GOVERNMENT, NEW OPPORTUNITIES: 0.7 - FERTIG - LOS!

Global development needs team spirit! By working together with partners and our APPG, DSW has been campaigning hard to ensure that the new Federal Government remains committed to reaching the 0.7% goal, which is the UN's target for international development spending. Our intense efforts have paid off with the 0.7% goal **included in the new government's coalition treaty**. Although, not quite there yet, we will continue to work hard to ensure that 0.7% goal is finally reached!

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE ALLIANCES FOR A BETTER FUTURE!



Throughout 2017, DSW worked closely with UNFPA on Germany's contribution to meet SRHR-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). After the decision of the US Administration to defund UNFPA, we intensified our efforts towards informing the German government, parliament, and public, about the devastating consequences of this decision for the millions of women, girls, and young people living in countries of poverty. As much as we were greatly saddened by the passing of UNFPA's Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, we were happy to

welcome UNFPA's new director, **Dr. Natalia Kanem**, to Berlin in November. Dr. Kanem came to open the **International Dialogue on Population and Development** which was co-hosted by DSW. During her time in Berlin, she had the opportunity to engage with members of the APPG, as well as with the leadership of the German development ministry. **We are greatly looking forward to working with Dr. Kanem and UNFPA in 2018 and beyond towards ensuring that every pregnancy is wanted and that SRHR-related SDGs are met.**

## PUSSY IS POWER!

In October, we successfully completed **#PussyisPower**. This was an award-winning online campaign to raise awareness about the challenges of girls and women living in countries of poverty – and how they can tackle these problems when they are empowered. The campaign experienced incredible success, with over 700,000 people reached online.



Interested to find out more? Visit us at [dsw.org](http://dsw.org) to stay updated! >>





DSW is committed to transparency. For a full overview of our 2017 financial report, and to learn more about the structure of our Board, visit us at: [www.dsw.org](http://www.dsw.org)



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**Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)** is a global development organisation that focuses on the needs and potential of the largest youth generation in history. We are committed to creating demand for and access to health information, services, supplies, and economic empowerment for youth. We achieve this by engaging in advocacy, capacity development, and reproductive health initiatives, so that young people are empowered to lead healthy and self-determined lives. With our headquarters in Hannover, Germany, DSW operates two liaison offices in Berlin and Brussels, as well as maintaining a strong presence in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.