

## WOMEN GRADUATES—USA

### Small Grants Initiative Awardees

**Tipparat Udmuangpia (Thailand/2019-2020)** — *Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence during Pregnancy and Perceptions of Screening among Pregnant Women in Thailand*. The first cycle of this grant supported the translation of professionally recognized tools to better assess and document the trauma experienced by victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The second cycle involved extensive interviews with 30 pregnant women who had experienced IPV. The results were used in efforts both in preventing negative maternal and child health outcomes as a result of violence and making recommendations to policy makers at local and national levels.

**Bibi Ndala (Democratic Republic of the Congo/2020-2021)** — *Elaka: Maternal Education and Awareness Program*. Bibi's program partnered with a local clinic in Kinshasa to educate local populations in the DRC on maternal health risks and established a voucher system to provide 31 women with monthly care and support throughout their pregnancies. The program significantly increased access to curative and preventative care and raised awareness about maternal health care. Most impressively, all 31 expectant mothers safely brought their pregnancies to term due to the care and education offered at the clinic.

**Michelle Eliasson (Alachua County, Florida/2020-2021)** — *Accessible information: What happens now?* This program supported female victims of gender-based violence in the context of the criminal justice system and case process. In its first year, the focus was on data collection to understand what information was missing in current printed documents and what questions victims most often asked during interactions with the criminal justice system. The second year of the project provided for the development of the prototype pamphlet and posters in both English and Spanish directed to women victims of gender based violence.

**Kelly Dore (Sierra Leone/2021)** — *Sierra Cares Foundation/Safe Shelter*. Based in Makeni, *Sierra Cares* assists women and children vulnerable to poverty, human trafficking, and a lack of food, housing, and access to basic education. The WG-USA project provided financial support in three areas, namely the education of 68 students with allocation of uniforms, solar lanterns, and hygiene necessities; support for the mental health program and counseling expenses for repatriated women returning from the Middle East; and training community women in menstrual hygiene, fertility cycles, and natural birth control.

**Caitilin McMillan (Cyprus/2022)** — *Women Across Borders: Community Building between Newly Arriving Refugees and Residents along Europe's Mediterranean Borders*. This project promoted community, understanding, and connection between local volunteers and newly arriving refugee women. Collaborating with the Cyprus Refugee Council, the 8-week program of 10 refugee and 10 Cypriot women integrated activities, both in workshop and one-on-one settings, on group dynamics and trust building in creating interpersonal connections and a safe place to share stories and resources and build cross-cultural understanding.

**Modupe Adeoye (Nigeria/2022)** — *Girls Creative Hub Initiative*. The Girls Creative Hub empowers out-of-school girls and unemployed young women between 16 and 35 years old. The project trained 20 young women working in 4-member teams in creative design, branding, and media content in addition to participating in peer-to-peer networking and mentoring workshops. Start-up businesses have been established by ten women who now have earning power for the first time. The program, initiated in 2020, has been previously supported by the US Consulate in Lagos and the Lagos Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation.

**Ellen Antwi-Adjei (United States/2022)** — *Eye Diseases among Women in Rural Alabama-Telemedicine Project*. The study screened 124 women for eye diseases in three clinics in the Black Belt region of Alabama, an underserved area of the state. Using teleophthalmology, results were assessed by ophthalmologists at the Callahan Eye Hospital associated with the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Of those screened, 106 women received ocular diagnoses and were referred for follow up treatment. Outcomes include increased knowledge of eye health along with early detection of diseases in a population that faces challenges in accessing medical services.

**Saumya Tripathi (India/2022)** — *Time Spent on Unpaid Care Work and Women's Employment Status: Evidence from India*. A native of India, Saumya's doctoral research employed a 2019 comprehensive Indian Time-Use Survey to investigate factors associated with women's employment and unpaid care work. Using high level programming language and powerful statistical software, her study evaluated the association of women's unpaid care work and limitations to earning opportunities and access to income, health, education, and wellbeing. Findings from the study will serve as a base for future interventions and practice to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's care work on a global level.

**Oluwanifemi Ologunorisa (African Diaspora/2022)** — *African Women & Digital Storytelling*. This initiative encompassed an 8-week digital course that intersected history with storytelling by providing participants with an understanding of African women who have been catalysts for social transformation and focusing on storytelling as a medium to teach African women ways in which to tell their own stories. Twenty-four women participated in a weekly class that utilized elements of digital storytelling and ways to publish their projects while learning new skill sets to incorporate into their personal lives and careers.