Programs and Projects Across Four Decades by the Karen Women's Organization

Providing services, advocacy and capacity building in our community.

Total of 148,268 Direct Beneficiaries in 2024 including 93,598 women & 54,670 men

Education Program

- **Total 26,292 Beneficiaries in 2024**
- **16,066 Women/Girls**
- **10,226 Men/Boys**

1995 - Present

The Early Childhood Development: Nursery School Project was established in two refugee camps, with 18 Nursery Schools now. In 2005 set up in Kawthoolei. Now KWO supports 84 village Nursery Schools. Focus on education, child rights and protection, nutrition, development, and hygiene of young children.

1999 - Present

The Child Protection Student Dormitory Project set up in refugee camps in 1999. We expanded into Kawthoolei from 2007. Currently, KWO supports 17 Child Protection Student Dormitories in Kawthoolei only.

The Dormitories provide care, safe shelter, food, and hygiene for mostly secondary school students who must flee fighting and want to continue their education. KWO's "Dormitory Standards of Care", created in 2009.

2002-2012

KWO set up our **Adult Literacy Project** in all refugee camps. Focus on women learning to read and write their own language, and some men also joined in.

2003 - Present

The Special Education Project to support children living with disabilities and their families. Started in 2 refugee camps (Mae Ra Moe in 2003, and Mae La Oon in 2005). Then in all 7 camps by 2007. We expanded into Kawthoolei with an outreach program in 2015.

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Health Program

- **Total 8,264 Beneficiaries in 2024**
- **6,424 Women/Girls**
- **1,840 Men/Boys**

2002 - Present

The Baby Kits and Women's Health Project provides hygiene items for mothers with new born babies plus maternal and infant health education. We started in the refugee camps in 2002, and in Kawthoolei in 2003. We stopped it in the refugee camps in 2009 but continue until now in Kawthoolei.

2005 - Present

The Women's Health Project: Traditional Birth Attendants Project started in 2005 in two refugee camps, Ma Ra Mo and Mae La Oon. We provide kits of hygiene materials to TBAs and training for safe deliveries. Plus some women's health education in the community.

2020 - Present

The Clean Drinking Water Project started as a more formal, funded project in 2020. The Project provides water filter sets for all nursery schools, Student Dormitories, and Special Education Centres that KWO supports. Plus responding to requests for improved access to clean drinking water from IDP communities in emergency situations.

The Women's Sanitary Health Project was established in Kawthoolei in 2020. We provide a "Sanitary Kit" to women and girls displaced by conflict, including reusable pads, or pads for one-time use, soap, underwear, and related health information.

Programs and Projects Across Four Decades by the Karen Women's Organization

Social Welfare Program

- **Total 86,536 Beneficiaries in 2024**
- **51,900 Women/Girls**
- **34,636 Men/Boys**

1999 - Present

The Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Project was more formally developed with funding, in 1999. We provide essential materials, mostly food and shelter, for communities in Kawthoolei, affected by natural crises, or by armed conflict.

2001 - Present

The Safe Houses and Women's Protection Project started in 2001 in the 7 refugee camps and all districts of Kawthoolei in 2013. We provide safe shelters and support services for women/girl victims of violence, plus advocacy and community education to stop violence against women.

2023 - Present

The Income Generation Project started in 2003 to increase women's access to livelihoods in the refugee camps and in Kawthoolei. We focus on making and selling Karen traditional handicrafts.

2007 -2013

KWO's Elderly Care Project was an extension of the work KWO has always done to support those most vulnerable in our community. This project provided extra food and hygiene supplies to vulnerable elders. The project also gathered the participants once a year to share and build relationships.

2016 - Present

The Strengthening the Movement of Women Survivors of Violence Project began in 2016 in Kawthoolei and expanded slowly to every district. Women survivors of violence are invited to take part in movement building, exchange of experience, self-care activities, and recognition of women village chiefs.

Programs and Projects Across Four Decades by the Karen Women's Organization

Organising and Information Sharing Program

- **Total 27,176 Beneficiaries in 2024**
- **19,208 Women/Girls**
- **7,968 Men/Boys**

1999-Present

The Women's Voice: KWO Core Support Project was established in 1999. We provide support for all KWO activities and projects in refugee camps and in Kawthoolei. Under our 4 programs, hundreds of women leaders and staff provide services, advocacy and capacity building in our community. Plus the KWO offices for co-ordination and management are maintained in towns, camps and districts.

2001 - Present

KWO established the Karen Young Women's Leadership School (KYWLS) in Ma Ra Mo refugee camp, then moved it to Kawthoolei in 2016. It is a one-year residential course for 30 young Karen women. All graduates went to work with KWO or other CBOs.

2004 - Present

The Capacity Building Project started in 2004 in refugee camps, and expanded to Kawthoolei in 2012. We provide regular training to build capacity in skills, rights, and knowledge of KWO leadership, staff and community members and leaders.

2008 – 2010 and 2024 - Present

Women leaders have demanded more advanced training on advocacy and foreign affairs. More recently they have wanted a deeper understanding of federalism and good governance concepts. **KWO** first created a 10-month **Emerging Leaders Course** which covered those issues. The length of the course made it difficult to maintain. **KWO** currently is running a new 3-month **Advanced Political Course** which increases skills and advocacy as we move into a hoped for new era of democracy and human rights.

2012 - 2017

In response to hoped for peace negotiations, KWO began the **Creating Peace Project** which trained women on issues related to peace in Burma including human rights and monitoring mechanisms as well as supporting women's participation and advocacy.

2017 - Present

KWO joined a coalition of local CBOs in the **STAND UP Project** in 2017 in Kawthoolei. KWO provides gender mainstreaming training to community leaders (male and female), support to set up kitchen gardens and improve nutrition in Student dormitories, and Nursery Schools. And stipend support for Early Childhood Teachers.