



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT 13



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT 13

District 13 Conference  
4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Vilnius, Lithuania



# Foundation Ambassador

Leading with purpose – Rising together – Empowering District 13 Zontians



**ITEM 10A**



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL  

---

**DISTRICT 13**

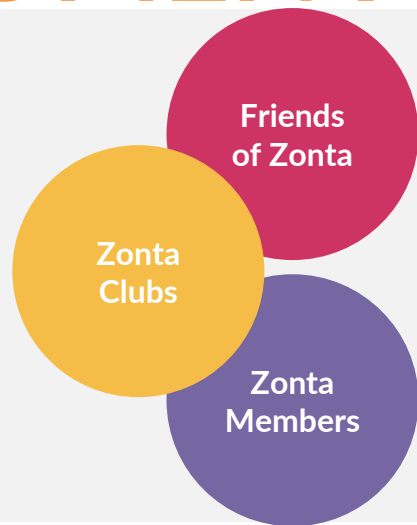
## **Foundation & Educational Programs Committee**

**2024-2026 Biennium**

## Foundation & Educational Programs Committee Members

- Area 01, Denmark – Birgit Lenhard Hansen, Chair
- Area 02, Lithuania – Viduta Bačkierienė
- Area 03, Iceland – Sesselja Sigurðardóttir
- Area 04, Norway – Mari Ramsten Vangdal

# ZONTA FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN FUNDING



Supports the charitable and education programs of Zonta International.

100% of donations are used for program support and implementation.




Clubs are requested to give one-third of funds raised locally to the Foundation.

Dues are not donations. They do not support the Foundation's expenses.

# 2024-2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL

Convention body votes  
for adoption of projects

Fundraising Goal = US\$4,617,000

Fund	Agency Partner	Title	Proposed USD
International Service Projects		Laaha: A Virtual Safe Space for Women and Girls	750,000
		Climate Empower: Community Empowerment and Innovation for Gender-Transformative Climate Action	1,000,000
		Global Programme to End Child Marriage	1,500,000
Educational Awards		Amelia Earhart Fellowships (total funding disbursed: \$600,000)	552,000
		Zonta Young Women in Leadership Awards	370,000
General		Rose Fund (Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award, Zonta Women in STEM Award, 2025 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship)	445,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4,617,000</b>

# 2024-2026 District 13 Fundraising Goal

Fundraising Goal for the biennium = US\$ 180 pr. Member\*

Member Fundraising Goal for D13 in total = US\$ 156.000\*\*

Fundraising status D 13 (year 1) = US\$ 64.340,07

- Based on total amount divided by total number of members globally

\*\* Number based on 870 members (2024 – 2025) - Current number of members in D13 is 754 members

# Zonta Foundation for Women 2024-2026 Giving Totals\*



Rose Fund

**285%**

US\$1,269,703.58  
US\$445,000.00



Amelia Earhart  
Fellowship

**28%**

US\$153,358.77  
US\$552,000.00



Zonta Young Women  
in Leadership Award

**40%**

US\$148,530.30  
US\$370,000.00



International Service  
Program

**36%**

US\$1,155,958.48  
US\$3,250,000.00



Biennial Goal

**59%**

US\$2,727,551.13  
US\$4,617,000.00

\*As of 30 June 2025

# 2024-2026 Biennium



# International Projects 2024 - 2026

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL SIGNATURE PROJECT:  
**ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE: A PROGRAM TO ACCELERATE GLOBAL ACTION PHASE III**



**GOAL** With renewed ambition toward 2030, the Global Programme will boost its actions to accelerate the decline in child marriage globally and respond to the combined effects of the polycrisis and the pushback against gender equality on adolescent girls.

**FUNDING: US\$1,500,000**

**PHASE III (2024-2026)**  
Zonta International's continued support in the final phase of the Global Programme will focus on strengthening government capacity and ownership of the work and generating important evidence and data to sustain the program long term.

**PHASE II (2020-2024)**  
Phase II brought increased political support, resources about healthy and safe decisions, gender-responsive policies, as well as enhanced investments in and support for both unmarried and married adolescent girls. Over 6.3 million adolescent girls were empowered with life skills and comprehensive sexuality education were delivered through safe spaces in communities and schools.

**PHASE I (2016-2019)**  
In Phase I almost 8 million adolescent girls were reached with life skills and school support, 39 million individuals engaged in community-based behavior change, and 26,000 schools strengthened their adolescent girl-friendly education.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- Elevate the voice and agency of adolescent girls by:
  - Empowering marginalized adolescent girls through skills development and knowledge-building.
  - Promoting gender equality in adolescent girls' families and communities.
- Increase resources and opportunities for adolescent girls and their families by:
  - Strengthening education, health and child protection systems.
  - Addressing the ways that poverty drives the practice of child marriage.
- Enhance legal and political action to prevent child marriage and to support married, divorced or widowed adolescent girls by:
  - Helping governments strengthen their plans to end child marriage.
  - Building the capacity of governments to make data-driven decisions and implement evidence-driven programs.

**WHO WILL BENEFIT**  
The program's priority is engaging adolescent girls as key agents of change in the following 12 countries which account for almost half of the world's child marriages:

Bangladesh	Nepal
Burkina Faso	Niger
Ethiopia	Sierra Leone
Ghana	Uganda
India	Yemen
Mozambique	Zambia



**CLIMATE EMPOWER: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND INNOVATION FOR GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE ACTION**



**GOAL** Prevent climate-induced gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices through interwoven innovative approaches and community-driven interventions in Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan, some of the countries most vulnerable to climate change globally.

**FUNDING: US\$1,000,000**

**STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

- Strengthen women and girl-led community resilience-building systems.
- Identify and build capacity of women and girls as mental norms champions to shift paradigm to the effect of climate change on GBV and harmful practices.
- Identify, map and support women and girls initiated and led climate-focused social innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives aimed at empowering vulnerable populations.
- Support and scale up climate and harmful practices initiatives, projects, product adoption and adaptation.
- Create a regional platform for innovative solution storytelling, and impact dissemination of community-led initiatives.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- Foster gender-transformative community empowerment and capacity building for women and girls in the context of climate shocks and crises to reduce GBV and harmful practices and strengthen women and girls' role as agents of change for climate resilience.
- Promote women and girl-led innovative solutions to build resilience and protect against GBV with an emphasis on addressing discriminatory social norms.



**WHO WILL BENEFIT**  
ALMOST 500,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries in  
MADAGASCAR  
MOZAMBIQUE  
SOUTH SUDAN



**LAAHA: A VIRTUAL SAFE SPACE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**



**GOAL** Laaha, the first-ever digital web-based platform created by UNICEF with women and girls, from crisis-affected regions has two primary objectives:

**FUNDING: US\$750,000**

- Increase knowledge on gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) by providing quality and accurate information to girls and women about men's rights, financial literacy, healthy relationships, how to stay safe and know one's rights, financial literacy, female anatomy and services for women and girls facing violence. In time, this digital space will replicate the sense of a safe social network that physical safe spaces provide.
- Reduce isolation by building safe spheres of support for adolescent girls through peer-to-peer connection through a moderated user forum.

**WHAT IS THE NEED**

- One in three women experience violence in their lifetime and 12 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18 - violence that is exponentially made worse during humanitarian crises such as climate-based disasters, areas experiencing civil unrest, and impoverished populations.
- Safe spaces are a key approach to working with women and girls, providing them with access to information, links to services - including GBV response and prevention services, skill-building, peer connection, and support, especially in humanitarian crises. Yet, they often face barriers to accessing these physical safe spaces because of distance, security concerns, harmful gender norms, and domestic responsibilities. In humanitarian contexts characterized by insecurity, dynamic conflict, and further movement restrictions, women and girls face even greater barriers to accessing physical safe spaces. COVID-19 only exacerbated these challenges.
- When the COVID-19 pandemic broke, the digital transformation accelerated internet usage up to 60%. However, many digital innovations do not respond to the specific needs of women and girls and in some cases can put them at risk of further harm. Resourcing GBV services that extend access to a greater number of women and girls living in crisis and conflict affected environments and supporting innovation through good digital citizenship has therefore become more urgent.

**WHO WILL BENEFIT**  
Laaha, available globally, is currently deployed in  
Afghanistan  
Ecuador  
Iraq  
Lebanon  
Ukraine  
Venezuela  
In 2024, it will be deployed in  
Bangladesh  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Moldova  
Myanmar  
Türkiye



With Zonta International's support, UNICEF will:  
 • Reach one million women and girls across the world by 2026 through Laaha's linguistically and culturally inclusive content.  
 • Achieve the ambitious targets of content availability in 20 languages by 2026 on Laaha.  
 • Provide guidance on safe GBV online moderation for women and girls.  
 • Show the impact of Laaha so that it can be replicated over time.

\*Delegates' Choice: Delegates at the 2024 Convention will choose between 2024-2026 International Service Projects: Strengthening Services for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in Southeast Asia and Laaha: A Safe Space for Women and Girls

# Climate empower: community empowerment and innovation for gender-transformative climate action



**Funding: US\$1,000,000**



Climate change impacts women and girls and their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- Access to food, water, shelter and livelihoods is disrupted.
- Child marriage and intimate partner violence increases.



**Goal:** Prevent climate-induced gender based-violence (GBV) and other harmful practices through interwoven innovative approaches and community-driven interventions in Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan.



Approximately 500,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries will be equipped with knowledge of the impacts of climate change and trained to identify and initiate solutions to build resilience against climate-induced GBV.

# Laaha: a virtual safe space for women and girls



**Funding: US\$750,000**



1 in 3 women experience violence in their lifetime and 12 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18 - violence that is exponentially made worse during humanitarian crises.



Goal: Increase knowledge on GBV and sexual and reproductive health and reduce isolation by building safe spheres of support through peer-to-peer connection.



Reach one million women and girls across the world with content created in 20 languages by 2026.



for every child

# Ending child marriage: a prograME to accelerate global action Phase III



**Funding: US\$1,500,000**



Globally, 21% of girls are married while they are still children, robbing them of their childhood.



Goal: Scale up the Global Programme's activities to protect and empower girls, and ultimately help bring an end to the practice of child marriage.



The program's priority is engaging adolescent girls as key agents of change in 12 countries which account for almost half of the world's child marriage.



for every child





# International Awards 2024 - 2026



Amelia Earhart Fellowship

Zonta annually awards up to 30 Fellowships of US\$10,000 each to women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences.



Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award

Zonta recognizes young women for demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to public service with up to 37 awards of US\$5,000 each annually.



Zonta Women in STEM Award

Zonta encourages women to pursue education in STEM through a pilot program, offering up to 16 awards of US\$10,000 and a complimentary one-year supporting membership in Zonta International for the next financial year.



Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award

Zonta celebrates women who demonstrate exceptional leadership and entrepreneurial spirit, offering 10 international awards of US\$10,000 each and a complimentary one-year supporting membership in Zonta International for the next financial year.

The District 13 Board has decided to reinstall District Awards for 3 Awards (5000 DKK pr. Award):

- Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award
- Zonta Women in STEM Award
- Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award\*

You can read more about the International Awards by clicking [here](#)

\*former JMK Women in Business Scholarship

# Award Recipient from District 13



*“I feel truly happy knowing that I can create a positive change for students, especially girls at my age.”*

**Adrija Aleksionaite, Lithuania**  
Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award

# Donate Now

 **ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT 13



 **ZONTA**  
FOUNDATION  
FOR WOMEN

Scan here to help  
build a better world  
for women and girls



# On line donations

Online donations require a minimum donation of US\$25.

**Returning donors please use your Zonta Foundation for Women login above.**

\* = Required fields


\* Select Gift Amount:

\* Gift Fund:

Direct my gift to:

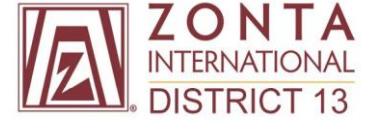


Select the fund you want to designate the donation to





Thank you!



®

ZONTA  
FOUNDATION  
FOR WOMEN