

# LOCAL ACTION



Zonta International is a global community of more than **28,000** women and men in nearly **1,200** Zonta clubs in **61** countries.

At the local level, Zonta clubs identify the most urgent issues affecting women and girls in their communities and develop service and advocacy projects to address these challenges. The issues and solutions vary, as each is tailored to local needs.

Read below to learn more about just a few ways Zonta clubs are making a difference.



## Preventing child marriage through education in Bangladesh

The Zonta Club of Dhaka II, Bangladesh, has helped change the lives of two women after avoiding the pressures of child marriage. Mohsina Akhtar and Shoma Islam were both participants in *Shathi Samaj*, an education-focused service project. Mohsina was forced to get married and not allowed to continue school. With support from club members, Mohsina left her abusive marriage and is now studying finance at the University of Dhaka. Shoma was under pressure to discontinue her studies and get married. With help from club members, she is now in her fourth year at the University of Dhaka with the goal of becoming a nutritionist.



## Empowering survivors of domestic violence in Austria

The Zonta Club of Feldbach, Austria, has collected and invested approximately €25,000 (approximately US\$26,600) into the "Zonta Hafen" program since its launch in 2014. Zonta Hafen has provided safe hotel accommodations and a 60-square-meter flat for approximately 300 overnight stays for women and children. The women are allowed to live in the space for a maximum of three months while receiving advice from experts at Innova, a help and counseling center that partners with the Zonta Club of Feldbach.



## Addressing maternal anemia and promoting safe pregnancies in Ghana

In 2012, 20 percent of Ghana's maternal deaths were attributed to anemia, a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin in the blood that causes health problems and can lead to heart issues and death. That year, the Zonta clubs of Accra, Accra II, Accra Metropolitan and Tema developed a project which resulted in women receiving nutritional supplements to lower this risk and gaining access to improved care at a local clinic. Following this project's success, the clubs launched another joint project in 2017 that aims to educate women about safe and healthy deliveries. The women learn how to make birthing kits, as many of them do not have access to the necessary tools.



## Partnering with domestic violence outreach centers in the USA

Women often leave abusive situations with nothing but the clothes on their backs. To them, basics like clean washcloths and other hygiene items can make a big difference. The Zonta Club of the Adirondacks, USA, raises money each year to collect essential personal hygiene items and basic baby and toddler supplies for women who are fleeing abusive situations at home. In just two years, they have donated dozens of duffel bags and tote bags full of these items, which are presented to STOP Domestic Violence, the primary outreach organization that serves women and their children in three counties in upstate New York.