International NGOs often think that disempowered women “need their help” and ideas. However, women worldwide are deeply connected to their communities, know their needs, and are already actively addressing them. These women break down barriers, lead movements, and tackle their own economic empowerment.

What does a grassroots women’s movement look like?

In Burundi, young pregnant women are barred from school, forced out of the labor market, and ostracized! To address this, a group of single mothers created a movement to advocate for their rights.

They advocated in schools and at the Ministry of Education. They created a mobile clinic to provide reproductive and sexual health information to young girls. They held fairs to highlight small businesses and artisanry of single mothers, and to raise awareness about their rights. Their work has led to... media attention, recognition, catalyzed conversation.

It’s never too late to join a movement. Once a movement is in motion, it keeps going.