

TAKE ACTION!

The Acumen Fund
<http://www.acumenfund.org>

Afghan Child Education and Care Organization
<http://www.afceco.org>

Ashoka
<http://www.ashoka.org>

Cherie Blair Foundation for Women
<http://www.cherieblairfoundation.org>

Edna Adan Maternity Hospital
<http://www.ednahospital.org>

Kakenya Center for Excellence
<http://www.kakenyasdream.org>

Kolkata Sanved
<http://www.kolkatasanved.org>

Navjyoti
<http://www.navjyoti.org.in>

Panzi Hospital
<http://www.panzihospitalbukavu.org>

Prajwala
<http://www.prajwalaindia.com>

Somaly Mam Foundation
<http://www.somaly.org>

Tostan
<http://www.tostan.org/>

United Nations Foundation
<http://www.unfoundation.org/>

Vital Voices Global Partnership
<http://vitalvoices.org/>

Voice of Women Organization
<http://www.vwo.org.af>

Women for Women International
<http://www.womenforwomen.org>

INNOVATIVE IDEAS FROM THE SUMMIT

CO-OPTING

1. Get Men On Board

It's an unfortunate truth: There is little hope for female empowerment without support from local men. Molly Melching of Tostan says it's difficult to eradicate female genital cutting because so many women support it. "That is because they think the men will require that, and also because it has led to them having a certain status in society. It's like their initiation into a higher level of womanhood," Melching told The Daily Beast. The solution? Convince men that change is in their own interests--that if a woman has been devastated by a coerced marriage or genital cutting, she won't be as good of a mother or homemaker.

To learn more: <http://www.tostan.org/>

CASH

2. Paying Families That Embrace Change

For poor parents, marrying a teen daughter off to an older man means one less mouth to feed at home. But what if keeping a daughter in school paid off just as much? That's what the UN is trying in Ethiopia, where farm families earn an ewe or hen after daughters complete two years of school. Early marriage decreased by up to 90 percent in some villages. Shasha Admas, now 20 years old, was married at 15. She now wistfully watches younger peers participate in the program. "It's a missed opportunity," she told The Daily Beast. "That could have been me."

To Learn More: *The UN Population Fund*, www.unfpa.org

SHAME

3. Publicize Victims' Stories

Disgusted by the violent rapes of hundreds of thousands of women and girls in her native Congo, activist and journalist Chouchou Namegabe collected victims' stories and bought local radio time to air them. When people heard survivors describe being violated while their children looked on, the stigma began to lift, and it became difficult for political leaders to ignore the problem. "I see a situation where rape is used as a weapon to destroy a community," Namegabe says. "I shared women's testimonies."

To Learn More: *The South Kivu Women's Media Association*, <http://englishafemsk.blogspot.com>

START SMALL

4. Support a Woman Entrepreneur through Microcredit

Microcredit sites allow every concerned citizen to become a highly effective philanthropist, connecting donors with developing world entrepreneurs who need loans to start up or scale up. On Kiva, for example, a 50-year old Kenyan mother named Rose—a former farmer—is looking for \$675 to grow her ladies' clothing store. Jacqueline Novogratz's Acumen Fund uses a similar strategy, which she calls "patient capital." Novogratz told The Daily Beast, "In an interconnected world we have no choice but to think of ourselves as one tribe. ... We're vested in each others' success."

To Learn More: www.kiva.org; www.epicchange.org; www.acumenfund.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

5. Give a Woman a Phone

Twitter and text messaging pushed the pro-democracy message of Iran's Green Movement to the world. In poor and middle-income countries, though, women are much less likely than men to own a mobile, which makes it difficult for them to find a job, launch a business, or communicate independently with friends and family—especially important if they are experiencing domestic violence or other forms of coercion. Cherie Blair, the British human rights lawyer, says, "Every woman, wherever she lives, needs a mobile phone."

To Learn More: www.cherieblairfoundation.org

COMMUNICATE

6. Build Bridges

On International Women's Day, March 8, thousands of Rwandan and Congolese women met on a bridge, together demanding an end to the conflicts tearing apart their communities and upturning the ingrained ideologies that teach their children to hate one another. These brave activists "reject the narrative of violence and poverty they have inherited," says Women for Women International founder Zainab Salbi. "Like life, peace begins with women."

To Learn More: *Women for Women International*, www.womenforwomen.org