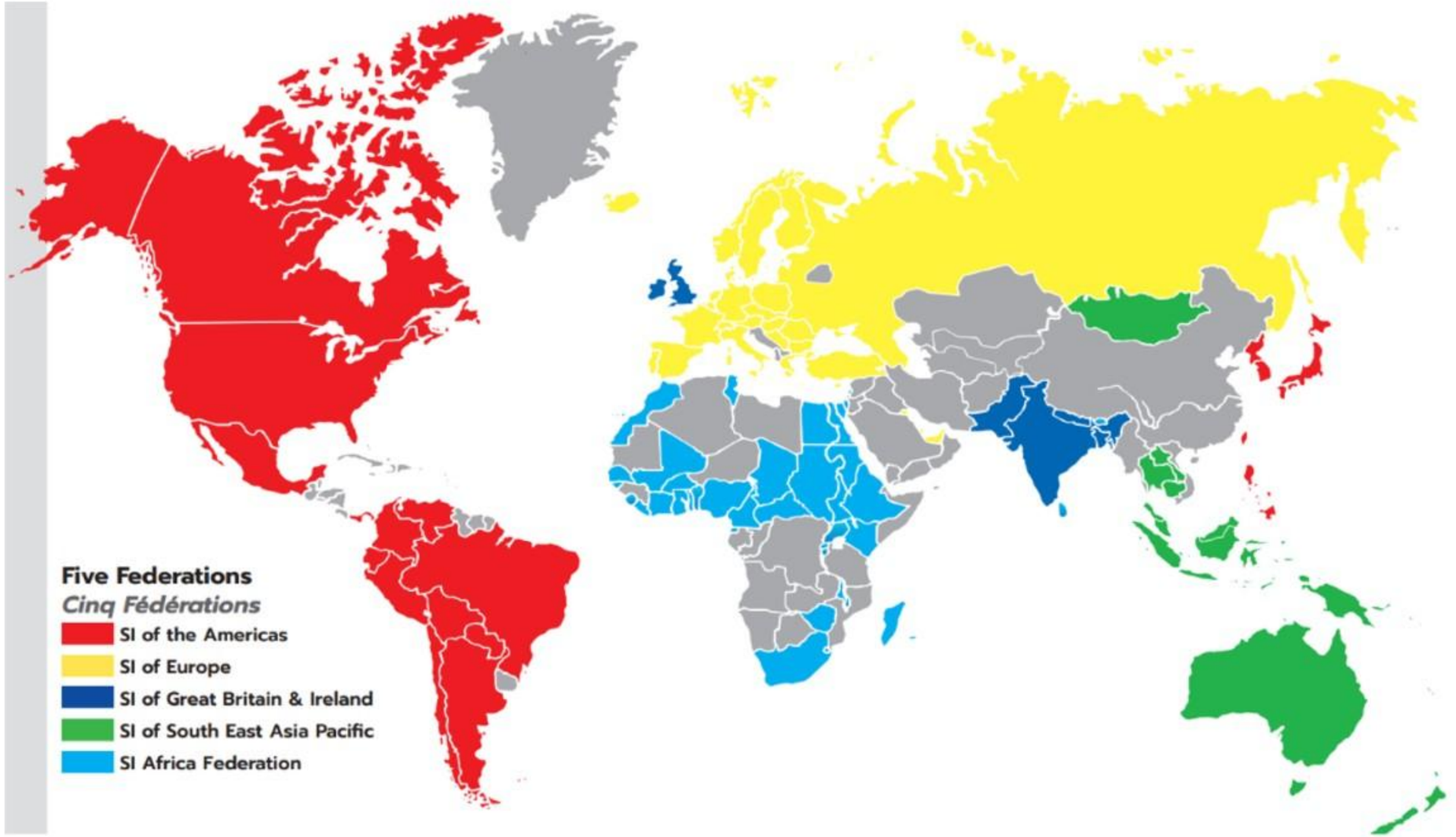
Soroptimist International and the Right to Development

Donatella Benjamin



Soroptimist International and the Right to Development

- Soroptimist International (SI) works across 120 countries with 66,000 volunteers to advance all women's and girls' rights.
- Its work aligns with the Right to Development (RTD) framework — ensuring participation, equity, inclusion, and empowerment.
- Projects focus on 5 pillars: Education, Eliminating Violence, Economic Empowerment, Health, and Environment.


Five Federations
Cinq Fédérations
SI of the Americas
SI of Europe
SI of Great Britain & Ireland
SI of South East Asia Pacific
SI Africa Federation

Kenya Project – “Greening Our Horizons”

Launched May 2025 with the Directorate of Children’s Services.
Empowers girls through environmental leadership and sustainable practices.

Goal: Restore ecosystems, food security, health, and green livelihoods.

Achievements In Kenya: 3,000 trees planted; target of 10,000 by 2025, 100,000 by 2027.

Pan-African goal: 500,000 native trees and edible plants in 3 years.

Outcomes: Participation, equity, sustainability, and economic empowerment.


GREENING OUR HORIZONS
DONATED
BY

Cambodia Project – “Empowering Women through Education and Leadership”

Launched 2021 with CCDO, in Siem Reap region
Empowers rural women through education, leadership, and gender equality.

- Reached 2,544 women across 8 communities.
- 45% improvement in health knowledge; 62% reduction in domestic violence.
- 'Smart Women' network created with 31 local advocates.
- Focus: Health, hygiene, rights awareness, financial literacy.



Shared Impact and Conclusion

Both projects embody the Right to Development by giving all women and girls the power to act.

- Kenya: Environmental action → empowerment.
- Cambodia: Education → community transformation.

Together, they prove that sustainable, inclusive development starts with women leading change — for themselves, their families, and the planet.

Thank You


A GLOBAL VOICE FOR WOMEN
SOROPTIMIST
19
21
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENABLE.