



VESTA

2025 Impact Report



Technology That Protects. A Community That Cares.

A year of survivor-led innovation, community partnerships, and advancing safety through ethical technology.

A Message from Our CEO

2025 was the year that shaped VESTA in profound and lasting ways.

At the start, I was at a crossroads. I was exhausted and seriously questioning the future of our work. I wondered whether the impact we believed in so deeply would find the support it needed, and whether our conviction alone would be enough to carry us forward.

What ultimately changed our path was leading with vulnerability.

Being honest about my fears, doubts, and hopes helped me build deeper trust and connections with survivors, frontline advocates, and community partners—reminding me, again and again, that **what we are building matters.**

That reminder became my compass and, in turn, VESTA's compass.

Survivor expertise and community wisdom informed our 2025 efforts at every stage, with dignity and safety as constant priorities.

One of the most meaningful outcomes of this work is the Resilience in Action microsite, launching in January 2026.

Over the course of the year, we built the foundation for this platform through trauma-informed

collaborative sessions and community-based research with survivors and frontline partners across Canada.

VESTA also established a more national presence in 2025. We contributed to critical conversations on gender-based violence, digital safety, and trauma-informed innovation at major sector gatherings and conferences.

In every room, one principle guided us: Technology must serve humanity, never the other way around.

We deepened relationships with community and newcomer-serving organizations, expanded academic and research collaborations, and strengthened our internal capacity by welcoming a Chief Engagement Officer and Head of Product Development. Together, these steps demonstrate our evolution from early-stage innovation toward sustained, community-anchored impact.

To every survivor who trusted us, every partner who walked alongside us, every advocate who challenged our thinking, and every funder who believed in our mission, thank you. Your trust and commitment carried us through.

As we move forward into 2026, we do so with clearer priorities and a sharper focus on what matters. To build what survivors need, with community, and honour dignity at every step.



Lucrezia

Lucrezia Spagnolo
CEO and Founder

Our Mission, Vision and Impact Philosophy

At VESTA, everything begins with one belief. Survivors deserve tools that honour their agency, reflect their realities, and reinforce their safety.

Our mission is to significantly improve the lives of survivors of gender based violence through trauma-informed, culturally-grounded digital pathways.

Our vision is a world where safety is strengthened through community, dignity, and systemic change.

We build with survivor-led innovation at the centre of every design decision. We work within trauma-informed and culturally-anchored frameworks. We develop technology that empowers autonomy and choice. We collaborate across provinces, sectors, and communities. We commit to dignity over surveillance and humanity over efficiency.

2025:

From Concept to Capability

Secured Major Funding

In April, VESTA secured over \$1.9 million in national funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) to support the development of *Resilience in Action*.

The funding enabled survivor-led research and trauma-informed co-design with frontline and organizations serving immigrant, refugee, and non-status women.

\$1.9M+

in funding for the
Resilience in Action initiative



Established a National Presence

We presented *From Silence to Action: How Technology Is Empowering GBV Survivors* at the **Still I Rise National Conference** in May.

In October, we shared *Resilience in Action: Digital Innovation and Intersectional Approaches* at the **Innovations in Gender-Based Violence and Trauma-Informed Health Promotion Conference**.



Expanded Internal Capacity

We welcomed a Chief Engagement Officer to scale our partnerships, outreach, and community-rooted strategy.

We also brought on a Head of Product Development to lead trauma-informed, human-first digital design.

75%

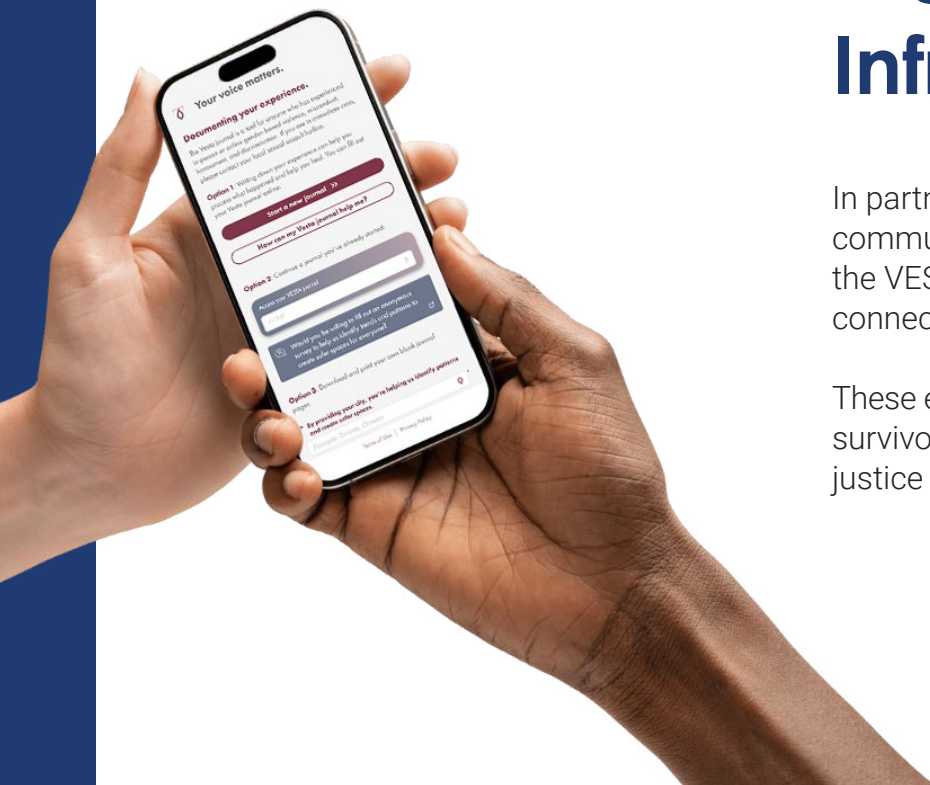
**team growth to support partnerships
and platform development**



Strengthened Digital Infrastructure

In partnership with settlement agencies and community organizations, we began upgrading the VESTA platform by adding features that connect technology with human support.

These efforts support newcomer and marginalized survivors as they engage with complex health and justice systems.



How Impact Happened

Survivor-Led Innovation

Survivor expertise guided each stage of the work. Co-design sessions and community engagement with survivors and frontline advocates helped us refine the *Resilience in Action* model, from language and structure to digital pathways and support flows.

Throughout this process, a consistent theme emerged: Safety is not one-size-fits-all. It must reflect identity, culture, and real-world needs.

“Our north star is impact, not downloads. We measure success in safety, trust, and transformation.”



Our Partners

Community Partnerships

We work closely with newcomer-serving and ethnocultural organizations in both rural and urban contexts.

In 2025, we welcomed new partnerships with MANSO, OCASI, and several community and settlement organizations supporting immigrant and newcomer women.

Our community partners help pressure-test ideas, flag gaps, and ensure our tools work in the environments they're meant for.

100%

participation from our new
partnerships with community
and settlement organizations
across Canada

Research and Implementation Partners

VESTA began a new collaboration with PeaceGeeks to build and test digital solutions for frontline and settlement organizations supporting immigrant, refugee, and non-status women.

Academic partners at McGill University, University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, and Western University helped evaluate our work and guide improvements.

Partners



Community Partner



Community Partner



Research & Design Partner



Research Partner



Research Partner



Research Partner



Research Partner



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

VESTA's Resilience in Action is made possible through funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE). Their support helps us expand our trauma-informed tools and training to reach more immigrant, refugee, and non status women across Canada.

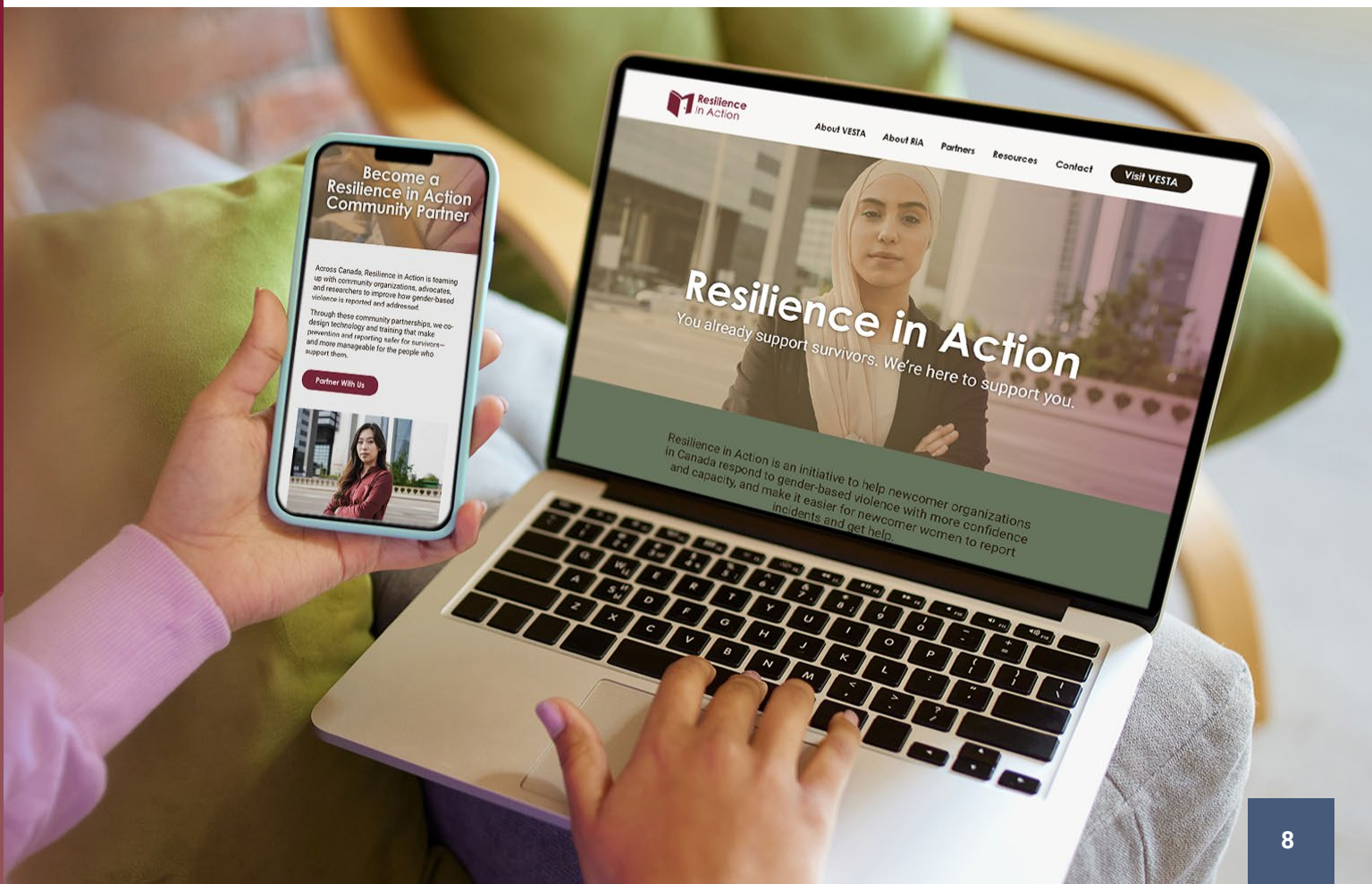
The *Resilience in Action* Official Microsite

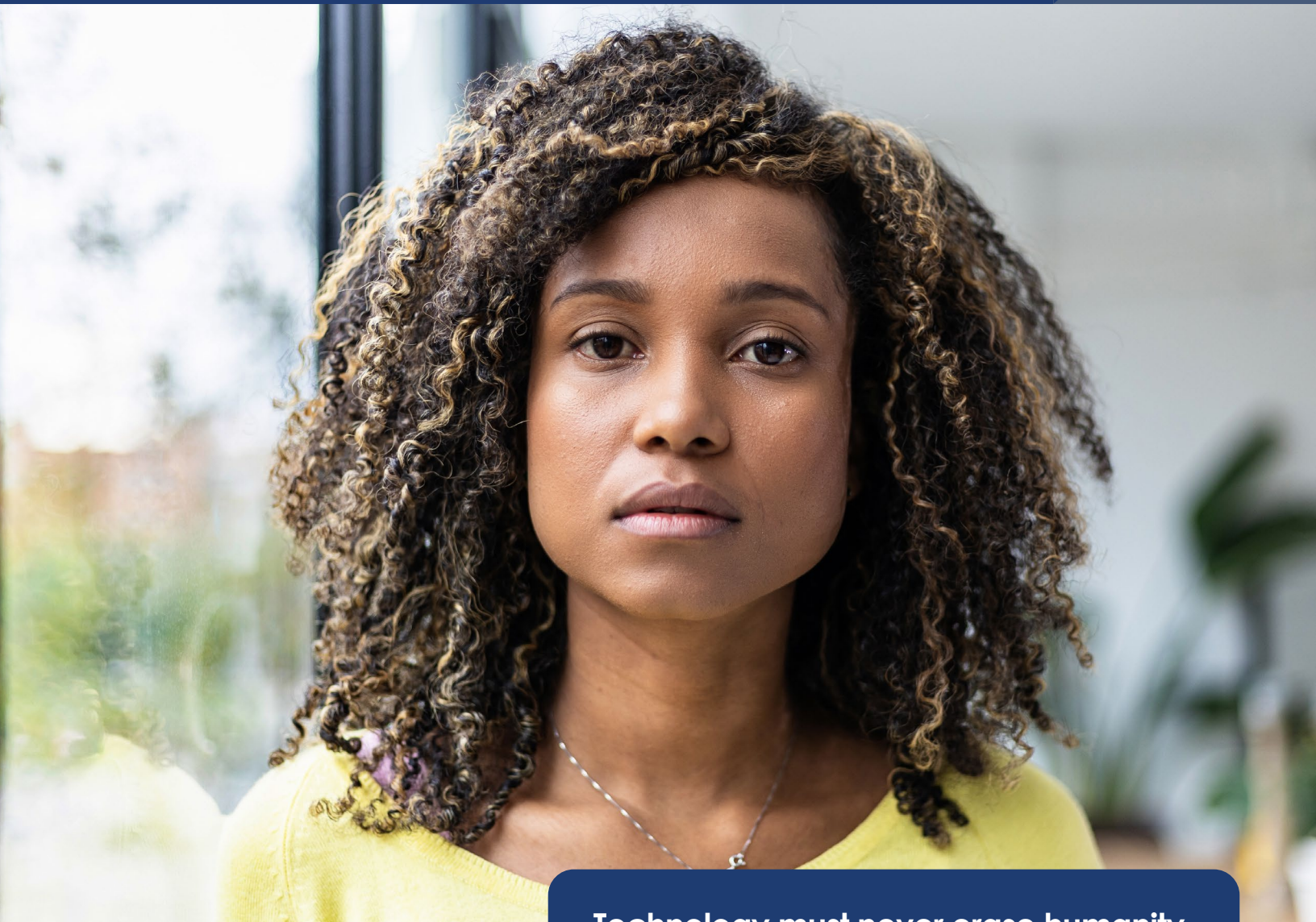
The *Resilience in Action* microsite, which launched in January 2026, is one of the most significant outcomes of our 2025 work.

Built through months of survivor dialogue, frontline advisory engagement, and community collaboration, the site reflects what safety truly means digitally, culturally, and emotionally.

The microsite offers practical tools for frontline workers, culturally-grounded approaches to digital safety, and a human-first perspective on technology and care.

More than a static resource, *Resilience in Action* is a living space we will update and expand as the work evolves.





Technology must never erase humanity.
It must protect it.

Spotlight: Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Women

2025 reaffirmed a critical truth: access to safety is not the same for everyone.

Immigrant, refugee, and newcomer women often face overlapping barriers, including language gaps, distrust of systems, digital access challenges, and isolation.

This is where our work comes in. We design tools that protect privacy and give survivors control, and we work with newcomer-serving organizations to make sure those tools fit real cultural and community contexts.

We Are Grateful

To every survivor, advocate, partner organization, researcher, and funder: thank you for your trust and for taking part in this work.

This work exists because of our community, and it continues with them.

Looking Ahead

Building On The Foundation

In 2026, we will keep expanding support for frontline and community organizations, enhancing survivor-led digital pathways, and refining our platforms using trauma-informed practices.

We are also launching a Funding Readiness Masterclass in the spring to help organizations prepare for funding and long-term sustainability.





Design and Communications

This report was developed in collaboration with CL Designs, VESTA's design and communications partner. Their work reflects our commitment to survivors and the communities we serve.

CL DESIGNS

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