

INVEST IN WOMEN GLOBAL SUMMIT

Scaling up Financing for
Local Women's Organizations
Responding to Crisis
& Building Peace



Unravelling the Gap between Global Commitments and Funding for Women's Organizations in Conflict-Affected Contexts

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Cover: Sudanese civil society activist and peacebuilder Salwa Esadik delivers intervention at the Invest-In-Women Global Summit of the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund at UN Headquarters on the sidelines of the UN Security Council Open Debate on WPS, October 2023. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

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Lost in Translation:
Unravelling the Gap between Global
Commitments and Funding for
Women's Organizations in Fragile
and Conflict-Affected Contexts



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ACRONYMS

CBPF	Country-Based Pooled Fund	VAW	Violence Against Women
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
CSO	Civil Society Organization	WO	Women's Organization
GEM	Gender Equality Marker	WLO	Women-Led Organization
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	WRO	Women's Right Organization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	WPHF	Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
IRC	International Rescue Committee	WPS	Women, Peace and Security
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and more		
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund		
MPTFO	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office		
ODA	Official Development Assistance		
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development		
OECD CRS	OECD Creditor Reporting System		
OECD DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee		
PBF	UN Peacebuilding Fund		
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence		
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal		
UN	United Nations		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund		
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund		
UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General		
UNTF	UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women		
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women		

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I) Introduction

Around the world, local women’s organizations (WOs) stand at the forefront of peace and security efforts.¹

WOs are often the first responders to crises and conflicts, providing essential services to their communities, preventing conflict, and addressing the disproportionate impact of emergencies on women and girls.² Grassroots WO bring invaluable contextual knowledge, skills and experiences and have greater access to affected populations.³ By investing in local WO, donors can ensure that their interventions are contextually relevant and sustainable, ultimately fostering inclusive and durable peace processes and development outcomes. Despite their critical role, WO remain chronically underfunded and their contribution is not sufficiently recognized.

The international community has made calls and endorsed commitments to amplify support for local WO in conflict and humanitarian settings.

Over a decade ago, United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution 2122 (2013)³ already underlined the need to better support the efforts of WO and called on Member States to **develop dedicated funding mechanisms and increase their contributions to WO at the local level.**⁴ In October 2020, the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) called on the donor community to “dedicate a minimum of 15 per cent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to conflict-affected countries to advancing gender equality, including **multiplying by five direct assistance to women’s organizations**, currently at 0.2 per cent”.⁵ This call was reiterated in the UNSG’s New Agenda for

Peace in July 2023, which included a call to “provide a minimum of **1 per cent of ODA in direct assistance to women’s organizations**, especially grass-roots groups mobilizing for peace”.⁶ In the humanitarian sector, as part of the Grand Bargain, UN agencies and bilateral donors have committed to provide **25 per cent of their humanitarian funding to local and national actors as directly as possible**, including WO. Finally, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has adopted in May 2024 a **Recommendation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance**, in which DAC donors commit to “increase financing for local women’s rights organisations, feminist movements and women’s funds, and government partners to promote gender equality”.⁷

New initiatives designed to channel vital funding to WO have resulted from these commitments.

One notable example is the UN Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), which specifically aims to provide flexible and quality funding and capacity support to WO in conflict and crisis settings worldwide. Other UN pooled funds such as the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) are intentionally directing funding to local WO, particularly in crisis settings.⁸ Women’s funds also play a pivotal role as specialized funding intermediaries, helping to bridge the gap between donors and grassroots WO.

1 The term “women’s organizations” is used in this study to refer to feminist, women-led and women’s rights organizations and movements, whose core work is in the field of women’s or girls’ rights, gender equality or pursues a feminist purpose.

2 See for example Paffenholz, T., Ross, N., Dixon S., Schluchter A-L., and True J. (2016), “Making Women Count - Not Just Counting Women: Assessing Women’s Inclusion and Influence on Peace Negotiations. Geneva: Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative”. The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and UN Women; Naraghi-Anderlini, S. (2007) “Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why it Matters”. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers; Domingo, P. et al. (2013), “Assessment of the evidence of links between gender equality, peacebuilding and statebuilding, Literature review”. London: ODI; GNWP (2019), “Building and Sustaining Peace from the Ground Up: A Global Study of Civil Society and Local Women’s Perception of Sustaining Peace”.

3 Action Aid (2016), “On the Frontline: Catalysing Women’s Leadership in Humanitarian Action”.

4 UN Security Council Resolution 2122 (2013), 18 October 2013, S/RES/2122, para 7(b).

5 United Nations (2020), “Women and peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General”, S/2020/946.

6 United Nations (2023), “Our Common Agenda. Policy Brief 9. A New Agenda for Peace”, p.20.

7 OECD DAC (2024), “DAC Recommendation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance”, DCD/DAC(2024)30, para. 4(ii).

8 UN Women (2022), “UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Annual Report 2021”, p. 23.

Specific donors have also made significant pledges or created their own mechanisms to fund WOs, including in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Examples of bilateral funds and grants specifically targeting WOs include Canada’s Women Voice and Leadership Programme, the Netherlands’ Leading from the South Programme, and France’s Support Fund for Feminist Organisations. These initiatives highlight the critical importance of dedicated and intentional donor commitments aimed at supporting grassroots WOs. Effective funding for WOs requires a deliberate and strategic approach, as well as tailored funding modalities, to ensure that resources effectively reach WOs at the local level.

Despite global commitments and initiatives to increase funding for WOs, the reality on the ground falls short. Across all development contexts, WOs receive only 0.3 per cent of total bilateral allocable ODA and 1 per cent of all gender-related aid to enhance their effectiveness, influence and sustainability.⁹ **In fragile and conflict-affected contexts¹⁰,** the share of ODA going to WOs is similarly low: in 2021-2022, aid to WOs represented only **0.3 per cent of ODA in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.** Additionally, aid to WOs in fragile and conflict settings has been fluctuating: after a period of growth between 2015 and 2020, aid to WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts has **dropped from USD 192 million in 2019-2020 to USD 142 million in 2021-2022.**

Accurately capturing the volumes of aid going to WOs remains challenging, due notably to inconsistent and incomplete reporting by the UN system, discrepancies in how bilateral donors define and classify aid to WOs, and some limitations in possibilities for reporting funding to WOs through the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS). There is a need to look more closely at the data to understand funding flows and recipients, and gaps in funding allocated to WOs. **Defining fragile and conflict-affected contexts also presents challenges.**

This is due to the multifaceted and dynamic nature of these settings, and the diversity of approaches used by UN agencies and funds, as well as bilateral donors, to characterize crisis, fragility and conflict. This report uses the 2022 OECD list of fragile contexts, elaborated based on the OECD’s multidimensional fragility framework, which measures fragility on a spectrum of intensity across six dimensions: economic, environmental, human, political, security and societal.¹¹ By using the OECD list of fragile contexts, the research ensures consistency and comparability with previously published data on ODA to fragile contexts, including data contained in the UNSG reports on women, peace and security (WPS).

This paper will interrogate why, despite global targets and donor initiatives, funding for WOs in fragile and conflict-affected settings has remained consistently low and well below the 1 per cent target of ODA to conflict-affected countries. It will seek to unpack this funding gap by conducting a detailed examination of reported amounts of ODA, to provide a more precise assessment of aid flows to WOs, the destination of these funds, and potential missed opportunities. This study will also aim to enhance comprehension of existing donor funding strategies to support WOs in fragile and conflict settings and to gain further insight into their methods of tracking assistance to WOs. Finally, it will provide actionable recommendations to accelerate and scale-up support for WOs in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

9 Bilateral allocable ODA to enhance the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of WOs calculated using the OECD-DAC CRS purpose code 15170. This purpose code is used by donors to record “support for feminist, women-led and women’s rights organisations and movements, and institutions (governmental and non-governmental) at all levels to enhance their effectiveness, influence and sustainability (activities and core-funding)”. The statistics provided in this report exclude support to government institutions such as women’s ministries.

10 For statistical purposes and in the context of this research, the term “fragile and conflict-affected countries” refers to the 2022 OECD list of fragile contexts. The list includes 60 fragile contexts, 15 of which are considered as extremely fragile. It is elaborated using the OECD’s multidimensional fragility framework, introduced in 2016, which measures fragility on a spectrum of intensity across six dimensions: economic, environmental, human, political, security and societal.

11 OECD (2022), “States of Fragility 2022”. OECD Publishing: Paris.

II) The evidence base: what we know about effective funding for WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

There is significant knowledge about the most effective funding modalities for WOs. Existing literature shows a strong consensus around the need for flexible, long-term, core and accessible donor funding¹²:

- **Flexible funding** allows WOs to determine their agendas, respond to changes such as security developments and emergencies, and seize opportunities throughout the duration of their project.¹³
- **Long-term and multi-year commitments** facilitate greater predictability of resources and financial sustainability, allowing WOs to plan more effectively and ensure the continuity of critical initiatives, and thus fostering their organizational growth and resilience.¹⁴
- **Core funding** relates to unrestricted financial support that can cover organizational or administrative costs, such as staff salaries, rent, equipment, and communications. This type of funding is critical because it allows WOs to build long-term organizational capacity and operate independently of donor constraints and priorities.¹⁵
- **Accessibility** is linked to barriers in obtaining available funding, including complex and burdensome application criteria and reporting requirements, that tend to favour well-established organisations and can be insurmountable for smaller grassroots WOs to navigate.
- **Direct funding** to local WOs or through **pivotal intermediaries** such as women's funds is also recognized as an important strategy to effectively support WOs.¹⁶ This helps ensure that financial resources directly reach the grassroots level, empowering local

initiatives and addressing the distinctive needs of communities.

- **Fragile and conflict-affected settings** present unique challenges due to their unstable environments, where the needs and priorities of WOs can shift abruptly. WOs face additional barriers in these contexts, such as difficulties in obtaining legal registration, limited access to financial services, and security concerns, which **complicate their ability to receive and manage funds**. Additionally, political instability and weakened institutional frameworks necessitate funding approaches tailored to these complexities.

Despite this knowledge, the UNSG's annual report on **Women Peace and Security (WPS) in 2023 highlighted that progress in moving away from project-based and short-term funding has been sluggish**.¹⁷ Indeed, most WOs continue to operate with project support rather than with long-term flexible funding. According to a survey conducted by AWID, 48 per cent of over 1,000 WOs reported never having received core funding and 52 per cent had never received multi-year funding.¹⁸ These findings were corroborated by a survey conducted by the WPHF in 2023, in which over **66 per cent of local WOs** across WPHF-targeted regions reported facing either a **high or very high risk to continuity due to the lack of programmatic or institutional funding**, a fairly consistent trend since 2021.¹⁹

In addition to the difficulty of securing adequate funding, local WOs working in conflict-affected settings face additional hurdles due to **volatile security and political situations, which aggravate risks to the safety and security of their staff**.

12 George, R. and Harper, C. (2022), "Women's Organisations and Feminist Mobilisation. Supporting the Foundational Drivers of Gender Equality". ODI Briefing Note, September 2022.

13 WPHF and Spotlight Initiative (2021), "A Missing Brick for Sustaining Women's Movements. Flexible Institutional Funding for Local Women's Organizations".

14 WfWI, WILPF and Saferworld (2022), "Resourcing Change: Supporting Women's Rights Organisations in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States".

15 AWID (2013), "Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots: The Status of Financing for Women's Rights Organizing and Gender Equality".

16 AWID (2020), "Moving More Money to the Drivers of Change - How funders can resource feminist movements". AWID and Mama Cash, with support of the Count Me In! Consortium, pp. 10-11.

17 United Nations (2023), "Women and peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General" (S/2023/725), para. 96.

18 AWID (2013), "Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots: The Status of Financing for Women's Rights Organizing and Gender Equality".

19 WPHF (2024), "WPHF 2023 Global CSO Survey Findings on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Uncovering Key Priorities of Women Civil Society Leaders in Conflict and Crisis".

In 2023, the WPHF found that almost half of all WOs (43 per cent) reported that their organization and staff had received threats as a result of their work in the last twelve months.²⁰ As civil society space shrinks and women's rights face a growing backlash, donors should recognize the unique risks faced by WOs and **dedicate resources to ensure their protection**,²¹ including by allowing dedicated budget lines for protection in proposals or by offering rapid response funding to ensure the safety and security of WOs, such as for relocation or emergency needs.²²

There are good examples to build on, such as the creation of **rapid response windows** dedicated to WOs in crisis settings. In 2022, the WPHF introduced a **Funding Window for Women Human Rights Defenders from Crisis and Conflict Settings**, which aims to support the advocacy and ensure the protection of women human rights defenders from conflict- and crisis-affected

countries, including their dependents.^{23,24} MADRE also provides **rapid response grants to local women, girls and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and more (LGBTQIA+) people of all genders in high-risk contexts**, to respond to emergency situations, ensure their security, support their temporary relocation, finance medical and legal services, and fund campaigns to counter the backlash on their work.²⁵ Another example is the UN Trust Fund, which introduced in 2019 a new budget allocation for small grants to cover **self and collective care costs** for up to USD 2,000. The recipient organizations have been able to use these allocations to cover health care and mental health support for staff.²⁶ Finally, the Urgent Action Fund has been placing a specific focus on **integrating self-care in its funding** through rapid response grants that allow WOs to attend to their well-being.²⁷

III) The ambition: funding targets and donor initiatives in support of WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

a) Global commitments and funding targets for WOs

The international community has increasingly acknowledged the significant funding gap for WOs in conflict-affected settings, leading to the development of global commitments and funding targets aimed at scaling up dedicated support for them.²⁸

From its inception, **UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)**—the first landmark resolution on WPS— included a reference calling for support to local women's peace initiatives.²⁹ **UN Security Council resolution 2122 (2013)** went a step further, recognizing the need for better support and calling on Member States to develop **dedicated funding mechanisms and increase their contributions to WOs at the local level**.³⁰

20 WPHF (2024), "WPHF 2023 Global CSO Survey Findings on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Uncovering Key Priorities of Women Civil Society Leaders in Conflict and Crisis".

21 GNWP, GPPAC, ICAN, Kvinna till Kvinna, MADRE and WILPF (2022), "Fund us Like you want us to Win: Feminist Solutions for more Impactful Financing for Peacebuilding", pp.11-12.

22 GAPS, Saferworld, Somali Women's Development Centre, WILPF Nigeria, Women's International Peace Centre, Women for Women International and Womankind Worldwide (2021), "The Key to Change: Supporting Civil Society and Women's Rights Organisations in Fragile and Conflict Affected Contexts", p.13.

23 <https://wphfund.org/whrds/#:~:text=The20United%20Nations%20Women,crisis%20and%20conflict%20affected%20areas>

24 WPHF (2023), "Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. Annual Report 2022. Unlocking the Power & Scaling Up the Impact of Women's Civil Society Organizations on the Front Lines".

25 See <https://www.madre.org/campaign/rapid-response-rapid-action>.

26 UN Women (2021), "UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Strategic Plan 2021-2025", p.26.

27 Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (2017), "Funding Courage. Celebrating 20 Years of Innovation, Solidarity and Activism", p.12.

28 See Annex I – Timeline of international policy frameworks related to financing WOs, notably in conflict-affected settings.

29 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), 31 October 2000, S/RES/1325 (2000), para. 8(b).

30 UN Security Council Resolution 2122 (2013), 18 October 2013, S/RES/2122 (2013), para 7(b).

A few years later, the **Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2015)** called for an increase in funding for local WOs, recommending that **“current levels of approximately 1 per cent funding for local women’s organizations, including women’s human rights defenders, should be increased until they reach at least 5 per cent in the next three years, before setting progressively more ambitious targets in the following years”**.³¹ It also importantly urged donors to **ensure that funding for core operations, advocacy and capacity-building match funding for projects**.³²

On the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 in October 2020, the UNSG proposed **five forward-looking goals** for the decade ahead.³³ These included a call to the donor community to **“dedicate a minimum of 15 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) to conflict-affected countries to advancing gender equality, including multiplying by five direct assistance to women’s organizations, currently at 0.2 per cent”**. He added that this should entail **not only an increase in allocations but also earmarking and tracking resources** to support WPS.

This commitment was reiterated in the **UNSG’s New Agenda for Peace** in July 2023, which called to **“Allocate 15 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) to gender equality, and provide a minimum of 1 per cent of ODA in direct assistance to women’s organizations, especially grass-roots groups mobilizing for peace”**.³⁴ The UNSG also encouraged donors to contribute to the **Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund’s (WPHF) campaign to raise USD 300 million over the next three years**.³⁵

The humanitarian sector has also recognized the importance of supporting local civil society, notably under the Grand Bargain localization agenda, adopted at the

World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016. On this occasion, UN agencies and donors committed to **provide 25 per cent of all their humanitarian funding to national and local actors, as directly as possible**.³⁶ Specific stakeholders also pledged to increase resources for local WOs to increase women’s participation and leadership roles in humanitarian response.³⁷ They notably committed to increasing funding to WOs **“from current levels of approximately 1 per cent” [of all funding to fragile states in 2015] to 4 per cent by 2020** to enable them to engage meaningfully in humanitarian action”.³⁸

Despite this, **the humanitarian sector remains the ODA sector that integrates gender equality the least**, with only 17 per cent of bilateral humanitarian aid targeting gender equality as a principal or secondary objective in 2021-2022, compared to an average of 42 per cent for bilateral aid in all sectors. In his 2022 annual report on WPS, the UNSG called for a **greater investment in local WOs in humanitarian response**, and to ensure that WOs **“have a clear role in the humanitarian cluster service and consistent participation in community-driven and bottom-up approaches”**.³⁹

Although global funding targets for WOs have set a collective level of ambition, interviews with bilateral donors, UN agencies and funds conducted in the context of this research, reveal that **these targets are not well recognized by all stakeholders**. While the UN’s overarching goal of allocating 15 per cent of ODA to conflict-affected countries to gender equality enjoys relatively widespread acknowledgement, none of the bilateral donors interviewed for this research have integrated **the specific target of allocating a minimum 1 per cent of ODA to conflict-affected countries to WOs** into their internal policies or strategies, and there is a general lack of awareness about the existence of this standard recommended by the UN.⁴⁰

31 UN Women (2015), “A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325”, p.90.

32 *Ibid.*

33 United Nations (2020), “Women and peace and security: Report of the Secretary-General”, (S/2020/946), para. 113.

34 United Nations (2023), “Our Common Agenda. Policy Brief 9. A New Agenda for Peace”, p.20.

35 United Nations (2023), “Women and Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary-General” (S/2023/725), para.98, para.105(c).

36 United Nations (2016), “Outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit. Report of the Secretary-General (A/71/353), para. 37.

37 United Nations World Humanitarian Summit (2016), “Women and Girls: Catalysing Action to Achieve Gender Equality. High-Level Leaders’ Roundtable. Core Responsibilities Two and Three of the Agenda for Humanity”.

38 *Ibid.*

39 United Nations (2022), “Women and Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary General” (S/2022/740), para. 44.

40 The bilateral donors interviewed for this study were: Canada, EU, France, Ireland, UK, Netherlands, and Sweden. See Annex III for details on the individuals and organizations interviewed.

BOX 1:

Funding targets for gender equality and WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

Target	Reference document
15 per cent of UN peacebuilding funds for projects targeting gender equality as a principal objective	UNSG's 2010 Report on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding
15 per cent of ODA to fragile and conflict-affected countries to advancing gender equality	UNSG Report on Women and Peace and Security (2020) UNSG's New Agenda for Peace (2023)
1 per cent minimum of funding to conflict-affected countries going to WOs	UNSG Report on Women and Peace and Security (2020) UNSG's New Agenda for Peace (2023)
25 per cent of humanitarian funding to national and local actors, as directly as possible	World Humanitarian Summit (2016), Grand Bargain agreement
4 per cent of humanitarian funding to WOs	World Humanitarian Summit (2016), High-Level Leaders' Roundtable on Women and Girls

This suggests the need for greater dissemination and emphasis on this 1 per cent target to ensure its effective integration into development agendas and funding priorities. More broadly, efforts to raise awareness and promote accountability regarding these targets are essential for advancing the goal of more dedicated and measurable funding for WOs in fragile contexts.

b) Bilateral donor initiatives

At the national level, several bilateral donors have made significant pledges, created their own bilateral funding mechanisms, or established innovative partnerships to support WOs.

A few donors have created their own bilateral funds or grant schemes to support local WOs. The Netherlands has a long history of intentional support to WOs. The Dutch government's MDG3 Fund created in 2008 was a flagship model in its support to WOs, and the largest fund ever created at the time targeting women's rights and CSOs.⁴¹ Building on this experience, the Netherlands

continued its commitment to alternative financing mechanisms for gender equality and introduced the **SDG5** fund with a budget of almost **EUR 500 million** over five years (2021-2025). This Fund includes several financing mechanisms for gender equality, including the **Leading from the South (LFS)** program and the **Power of Women** grant instrument – both of which are dedicated to funding WOs and feminist movements. LFS is a feminist funding alliance, led by four women's funds in the Global South, that resources and supports WOs that are working towards gender-transformative change and the advancement of human rights. It was financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs with an initial budget of EUR 42 million for four years (2017-2020) and was renewed for an additional five years (2021-2025) with a total budget of **EUR 80 million**.⁴²

In 2017, **Canada** launched the **Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) Program**, a **CAD 150 million**, 5-year programme to support local WOs in the Global South.⁴³ WVL provides support to WOs through core funding, and fast, responsive funding to meet urgent needs.

41 AWID (2013), "Women Moving Mountains. Collective Impact of the Dutch MDG3 Fund. How Resources Advance Women's Rights and Gender Equality", pp. 10-11.

42 <https://www.leadingfromthesouth.org/about-us>.

43 https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_des_genres/wvl_projects-projets_vlf.aspx?lang=eng

Since its inception, it has delivered critical resources and capacity-building support to a wide range of WOs, including groups representing human rights defenders, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), sex workers, indigenous women, and LGBTQIA+ organizations. In 2023, Canada announced the renewal and expansion of the WVL Programme with CAD 195 million over five years and CAD 43.3 million annually thereafter. This renewed phase seeks to expand support in conflict and crisis-affected contexts and to be more intentional in reaching structurally excluded groups, such as persons identifying as LGBTQIA+, and women with disabilities.

France created the **Support Fund for Feminist Organizations** (FSOF) in 2020, which has become a pillar of its feminist foreign policy. The FSOF has supported 1,000 feminist organizations in 73 countries for a total of **EUR 134 million** in its first phase.⁴⁴ In September 2023, France announced the renewal of this fund with a commitment of **EUR 250 million** over the next five years (2023-2027).⁴⁵ The FSOF includes a **dedicated call for proposals from CSOs working towards the implementation of the WPS agenda**, which is one of the fund's seven thematic priorities, with a budget of **EUR 11.5 million** for three priority regions affected by crises and conflicts: the Sahel, Central Africa, and the Middle East. The FSOF can support WOs that operate without formal registration. This modality is particularly important in conflict-affected contexts, where registration can be difficult to obtain, enabling local organizations to focus on meeting pressing needs. Operating as an unregistered WO can also be a strategic choice for some organizations to maintain their independence and avoid government interference or restrictions. Finally, the fund has adopted an inclusive governance model that ensures the full participation of CSOs from partner countries.

Donors without a dedicated bilateral funding mechanism are using a mix of funding modalities to channel support to WOs. As part of its International Women and Girls Strategy, in 2023, the **UK** launched a **GBP 38 million flagship programme** to support WOs and women's movements, particularly in conflict and crisis-affected

contexts.⁴⁶ GBP 33 million of this funding is a contribution to a new partnership with the **Equality Fund**, and GBP 5 million is going to a consortium led by Gender Links, a South Africa-based WO. Through its **Conflict, Stability and Security Fund**, the UK has also provided GBP 4 million to the Resourcing Change project, a WPS grant implemented by Saferworld, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Women for Women International to support WOs working on peace and security. The project has already provided 27 WOs and networks in Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen with an average of GBP 35,000 each in flexible core funding, and funding to support movement-building and capacity-strengthening.⁴⁷ Additionally, the UK continues to prioritize funding for addressing GBV, notably by supporting WOs and survivor-led organizations through the UN Trust Fund and the Africa-Led Movement to End Female Genital Mutilation Programme, which empowers activists to drive change from within their communities.

Ireland committed to investing at least **EUR 42 million** in feminist and women's organizations over five years (2021-2026)⁴⁸ and has pledged **EUR 1.25 million** to the WPHF over the same period, with earmarked funding for Ukraine, Haiti and Libya, as well as unearmarked funding. Ireland also supports **The Girls' Fund**, an innovative mechanism for young feminist groups working on disability, trans, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), among other topics. This Fund operates in environments hostile to women, girls and the LGBTQIA+ community, including conflict zones and dangerous political contexts. Finally, Ireland has signed a multi-year partnership (2022-2024) with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) that provides EUR 6.8 million to protect women and girls from GBV and provide services for survivors and women's empowerment programmes, including capacity-building and financial support to local WOs in six countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan), targeting primarily refugee and displaced women and girls.

44 [https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-feministe/le-fonds-de-soutien-aux-organisations-feministes-fsof-un-outil-emblematisque-de/#:~:text=En%20septembre%202023%2C%20en%20marge,FSOF%20\(2023%2D2027\).](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-feministe/le-fonds-de-soutien-aux-organisations-feministes-fsof-un-outil-emblematisque-de/#:~:text=En%20septembre%202023%2C%20en%20marge,FSOF%20(2023%2D2027).)

45 [https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-feministe/le-fonds-de-soutien-aux-organisations-feministes-fsof-un-outil-emblematisque-de/#:~:text=En%20septembre%202023%2C%20en%20marge,FSOF%20\(2023%2D2027\).](https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-feministe/le-fonds-de-soutien-aux-organisations-feministes-fsof-un-outil-emblematisque-de/#:~:text=En%20septembre%202023%2C%20en%20marge,FSOF%20(2023%2D2027).)

46 See <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-new-global-women-and-girls-strategy-on-international-womens-day>

47 WfWI, WILPF and Saferworld (2022), "Resourcing Change: Supporting Women's Rights Organisations in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States".

48 <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Ireland.pdf>.

Sweden, through its International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), prioritises support for WOs and feminist movements in conflict-affected areas through its cooperation with various funds and partners, including the Global Fund for Women, WILPF, the Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism (UAF), Women's Learning Partnership (WLP), Kvinna till Kvinna, and the UN Trust Fund. Sweden has committed more than EUR 9 million over 2023-2027 to the Global Fund for Women, one of the leading foundations which provides flexible funding to WOs and feminist activists in crisis and conflict situations. It is also a long-standing supporter of the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, which supports feminist WOs in conflict-affected areas through collaboration with over 100 local organizations across 20 countries.

Finally, the EU has committed in its Gender Action Plan III to foster regular, strategic and inclusive dialogue with WOs, but has not set a specific funding target for WOs. However, the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls is an example of good practice for intentional and meaningful investment in WOs. This global initiative has a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings, and sexual and economic exploitation. WOs at national and local level are the main partners of the Initiative across all outcome areas. In 2021, the Initiative delivered 72 per cent (USD 104 million) of the awarded funds to CSOs that are led by women, and feminist and women's rights organizations (WROs).⁴⁹

Donors are increasingly recognizing the pivotal role of WOs in driving sustainable development and fostering social change, leading to a growing emphasis on supporting WOs in their development strategies. However, there are still too few donors making specific financial commitments to WOs, and none of the donors interviewed for this study have dedicated tracking mechanisms to monitor financial allocations to WOs. Furthermore, the pledges announced sometimes

involve a combination of existing funding streams rather than the provision of entirely new resources. Some donors, for example, announce funding for WOs which aggregate contributions to CSOs, multilateral agencies and funds, but it's not always clear if these resources are entirely dedicated to supporting WOs or specifically earmarked for them. The limited amounts of new resources might partly explain the stagnation in reported bilateral ODA to WOs.

The challenges in holding donors accountable for funding to WOs were underlined in the 2022 Accountability Report of the Women, Peace and Security-Humanitarian Action Compact (WPS-HA)⁵⁰, which noted that "while Signatories have committed a commendable amount of funds to local women's organizations, tracking data on financing to women and girls in conflict and crisis situations remains a challenge and requires stronger internal coordination mechanisms and systems. It was not possible to calculate the total amount of money given by Signatories to local women's organizations – either directly or through intermediaries".⁵¹ The report highlighted difficulties in ensuring donor accountability for WOs, as some signatories reported specific budget figures, while others gave percentages or did not disclose amounts. Additionally, some donors mentioned contributions to UN agencies, without specifying if these funds were earmarked for local WOs.

c) The key role of women's funds as specialized funding intermediaries

Women's funds, whose primary purpose is to mobilize and channel resources to WOs, have long been a successful funding modality to support local WOs and movements. According to the definition of the Prospera International Network of Women's Funds, women's and feminist funds can be defined as "public fundraising foundations that work to realize the power of grassroots women, girls, trans, non-binary and intersex movements around the world by providing them with sustained financial and other resources to realize their vision of social justice".⁵²

49 Spotlight Initiative (2022), "Investing in Civil Society Organizations and Movements – Driving Transformative, Sustainable Change. 01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021", pp.11-12.

50 Launched at the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, the Women, Peace and Security-Humanitarian Action Compact has welcomed more than 200 Signatories, including member states, regional organizations, UN entities and civil society. Together, this multistakeholder process is driving five years of transformative action for sustainable and inclusive peace through strong partnerships, improved monitoring and assessment of progress, and a focus on financing and advocacy.

51 Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (2022), "Accountability Report 2022", p. 34.

52 <https://prospera-inwf.org/womens-funds/>

These experienced funds provide flexible financial support, have strong local knowledge and connections, and are able to reach small, remote and minority grassroots WOs.⁵³ Women's funds have a deep understanding of local contexts and the specific needs of women and girls in the communities they serve. By working with women's funds, donors can ensure their support is targeted and responsive to the most pressing issues facing women's rights locally, and get funding to the local level while delegating the partnership and administrative workload. This is particularly useful, as bilateral donors often admit they are not well-placed or adequately staffed to process and manage a large number of small grants.

Some of these women's funds have a specific focus on conflict contexts or a dedicated window to support WOs in crisis. Examples include the **Global Fund for Women's Crisis Fund**, which focuses on providing flexible, core financial support directly to local WOs in the aftermath of crises, such as wars, health crises, political upheavals, or natural disasters. Since its establishment in 2014, the Crisis Fund has awarded more than USD 12 million to 327 organizations responding to crisis in 70 countries.⁵⁴ Around 25 per cent of the organizations supported by the Global Fund for Women are unregistered WOs. **The Equality Fund** also focuses on resourcing WOs and feminist movements worldwide, including organizations working in crises, together with providing capacity-building and technical support activities. Finally, the **Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism** provides fast, flexible support to frontline feminist activists, organizations and movements to respond to unexpected risks and opportunities, protect and care for themselves and one another, and nurture feminist movements.

Women's funds are transforming the philanthropic landscape by amplifying the voices of women. They are focusing on equitable redistribution to WOs and

empowering the feminist movement. Women's funds aim not only to bolster funding for local groups, but also to influence how donors fund feminist issues, by advocating both for more funding and for better financing modalities for feminist movements.

Despite their transformative potential, women's funds are often unable to support all the eligible proposals they receive due to limited resources, as the demand for these funds far exceeds available funds.⁵⁵ Prospera reports that across its network, women's funds were only able to support an average of 23 per cent of eligible applications in 2020, while more than half (64 per cent) of eligible applications received by members of the network were not funded that year.⁵⁶

Some women's funds express frustration with the challenges associated with obtaining funds from bilateral donors, notably with regards to the rigidity of bilateral funding, particularly when operating in conflict-affected environments, with stringent due diligence and risk management requirements. Additionally, women's funds underline the challenges of operating in conflict zones characterized by **shrinking civic space, restrictive banking regulations and weak to non-existing infrastructure,** which hinder the timely transfer of funds to these areas.

d) Pooled funds can provide an opportunity to scale-up support to WOs

Pooled funds are also an increasingly attractive mechanism for donors committed to supporting gender equality. These financing mechanisms receive contributions from more than one donor, and distribute funds to multiple recipients on the basis of defined criteria.^{59,60} They offer several advantages by enabling fast and flexible funding decisions, reducing the administrative burden for donors, and allowing them to collectively address thematic and innovative issues.⁶¹

53 OECD (2020), "Putting Finance to Work for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: The Way Forward". OECD Development Policy Papers, No. 25, OECD Publishing: Paris.

54 <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/what-we-do/crisis-fund>.

55 Wilton Park (2014), "Report. Women's Rights Organisations and Movements in Crises: Pathways to Progress. Monday 5 – Wednesday 7 February 2024", p. 3.

56 <https://trends.prospera-inwf.org/en/>

57 <https://equalityfund.ca/learn/feminism-in-motion-equality-fund-2022-23-annual-report/>

58 <https://urgentactionfund.org/grantmaking>

59 <https://mptf.undp.org/overview/funds>

60 Norwegian Refugee Council (2022), "Pooled Funds: The New Humanitarian Silver Bullet?", p. 11.

61 *Ibid.*, pp. 16-17.

BOX 2

Examples of women's funds targeting WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

The Global Fund for Women is a foundation that channels core, flexible funding and resources to feminist activists around the world. Through its **Crisis Fund**, it provides flexible, core support to WOs and movements during political upheavals, health crises and natural disasters. Since its establishment in 2014, the Crisis Fund has awarded more than **USD 12 million** to 327 organizations responding to crisis in 70 countries. In 2023, the Global Fund for Women awarded **USD 40 million in grants, including 20 per cent in crisis contexts.**

The Equality Fund resources WOs and feminist movements worldwide by partnering with organizations, coalitions, and networks focused on building power with women, girls, and trans people, especially in the Global South. Its **“Prepare, Respond and Care”** grantmaking stream mobilizes and provides resources for WOs and networks working in crisis

situations. In 2022-2023, it disbursed **USD 3.5 million** in “Prepare, Respond and Care” grants, with new grants responding to crises from floods in Pakistan and droughts in Kenya, to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and protracted conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa. In 2022-2023, the Equality Fund provided over **USD 21 million** of funding to feminist movements, supporting 654 organizations across 90 countries.⁵⁷

The Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights was founded to deliver funds quickly to frontline feminists and their movements in times of urgent crisis and unexpected moments of opportunity. It provides fast, flexible support to frontline feminist activists through rapid response grants. In 2023, it awarded more than **USD 3.7 million** for a total of 512 grants in 39 countries.⁵⁸

Pooled funds, and notably gender equality funds with an intentional focus on grassroots WOs, can serve as a powerful localization tool and provide an opportunity for donors to scale-up support to local WOs and movements. Since 2004, the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office has managed over USD 16 billion over 200 trust funds. However, in 2021, only 18 UN Multi-Partner Trust Funds (37 per cent) and 32 stand-alone Joint Programmes (48 per cent) reported having financial targets on gender equality.⁶² In addition, the minimum threshold set by most pooled funds for grant allocations poses a significant barrier for local CSOs to access these funds directly.

In its 2017 annual report on WPS, the UNSG **encouraged donors to increase their funding to WPS including through scaling up contributions to pooled funds** such as the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), but also other mechanisms that are integrating good

practices on gender mainstreaming in conflict-affected contexts, such as the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the UN Trust Fund, the UN Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Prevention Multi-Partner Trust Fund and the Spotlight Initiative.⁶³

However, beyond the WPHF, the UN Secretary General noted in his 2022 annual report on WPS that **the extent to which funding from other UN financing mechanisms reaches locally-based and women-led peacebuilding organizations and their networks is unclear, and that more work is needed to better track this across funding mechanisms.**⁶⁴ While efforts have been made to improve the tracking of resource allocations for gender equality within UN pooled funds, ensuring a comprehensive data collection on funding allocated to WOs remains challenging, and there is a need for consistent reporting requirements across the UN system to enhance accountability.

62 UN Women (2023), “Financing for Gender Equality and the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Assessment of the Implementation of a Minimum 15 Per Cent Financial Target. Issue Brief”, p.7.

63 United Nations (2017), “Women, Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary-General” (S/2017/861), para. 101-103.

64 United Nations (2022), “Women and Peace and Security: Report of the Secretary General” (S/2022/740), para. 99.

Setting funding targets and earmarking funds for WOs could also help promote a shift towards a more targeted approach to supporting them, ensuring that a more significant and measurable portion of pooled allocations is directed towards them. For instance, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has set targets for funding to be sub-granted to national and local CSOs as implementing partners – a good way to ensure that funding reaches local organizations.⁶⁵ In December 2020, CERF notably launched a USD 25 million GBV Global Block Grant to UNFPA and UN Women, which required that at least 30 per cent of funding would go to local WOs at the frontlines of GBV response. An evaluation found that more than 40 per cent of the sub-granting was allocated to WOs and that this grant made a positive contribution to the GBV response across countries, although the amounts and coverage it provided were insufficient, compared to needs.⁶⁶

Tailoring pooled funds' modalities, notably through the adjustment of eligibility criteria and grant size, special funding windows and dedicated calls for proposals, is also an effective way to deliberately target WOs. For instance, the UN Trust Fund has adjusted its modalities to enhance its support to small organizations for its 2023 call for proposals, by simplifying its application form, increasing the level of core support for small grants, introducing longer-term grants with an increase in the duration of grants from 3 to 4 years, and increasing support to potential applicants for grant writing.⁶⁷ The WPHF is also a good example in this regard, with small and different types of funding envelopes, ranging from USD 2,500 to USD 200,000 on average. It is also more accessible, with almost half of its CSO partners receiving funding from the UN for the first time, and over 88 per cent of supported organizations working at the local or sub-national level.⁶⁸

Enhancing tracking mechanisms within the UN system at various stages, from initial grants to sub-grants, is paramount to effectively monitor the allocation of resources to WOs. This comprehensive tracking should

ensure that WOs receive adequate support and allow for a detailed examination of where resources are directed within the UN system.

Ensuring that WOs are equitably represented in the management and advisory committees of pooled funds has also been recognized as a best practice. In recent years, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has included WOs on the advisory boards of some UN Country-Based Pooled Funds⁶⁹, ensuring that local and national WOs are consulted and have access to funding information. CSOs are equally represented alongside other members of the WPHF Board, which decides on the allocation of unearmarked funding and the eligibility of new countries. They also participate in other country or window-specific governance committees of the WPHF, contributing to the decision-making process.

65 https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/CERF_ARR_2022_20230904.pdf.

66 Samuel Hall (2023), "Evaluation of UNFPA/UN Women GBV 2-year Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Block Grant", pp. 18-19.

67 UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (2023), "2023 Call for Proposals", p.6.

68 WPHF (2024), "WPHF – Dashboard. As of May 1, 2024".

69 CARE (2021), "Time for a Better Bargain: How the Aid System Shortchanges Women and Girls in Crisis".

BOX 3

Focus on UN pooled funds with an intentional approach on supporting WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts

The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund is the only global financing mechanism dedicated exclusively to mobilizing support for grassroots WOs working on WPS and humanitarian action. Established in 2016, it focuses on mobilizing and channeling flexible and quality funding and capacity support to local and grassroots women's civil society leaders and their organizations in conflict and crisis settings worldwide. Since its establishment, the WPHF has supported more than 1,200 local WOs in 46 crisis and conflict-affected countries, including 98 organizations with critical institutional funding to safeguard their existence.⁷⁰ In 2023 alone, the Fund raised over USD 45.8 million, the highest annual amount since the Fund was launched in 2016.⁷¹ Over half of the Fund's partners (56 per cent) received funding through the United Nations for the first time.⁷²

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women has decided since 2017 to provide grants solely to CSOs, in particular WOs. In 2023, the Fund managed a grant portfolio of 191 projects aimed at preventing and responding to VAWG in 68 countries and territories, with grants totaling USD 92.1 million. Grant recipients were all CSOs, with the majority (65.1 per cent) being WOs.⁷³ In response to the UN Trust Fund's 2022 Call for Proposals, 24 new grants from 22 countries have been awarded for a total of USD 11.1 million. Among the organizations awarded grants, **75 per cent identify as WROs and 92 per cent identify as women-led organizations (WLOs).** In addition, 54 per cent of selected grantees were small organizations.⁷⁴ The UN Trust Fund also includes a **Special Window addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) affected by crisis and supporting CSOs working to end VAWG in crisis settings,** particularly women's rights, women-led, constituent-led and small organizations. Crisis is understood to

encompass a broad spectrum of events, including natural disasters, conflict and post-conflict settings, challenges related to climate change, humanitarian, economic and political crises, and public health emergencies.

The UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the organization's financial instrument of first resort to sustain peace in countries or situations at risk of or affected by violent conflict. The Fund's application and monitoring of its own PBF Gender Equality Marker⁷⁵ stands as a model for other funds. It includes a **specific priority window, the Gender Promotion Initiative,** focused on supporting WOs, groups and networks in strengthening their institutional capacity for sustainable contributions to peacebuilding. In 2022, it approved a record USD 231 million to support peacebuilding initiatives in 37 countries, with 47 per cent (USD 108.5 million) of those supporting gender equality. For the sixth year in a row, the Fund exceeded its internal target allocation of 30 per cent to initiative supporting gender equality, which reflects effective gender mainstreaming in the Fund's regular programming. However, **only a very small portion of this funding directly benefitted local CSOs and WOs.** Of the 185 projects approved in 2020 and 2021, only 44 (23.78 per cent) had a CSO as a direct recipient, representing a total investment of about USD 38 million. Yet, only 7 local CSOs (out of which one WO) accessed funding as direct recipients – many others being unable to comply with the strict financial and legal requirements of the MPTFO.⁷⁶ In order to address these barriers, the **Gender Promotion Initiative** of the PBF is encouraging joint UN-CSO proposals and **direct recipients are required to allocate at least 40 per cent of the funds to national or local organizations.**

70 WPHF (2024), "2023 Global CSO Survey Findings on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Uncovering Key Priorities of Women Civil Society Leaders in Conflict and Crisis".

71 WPHF (2024), "2023 Global CSO Survey Findings on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Uncovering Key Priorities of Women Civil Society Leaders in Conflict and Crisis".

72 *Ibid.*

73 United Nations (2024), "Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women" (A/HRC/56/21-E/CN.6/2024/8).

74 <https://untf.unwomen.org/en/grant-giving/untf-grants/grantees-26th-cycle-2023>.

75 https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_guidance_note_on_gender_marker_scoring_2019.pdf

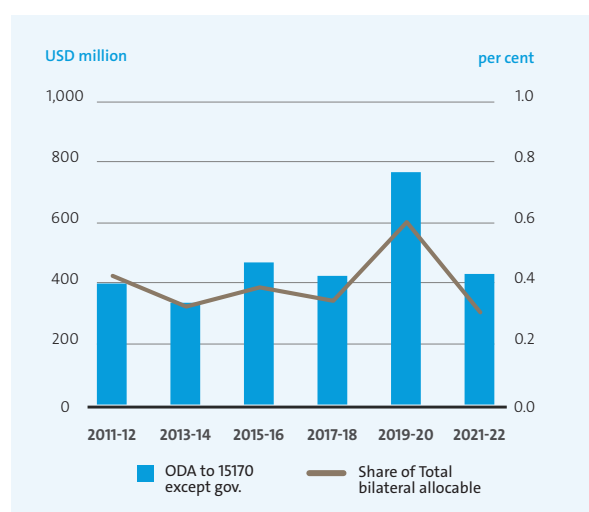
76 Nimaga, S. and Moltès, A. (2023), "Final Report. Mid-Term Review. UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Strategy 2020-2024", pp. 23-24.

IV) Tracking the money: funding from DAC members to WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and destination of funds

a) A volatile funding environment for WOs across all development contexts

DAC members⁷⁷ report bilateral ODA to WOs through the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS), using the women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions purpose code (code 15170), indicating their support to enhancing the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of WOs.⁷⁸

CHART 1
Evolution of bilateral ODA to women’s organizations across all development contexts (2011-2022)



Globally, in 2021-2022, women’s organizations received only 0.3 per cent of total bilateral allocable ODA and 1 per cent of all gender-related aid.⁸⁰

There has been a notable rise in 2019-2020 in aid to WOs across all development contexts. Bilateral aid to WOs sharply increased from USD 423 million on average per year in 2017-2018 to USD 767 million on average per year in 2019-2020, due to large commitments to WOs by Canada and the Netherlands: in 2019, Canada committed CAD 300 million to the Equality Fund, while in 2020 the Netherlands made various new commitments to WOs under the instruments funded through its SDG5 Fund, including Leading from the South, Power of Women, and the Women Peace and Security instrument. However, following this sharp increase, bilateral aid to WOs across all development contexts has dropped to USD 432 million in 2021-2022 – a level comparable to the USD 401 million provided a decade ago.

This suggests that despite global policy commitments and calls for increasing dedicated support to WOs, donors still do not sufficiently and consistently prioritize funding to enhance the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of WOs in their aid budgets.

b) There has been progress in the integration of gender equality objectives in aid to fragile and conflict-affected contexts

In 2021-2022, bilateral aid to fragile and conflict-affected contexts⁸¹ stood at USD 50.3 billion on average per year. Almost half of this aid (44 per cent) had gender equality objectives, but only USD 2.4 billion (5 per cent) was dedicated to programmes with gender equality as a principal objective.

⁷⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/development-assistance-committee/>

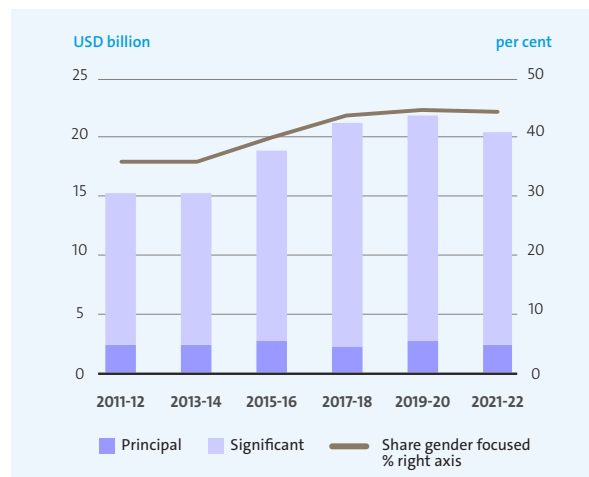
⁷⁸ Bilateral allocable ODA to enhance the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of WOs calculated using the OECD-DAC CRS purpose code 15170. This purpose code is used by donors to record “support for feminist, women-led and women’s rights organisations and movements, and institutions (governmental and non-governmental) at all levels to enhance their effectiveness, influence and sustainability (activities and core-funding)”. The statistics provided in this report exclude support to government institutions, such as women’s ministries.

⁷⁹ Bilateral ODA to enhance the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of WOs reported by DAC members under the CRS 15170 purpose code. It excludes support to government institutions, such as women’s ministries.

⁸⁰ Bilateral ODA to enhance the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of WOs reported by DAC members under the CRS 15170 purpose code. It excludes support to government institutions, such as women’s ministries.

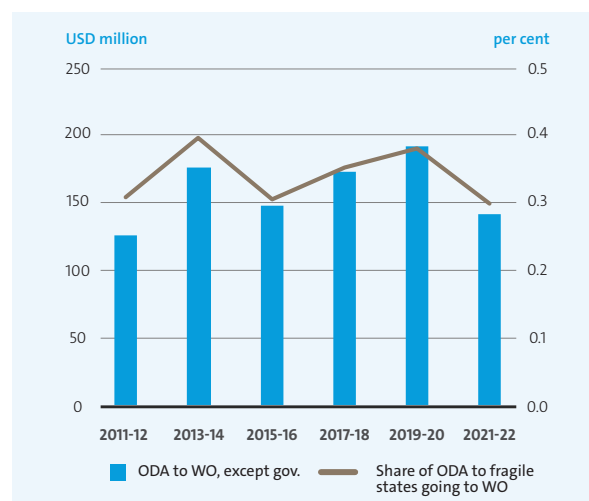
⁸¹ For statistical purposes and in the context of this research, the term “fragile and conflict-affected countries” refers to the 2022 OECD list of fragile contexts. The list includes 60 fragile contexts, 15 of which are considered as extremely fragile. It is elaborated using the OECD’s multidimensional fragility framework, introduced in 2016, which measures fragility on a spectrum of intensity across six dimensions: economic, environmental, human, political, security and societal.

CHART 2
Evolution of gender-focused bilateral ODA by DAC members in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (2011-2022)



There has been notable progress in the integration of gender equality objectives in bilateral aid to fragile and conflict-affected contexts: in 2011-2012, only 36 per cent of aid to fragile and conflict-affected contexts integrated gender equality as a principal or significant objective, compared with 44 per cent in 2021-2022.

CHART 3
Evolution of bilateral ODA from DAC members to WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (2011-2022)⁸²



82 Bilateral ODA to enhance the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of WOs in fragile contexts reported by DAC donors under the CRS 15170 purpose code.

83 Funding channeled through CSOs to implement donor-initiated projects (earmarked funding).

84 Core contributions and contributions to programmes. These aid funds are programmed by CSOs.

c) In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, aid to WOs is decreasing, after a period of growth

In 2021-2022, WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts received only 0.3 per cent of bilateral ODA to these settings, far from the UNSG's target of 1 per cent. This percentage mirrors the proportion of ODA going to WOs across all development contexts (also 0.3 per cent in 2021-2022).

After a period of growth between 2015 and 2020, aid to WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts **dropped** from USD 192 million in 2019-2020 to USD 142 million in 2021-2022.

The evolution of aid to WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts reveals that, despite some fluctuations, the share of bilateral aid to fragile and conflict-affected contexts going to WOs has **never exceeded 0.4 per cent** in the last decade.

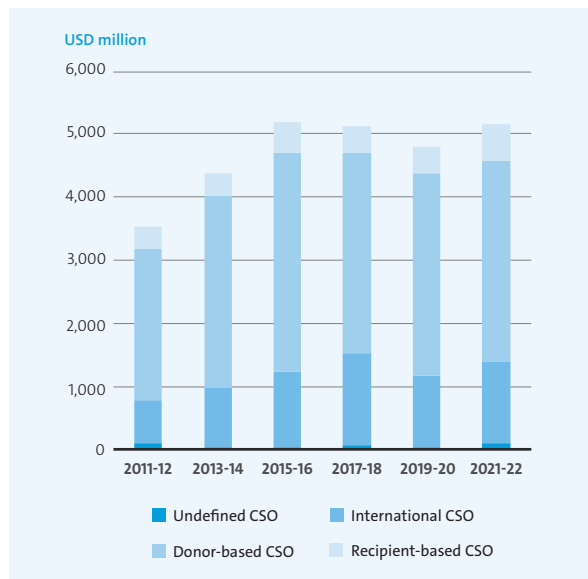
d) Most bilateral aid with gender equality objectives in fragile and conflict-affected contexts goes to donor-country based CSOs and is earmarked

The OECD CRS also tracks bilateral aid channeled to and through CSOs. Most gender-focused bilateral aid in fragile and conflict-affected contexts to and through CSOs is for organizations based in donor countries (15 per cent), followed by international CSOs (6 per cent). Only a very small share of gender-focused aid reached local CSOs (3 per cent) in 2021-2022. Among civil society actors, donor-country based CSOs have consistently been the largest recipients of gender-focused aid in fragile contexts.

Funding through CSOs for the implementation of project activities⁸³ is much more common than core funding⁸⁴. Most donors continue to work through CSOs as implementing partners.

In 2021-2022, most of gender-focused aid for CSOs in fragile contexts (95 per cent or USD 4.9 billion) was **earmarked funding** to implement donor-initiated projects.

CHART 4
Distribution of gender-focused bilateral aid to CSOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts by type of CSO (2011-2022)



In stark contrast, only **USD 271 million (5 per cent)** was provided as **core support**. The overwhelming majority of gender-focused aid in fragile contexts continues to be tied to specific donor agendas, leaving CSOs with minimal flexibility to address local needs and priorities.

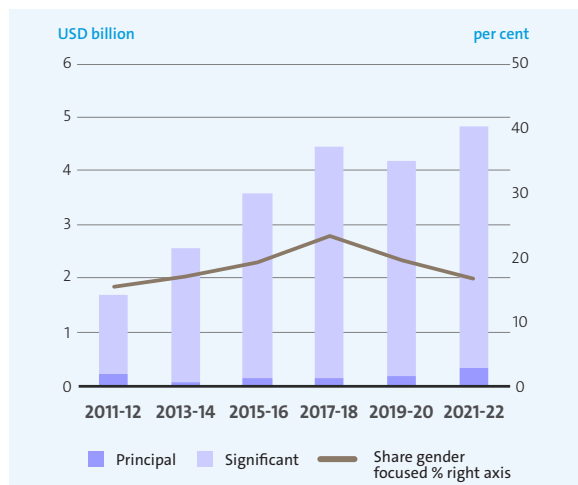
e) The persistent challenge of gender integration and localization in the humanitarian sector

The humanitarian sector systematically integrates gender equality objectives the least. Only 17 per cent of bilateral aid to the humanitarian sector included gender equality as a policy objective in 2021-2022, compared to an average of 42 per cent for all bilateral ODA. This proportion has remained largely constant over the last decade. In comparison, 50 per cent of aid to the conflict, peace and security sector targeted gender equality in 2021-2022.

The limited integration of gender equality objectives in bilateral aid to the humanitarian sector undermines the comprehensive response needed to address the complex challenges faced by women and girls in conflict zones and humanitarian crises. Bridging this gap requires concerted efforts to mainstream gender

perspectives and elevate women’s voices and participation across all phases of humanitarian action, and primarily through targeted support for local WOs.

CHART 5
Share of ODA to the humanitarian sector targeting gender equality (2011-2022)



Despite calls for increased localization, most of gender-focused aid in the humanitarian sector is channeled to and through **multilateral institutions (58 per cent)**, followed by **donor-based CSOs (17 per cent)** and **international CSOs (10 per cent)**. Local CSOs received only 0.3 per cent of gender-focused aid to the humanitarian sector in 2021-2022.

f) Bilateral donors are increasingly funding WOs through multilateral channels

There is an increasing amount of bilateral resources for WOs being channeled through UN pooled funds such as the WPHF, along with other mechanisms with dedicated funding windows for WOs. Bilateral donors without dedicated funding mechanisms for WOs are leveraging the WPHF as a strategic tool to direct their resources effectively and reach WOs on the frontlines of peacebuilding and humanitarian efforts. Other donors are diversifying their funding strategies by complementing their bilateral funds or grant schemes for WOs with contributions to the WPHF and other multilateral funds.

Since its establishment in 2016, the WPHF has raised more than **USD 187 million**.⁸⁵ In 2023 alone, the Fund raised over **USD 45.8 million** – the highest annual amount since the WPHF was launched in 2016.⁸⁶

The largest bilateral donors to the WPHF since 2016⁸⁷ are Germany (USD 70.9 million), Austria (USD 16.5 million), the United States (USD 15 million) and Australia (USD 12.5 million).⁸⁸

Another example is the **UN Trust Fund**, which prioritizes applications from WROs, WLOs, organizations led by and for marginalized women and girls, and small organizations.⁸⁹ In 2023, the UN Trust Fund awarded 24 grants across 22 countries and territories, totaling **USD 11.1 million**, with **34 per cent of the funding awarded under the special focus on protracted crises**. 75 per cent of grant recipients identify as WROs and 92 per cent identify as WLOs.⁹⁰

With some bilateral donors providing significant amounts of core funding to the multilateral system, it is critical that multilateral actors, particularly UN agencies, comprehensively and consistently report on how they manage these funds, and to what extent they reach WOs.

g) The lack of comparable data for outflows by multilateral organizations, banks and funds

The comprehensive monitoring of multilateral core funding to WOs remains challenging, since UN entities and funds and the broader multilateral system, including development banks, track and report gender-focused aid and funding to WOs inconsistently—if at all. UN entities and other multilateral organizations and banks do not systematically monitor or publish

figures for funding allocated to gender equality and to WOs. Moreover, the **lack of standardized definitions and criteria** across the UN and the multilateral system affect data comparability, and reporting mechanisms do not always specify if funding is channeled to **local, donor-based or international WOs**. As a result, the volume of total financial support directed to WOs by the UN system remains unclear.

Examples of information collected from some UN funds on their allocations to WOs in 2023 are shown below.⁹¹

UN agency or fund	Allocations to WOs
Country-Based Pooled Funds	Provided around USD 56 million of funding for GBV in 2023, of which 6 per cent went to local or national WOs . ⁹²
CERF	USD 25 million GBV Global Block Grant to UNFPA and UN Women, of which more than 40 per cent went to WOs . ⁹³
Spotlight Initiative	Allocated 48 per cent or USD 190 million to CSOs, as of December 2022. Of this, USD 127 million or 73 per cent went to WOs . Overall, across the Initiative’s portfolio, USD 48 million or 15 per cent of activity funds have been allocated to Pillar 6 on supporting women’s movements and grassroots feminist organizations. ⁹⁴
UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women	In 2023, the UN Trust Fund managed a grant portfolio totaling USD 92.1 million . Grant recipients were all CSOs – the majority of which, at 65.1 per cent , were WROs. ^{95,96}

85 WPHF (2024), “WPHF – Dashboard. As of May 1, 2024”.

86 WPHF (2024), “2023 Global CSO Survey Findings on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Uncovering Key Priorities of Women Civil Society Leaders in Conflict and Crisis”.

87 As of 20 May 2024.

88 <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/gai00>.

89 UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (2023), “2023 Call for Proposals”, pp.6-7.

90 Para 19

91 These sums should not be compared to or added on to the CRS data presented elsewhere in this paper, as these numbers have not been reported by these organizations to the OECD and are not CRS data.

92 UN-SWAP reporting system.

93 Samuel Hall (2023), “Evaluation of UNFPA/UN Women GBV 2-year Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Block Grant”, pp. 18-19.

94 Spotlight Initiative (2023), “Global Annual Narrative Progress Report. 01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022”, p.13.

95 United Nations General Assembly. Economic and Social Council (2024), “Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the Activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women”, (A/HRC/56/21–E/CN.6/2024/8), para.4.

96 The report of the UN Trust Fund uses a narrower definition of WROs than that used in this paper. The figure from its annual report pertains only to those organizations that self-identify as WROs, and does not include women-led organizations.

The **absence of comparable data** on funding to WOs from UN agencies and funds, and other multilateral organizations and development banks, presents a significant challenge in holding them accountable, identifying gaps in funding, and advocating for necessary investments in WOs.

Implementing standardized tracking mechanisms for funds allocated to WOs across the UN system and publishing this data in a central repository, such as the OECD CRS, would help improve the assessment of multilateral support for WOs, and enable comparability with support from bilateral donors.

h) Improving the tracking of bilateral ODA to WOs

Bilateral donors report to and rely on the **OECD DAC Creditor Reporting System to measure their aid to WOs**. In the OECD DAC statistical system, **purpose code 15170** is used by donors to record their “support for feminist, women-led and women’s rights organisations and movements, and institutions (governmental

and non-governmental) at all levels to enhance their effectiveness, influence and sustainability (activities and core-funding)”.⁹⁷ **This code provides the best existing measure of bilateral ODA going to WOs**. However, donors may also report additional funding through WOs for the implementation of a thematic program under a different purpose code (such as health, education, agriculture). To get a full picture of all funding to and through WOs across sectors, an in-depth review of programme descriptions would be needed.

ODA can also be classified on the basis of funding delivery modalities. The main channels of delivery codes include: CSOs, governments, and multilateral institutions. **To improve the tracking of aid to WOs across sectors**, the OECD Secretariat has suggested that a possible way forward might be to introduce a **“women’s organizations” code in the channel of delivery series**. This would allow tracking donor funding through WOs in different sectors, in addition to the funds reported in the WOs purpose code capturing funding dedicated to enhance WOs’ effectiveness, influence and sustainability.

V) Conclusions and recommendations

a) Main findings

The following main findings emerge from this study:

1. **The importance of investing in local WOs to support their vital work, notably in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, is increasingly recognized by bilateral donors at the policy level**. It is often mentioned in donors’ national action plans on women, peace and security, gender equality strategies and/or fragile contexts strategies.
2. **However, this aspiration to support WOs is rarely matched by financial targets and dedicated funding mechanisms**.
3. **Adopting an intentional approach with tailored funding modalities is essential to ensure that financial support effectively reaches local WOs**. Funding to WOs cannot be an incidental outcome, but needs to be strategically designed, if it is to reach grassroots WOs.
4. **Funding pledges announced by donors in support of WOs sometimes consist of combined amounts from existing funding streams. It is not always clear if these pledges are new and/or intended to exclusively benefit WOs**. This ambiguity regarding the level of new financial support specifically dedicated to supporting WOs could partly explain why aid to WOs has remained particularly low over the last decade.
5. **Donors use a variety of funding modalities to support WOs**. This includes dedicated mechanisms such as bilateral funds or grant schemes, partnerships with women’s funds and networks, and financing for UN pooled funds.

⁹⁷ Re-named in 2019 from “women’s equality organisations and institutions code. For the full list of CRS codes, see: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dacandcrscodetlists.htm>

6. Large donor commitments to specialist intermediaries, such as women's funds, indicate that they are increasingly recognized as crucial partners to intentionally channel resources to local WOs.
7. While the bilateral donors interviewed for this study are familiar with the target of 15 per cent of ODA to conflict-affected countries dedicated to gender equality, there is limited awareness about targets related to funding for WOs – notably the minimum 1 per cent target of ODA in direct assistance to WOs in conflict-affected contexts.
8. In the humanitarian sector, the pledge to dedicate 4 per cent of humanitarian funding to WOs has only been endorsed by a few stakeholders and remains unmet globally. The Grand Bargain target of 25 per cent of humanitarian funding delivered to local and national actors as directly as possible has been useful in setting a collective objective, by incentivizing donors to track humanitarian funding going to local organizations, even if it remains unfulfilled.
9. Donors still do not sufficiently and consistently prioritize funding to enhance the effectiveness, influence and sustainability of WOs in their aid budgets. Across all development contexts, WOs received only 0.3 per cent of total bilateral allocable ODA and 1 per cent of all gender-related aid in 2021-2022.
10. After a period of growth between 2015 and 2020, aid to WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts has dropped from USD 192 million in 2019-2020 to USD 142 million in 2021-2022. In 2021-2022, only 0.3 per cent of aid to fragile and conflict-affected contexts went to WOs – far from the UNSG's target of 1 per cent of ODA in direct assistance to WOs in conflict-affected contexts. This suggests that global policy commitments and funding targets have not yet been matched by a commensurate increase in dedicated resources for WOs.
11. The proportion of bilateral aid going to WOs was the same across all development contexts and in fragile and conflict-affected settings in 2021-2022 (0.3 per cent).
12. In fragile and conflict-affected contexts, ODA to WOs has never exceeded 0.4 per cent of bilateral ODA in these settings over the last decade.
13. The localization goal is still unfinished business. Funding to local CSOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts continues to represent only a small share (3 per cent) of bilateral donor support to civil society, while the majority of funds is still channeled to international CSOs (6 per cent) or donor-country based CSOs (15 per cent).
14. The humanitarian sector systematically integrates gender equality objectives the least. Only 17 per cent of bilateral aid to the humanitarian sector included gender equality as a policy objective in 2021-2022, compared to an average of 42 per cent for all bilateral ODA.
15. An increasing amount of resources are being channeled through UN pooled funds, such as the WPHF, with dedicated funding windows for WOs, notably in conflict-affected contexts.
16. UN agencies and funds do not consistently track and report on their support to WOs. Consistent tracking and publishing of funding to WOs is essential for improved accountability and transparency on the final destination of resources.

b) Recommendations

Recommendations for UN Member States:

1. Adopt an intentional and strategic approach to funding local WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts through dedicated resources and targeted funding mechanisms. This can be done through a dedicated fund or grant scheme for WOs, adopting funding targets or earmarking funding for WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
2. Diversify funding mechanisms to support WOs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts by using a combination of funding streams, such as dedicated funding instruments and grants, UN funds, and women's funds.
3. Adopt the UN target of at least 1 per cent of funding to fragile and conflict-affected countries going to WOs. UN Member States should consider incorporating this target in their national action plans on women, peace and security and their strategies for engagement in conflict-affected contexts.

4. Consider funding or increasing contributions to the WPHF and the UN Trust Fund through unearmarked, multi-year and flexible funding to accelerate support for frontline WOs in crisis settings. Use these funds' expertise as powerful localization instruments to reach new partners on the ground.
5. Contribute to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's Invest-in-Women Global Campaign to raise USD 300 million in new funding pledges for WOs in crisis settings by the end of 2025.
6. Make new funding pledges to the UN Trust Fund and other UN pooled funds that intentionally focus on resourcing WOs and have dedicated funding windows for WOs in crisis and conflict-affected contexts.
7. Increase resources to women's funds as specialist intermediaries and draw on their unique knowledge and capacity to reach grassroots WOs in conflict-affected contexts.
8. Make distinct commitments to WOs for core and programmatic funding. Donors should aim to both support the sustainability and autonomy of WOs, and harness their expertise to implement programs.
9. Recognize the acute safety and security challenges faced by WOs operating in crisis- and conflict-affected contexts and make specific resources available to ensure their wellbeing and protection.
10. Support a revision of the OECD-DAC statistical system to improve the tracking of donor funding to and through WOs across sectors.
11. Hold INGOs, UN agencies and funds accountable for the quality and inclusivity of their partnerships and collaboration with local WOs, including by ensuring that the funding they receive flows to grassroots WOs partners. By fostering genuine collaboration and empowering local women's organizations, these partnerships can contribute to more equitable and transformative change at the grassroots level.

Recommendations for the UN system:

12. UN agencies and funds should adopt the target of 1 per cent minimum of funding to fragile and conflict-affected countries going to WOs, integrate this target in their strategic plans, and monitor its implementation.
13. UN agencies and funds should develop and adopt a consistent methodology to systematically track their funding to local WOs, notably in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and make this data publicly available.
14. UN Women could leverage its role as the lead UN agency for gender equality to hold other UN agencies and funds accountable for the quality and quantity of their partnerships with local WOs, notably in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

ANNEX I

Timeline of international policy frameworks related to financing WOs, notably in conflict-affected settings

2010

UN Secretary-General's 2010 report on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354–S/2010/466, paragraph 36) sets a target of **15 per cent of UN peacebuilding funds to be dedicated to projects targeting gender as a principal objective.**

2013

Security Council resolution 2122 (2013) recognizes explicitly the crucial contribution of women's organizations – including those working at the grassroots level – to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and calls on Member States to develop **dedicated funding mechanisms** and increase their contributions to women's organizations at the local level.

2015

Global Study on UNSCR 1325 (2015) calls to “increase current levels of targeted funding for women's and girls' programming to a minimum of 15 per cent. Current levels of approximately 1 per cent funding for local women's organizations including women's human rights defenders, should be **increased until they reach at least 5 per cent in the next three years**, before setting progressively more ambitious targets in the following years. **Funding for core operations, advocacy and capacity building should match funding for projects**”.

It also recommends “an **increase in predictable, accessible and flexible funding for women's civil society organizations** working on peace and security at all levels, including through **dedicated financing instruments** such as the new **Global Acceleration Instrument on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action**”. The Global Acceleration Instrument was also given recognition in the Secretary General's 2015 Report on Women, Peace and Security, as well as in UN Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015).

2016

World Humanitarian Summit (2016), the Grand Bargain agreement commits donors and aid organizations to providing **25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020**, along with more un-earmarked resources, and increased multi-year funding to ensure greater predictability and continuity in humanitarian response. This 25 per cent target changed in the Grand Bargain 2.0 in 2021,

where it was reflected as an “increase” and not as an absolute number.

At the High-Level Leaders' Roundtable on Women and Girls on the margins of the World Humanitarian Summit, specific stakeholders also pledged to **raise levels of funding to women's groups from current levels of approximately 1 per cent of funding to fragile states going to WOs and movements, and institutions such as women's ministries in 2015 to 4 per cent by 2020.**

2020

UN Secretary-General Report on Women and Peace and Security (2020) called on the donor community to “**dedicate a minimum of 15 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) to conflict-affected countries to advancing gender equality, including multiplying by five direct assistance to women's organizations, currently at 0.2 per cent**”.

2021

Generation Equality Forum (2021) commitment to feminist movements and leaderships which aims to “**by 2026, double the global annual growth rate of funding from all sectors committed to women-led, girl-led and feminist-led movements, organizations and funds**”.

2023

UN Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace (2023) reiterates the call to “**allocate 15 per cent of ODA to gender equality, and provide a minimum of 1 per cent of ODA in direct assistance to women's organizations, especially grass-roots groups**”.

2023

UN Secretary General Report on Women, Peace and Security (2023) calls for support to the WPHF's “Invest In-Women” global campaign, which aims to mobilize USD 300 million in new financing by the end of 2025 for local WOs.

2024

OECD DAC Recommendation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance in which DAC members commit to “**increase financing for local women's rights organisations, feminist movements and women's funds, and government partners to promote gender equality.**”

ANNEX II

Methodology

This report presents data on bilateral allocable ODA dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment based on data reported by OECD-DAC donors in the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS). The statistics in this report are based on the following tools:

a) The OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker

The OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker is a statistical tool to record activities that target gender equality as a policy objective. In their annual reporting, DAC members are required to indicate for each aid activity if it targets gender equality as a policy objective according to a 3-point scoring system:

- **Not targeted (score 0):** The activity has been screened against the marker but has not been found to target gender equality.
- **Significant (score 1):** Gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the activity.
- **Principal (score 2):** Gender equality is the main objective of the activity and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The activity would not have been undertaken without this gender equality objective.

All activities marked score 1 and score 2 are counted as gender focused aid.

b) The CSO channel of delivery codes

ODA can also be classified according to the specific channel through which funding is delivered. The main channels of delivery include CSOs, governments and multilateral institutions.

Within the **CSO channel of delivery**, the OECD's Creditor Reporting System allows DAC members to report ODA flows to four types of CSOs:

- **Donor-country based NGOs (parent-channel code 22000):** an NGO organised at the national level, based and operated either in the donor country or another developed (non-ODA eligible) country.
- **International NGOs (parent-channel code 21000):** an NGO organised at the international level. Some INGOs

may act as umbrella organisations with affiliations in several donor and/or recipient countries.

- **Developing country-based NGOs (parent-channel code 23000):** an NGO organised at the national level, based and operated in a developing (ODA-eligible) country.
- **Undefined (parent-channel code 20000).**

c) The women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions code

DAC members are required to classify each of their aid activities under a specific Creditor Reporting System purpose code to indicate the sector of destination of a contribution. One code is particularly relevant for this report: **the women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions code** (code 15170).

This purpose code is used to record DAC members' **"support for feminist, women-led and women's rights organisations and movements, and institutions (governmental and non-governmental) at all levels to enhance their effectiveness, influence and sustainability (activities and core-funding)**. These organisations exist to bring about transformative change for gender equality and/or the rights of women and girls in developing countries. Their activities include agenda-setting, advocacy, policy dialogue, capacity development, awareness raising and prevention, service provision, conflict-prevention and peacebuilding, research, organising, and alliance and network building".

d) The OECD list of fragile contexts

The list of fragile and conflict-affected countries used for this report is based on the **2022 OECD list of fragile contexts**.⁹⁸ The list includes 60 fragile contexts, with 15 considered as extremely fragile. It is elaborated using the OECD's multidimensional fragility framework, introduced in 2016, which measures fragility on a spectrum of intensity across six dimensions: economic, environmental, human, political, security and societal. It relies on a mixed methods approach that examines contexts within each dimension and then aggregates this information to obtain an overall picture of fragility.

98 <https://www3.compareyourcountry.org/states-of-fragility/overview/0/>

ANNEX III

List of organizations and individuals interviewed

Category	Contact
Bilateral donors	
EU	Lina Andeer, Policy Officer Gender Equality, European Commission, Directorate General for International Partnerships, INTPA G1 – Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance
Canada	Laura Chrabolowsky, Senior Policy Advisor, Gender Equality Division, Global Affairs Canada Kateryna Sherysheva, Senior Policy Analyst, Women, Peace and Security Unit, Global Affairs Canada
France	Emmanuelle Cathelineau, Project Manager, CSOs Division, French Development Agency Mar Merita Blat, Gender Expert, Gender Unit, French Development Agency
Ireland	Tom Crowley, Development and Cooperation & Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs Fiona Quinn, Humanitarian Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs Saidhbh Houlihan, Department of Foreign Affairs
Netherlands	Willemijn van Lelyveld, Deputy Head Women's rights and Gender Equality/Coordinator SDG5, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Sofia Orrebrink, Lead Policy Specialist for Gender Equality, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UK	Helen Lindley-Jones, Social Development Adviser working on social protection in crises, FCDO
International organizations	
OECD	Sofia Orrebrink, Lead Policy Specialist for Gender Equality, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UN Women	Samir Mahmoud, Humanitarian Learning and Organizational Development, UN Women. Former CERF
UN funds and women's funds	
Global Fund for Women	PeiYao Chen, President and CEO, Global Fund for Women
UN Central Emergency Response Fund	Nicolas Rost, Head of Program, CERF Teodor Stefan Gherman, Protection Adviser/ Humanitarian Affairs Officer, CERF Madoka Koide, Deputy Head of Programme Unit, Underfunded Emergencies, CERF Alice Wanjiru Macharia, Eastern and Southern Africa (Africa I), Gender and Health Emergencies, CERF
UN SG's Peacebuilding Fund	Shaza Suleiman, Gender Advisor, PBF, Peacebuilding Support Office, UN DPPA Bushra Hassa, Senior Advisor M&E, PBF
UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women	Abby Erikson, UNTF Chief
UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund	Sophie Giscard d'Estaing, Program Coordinator, WPHF Matthew Rullo, Officer-in-Charge WPHF Secretariat, Communications & Advocacy Specialist
Civil society networks	
AWID	Kasia Staszewska, Manager, Resourcing Feminist Movements Initiative

ANNEX IV

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UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A
GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND
GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED
TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON
MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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