

FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
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Produced by UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality

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# FOREWORD

With less than 13 years to achieve the high ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must move quickly, coming together to realize a more peaceful, prosperous, equal and sustainable world. By 2030, the effects could be transformative, particularly for women and girls. This will depend, above all, on realizing our responsibility to reach the most marginalized communities and address the multiple layers of discrimination and inequality they face. They must not fall through the cracks this time. Ensuring that disadvantaged women and girls are not left behind depends fundamentally on translating commitments into concrete, context-driven action, at national and local levels, that tackle the multiple structural causes and manifestations of inequality and marginalization.

One of our main goals at the Fund for Gender Equality is to reach the most vulnerable women and girls, working through close, collaborative partnerships with civil society. In partnering with women's organizations, the Fund backs their own localized initiatives, and helps strengthen their capacities, promote their influence and advance their ability to demand accountability from duty bearers. When we look back at seven years of work and the completion of two grant-making cycles, we can see grantees have sown seeds that have flourished, yielding a rich bounty of fruits.

I was fortunate enough to witness this transformation in Ethiopia, where I recently met one of our previous grantees – the Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA). An influential national women's organization, it works together with local partners to establish self-help groups that have been

life-altering for women who are rural, poor and often illiterate. The groups help women gain basic literacy and build skills in business and agriculture, while providing them with much needed access to land and capital through safe loans. The groups also open vital spaces to spread awareness of women's rights, including to be free from gender-based violence.

Women beneficiaries have explained that the groups have bolstered their self-confidence, and that spouses, families and neighbours appreciate members for making positive contributions to households and the community. Both changes are critical first steps in the pursuit of equality and the realization of rights. UN Women is currently exploring the replication of UEWCA's successful functional literacy model in its work with women refugees from South Sudan, just one of many examples of a seed that, once sprouted, continues to grow.

Looking ahead, we at the Fund believe that many more organizations and their pioneering initiatives must be supported to produce real gains. Towards a world where no woman is left behind, the Fund and its partners will continue to apply a validated grant-making model where women-led civil society catalyses SDG achievements faster and more effectively.

We count on your solidarity and financial support to make it happen. Because it matters. Because it works.

**Elisa Fernandez**  
**Chief, Fund for Gender Equality**

# FIT FOR THE ERA OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*[FGE enables] UN Women to identify and collaborate with emerging civil society organizations, helping UN Women's partnerships not to become hierarchical and closed, and instead creating pathways for inclusion of new partners and voices—especially those of the most marginalized women.*

Independent corporate evaluation of the regional architecture of UN Women (2017)

The Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) is UN Women's global grant-making mechanism dedicated to the economic and political empowerment of women worldwide through the provision of financial and technical support to civil society organizations (CSOs). The Fund has delivered US\$ 64 million in grants to 121 projects in 80 countries, touching the lives of more than 10 million beneficiaries and strengthening the capacities of over 140 grantee organizations.

Anchored in international commitments to gender equality and aid effectiveness, the FGE is an instrument for feminist philanthropy based on accessibility, trust and women's ownership. Today, it offers a unique grant-making model in the United Nations. It goes beyond simply transferring funds to putting civil society first – investing in their ideas and abilities.

While only 8 per cent of gender-focused aid to civil society organizations goes directly to those in developing countries, evidence shows they are key drivers of policy and social norm change. They pioneer innovative strategies and counteract forces hindering progress.

**UN WOMEN'S FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND ITS DONORS ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF A MINORITY THAT MAKES A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE – AND NEEDS TO GROW.**

Driven by a constant search for improvement, the Fund over the past eight years has adapted some of its features – such as grant amounts and eligibility criteria – to international commitments, priorities and gaps, and donors’ financial resources. It has also remained grounded in a robust set of principles for meaningful grant-making: transparency, demand-orientation, capacity-building, quality, results-based programme design and management. These underpin the Fund’s three-pillar approach.

## THE FGE’S 3-PILLAR APPROACH



- Biannual competition for grants targeting the most marginalized
- Technical support & monitoring for effectiveness and efficiency
- Results-based management (RBM) capacities of grantees
- Global results and promising practices
- Independent evaluations for accountability and learning
- Grantee interaction for learning exchange

### LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGs

The Fund for Gender Equality complements the work of governments and other UN entities in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It supports civil society ownership of the 2030 Agenda and participation in its implementation, locally and nationally.

The Fund’s SDG-centred Call for Proposals in 2015 gave women-led organizations from developing countries an opportunity to adapt SDG targets to their local contexts and propose initiatives addressing the goals from the perspectives of women and girls most in need.

FGE grantees propose home-grown solutions to the most acute challenges. They allow grass-roots women to drive the 2030 agenda and hold governments accountable for progress on priority concerns.

# THE FGE GLOBAL PORTFOLIO 2009-2017



- Economic empowerment grants
- Political empowerment grants
- ▨ Both economic and political empowerment grants



# 2016 KEY RESULTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, 74 per cent of the FGE's portfolio encompassed 25 programmes from the third grant-making cycle. They were selected through the 2015 Call for Proposals. In the first months of implementation, the newest grantees started to develop partnerships with key stakeholders essential for impact and the durability of results. Most of them compiled baseline data as the backbone of sound results monitoring and impact measurement, and developed training content. Despite a necessary learning curve related to results-based management and reporting procedures, grantees achieved some noteworthy results. This report captures some of them, with a view to providing the first snapshot of the FGE's contributions to localizing the SDGs.

Nine programmes from the previous cycle were still active, yet reaching the final stages of implementation and reporting. Three of them—led by Promundo in Brazil, Sula Batsú in Costa Rica and Fund Sukhumi in Georgia—completed final evaluations, offering additional insights about impacts and lessons learned. By the end of the year, all programmes except one were completed. The FGE achieved 99 per cent programme closure for its first and second grant-making cycles.



Participant from a rural organic farming programme implemented by grantee Solidarité Fanm Ayisyèn (SOFA) in Haiti  
UN Women / Maxence Bradley

# 2016 IN DATA

## 2016 PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

**35**

active programmes

**40**

countries

**US\$11.2**

million total value of active grants

**US\$4.4**

million disbursed

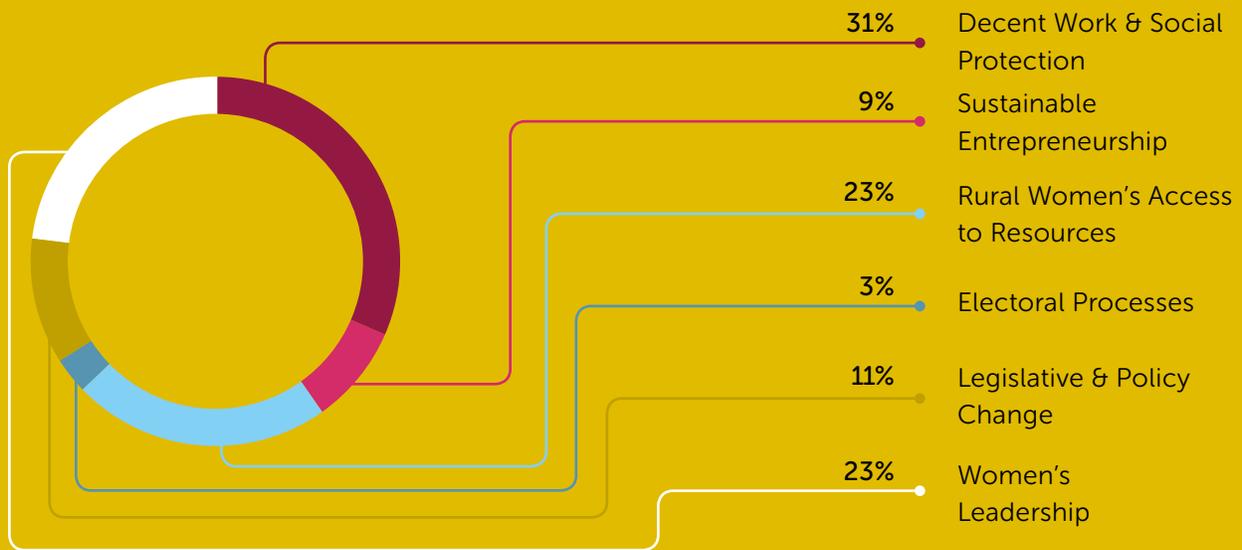
**50,700**

direct beneficiaries reached

**99%**

of 1st and 2nd cycle programmes completed

### ACTIVE 2016 PORTFOLIO BY SUBTHEME



**63%**

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**  
22 PROGRAMMES



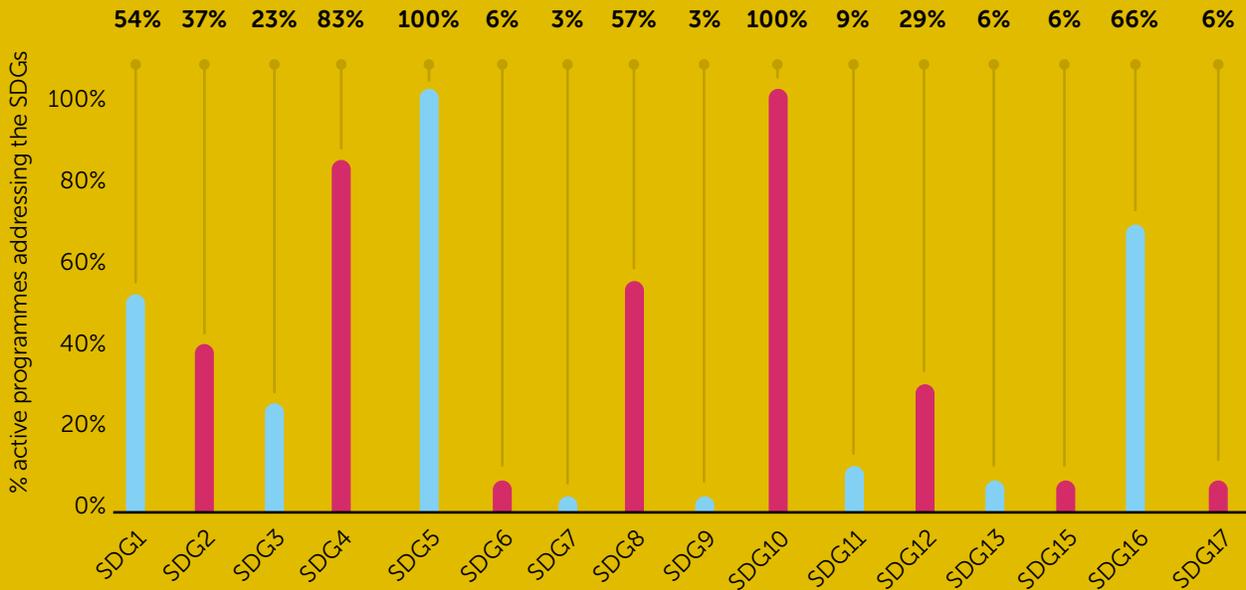
**37%**

**POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT**  
13 PROGRAMMES

## ACTIVE 2016 PORTFOLIO BY REGION



## FGE & THE SDGs IN 2016



**SDG 1:** End poverty

**SDG 2:** Zero hunger

**SDG 3:** Good health

**SDG 4:** Quality education

**SDG 5:** Gender equality

**SDG 6:** Clean water and sanitation

**SDG 7:** Affordable and clean energy

**SDG 8:** Good jobs & economic growth

**SDG 9:** Industry, innovation and infrastructure

**SDG 10:** Reduced inequalities

**SDG 11:** Sustainable cities and communities

**SDG 12:** Responsible consumption

**SDG 13:** Climate action

**SDG 15:** Life on Land

**SDG 16:** Peace & justice

**SDG 17:** Partnerships

# CUMULATIVE GLOBAL RESULTS FROM 2016 ACTIVE PROGRAMMES

**125,000**

stakeholders **sensitized**  
on equality and  
women's rights

**34,400**

direct beneficiaries with  
**increased knowledge**  
on rights, institutions  
and services

**11,400**

**women gained**  
technical leadership,  
literacy and vocational  
**skills**

**3,320**

**men engaged** as  
allies

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS

**9,400**

women with **increased**  
**incomes**

**6,900**

women accessed  
**productive resources**  
(land, credit, natural  
resources)

**225**

new women's  
**collective structures**

## POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS

**850**

women trained who  
were **appointed or**  
**elected** into leadership  
positions in social,  
political and economic  
institutions

**4,350**

women **claimed**  
**their rights**

**4,800**

women received **legal**  
**assistance** to access  
their rights

# GRANT-MAKING WITH A HUMAN FACE

*"We have been monitoring projects for a long time. In fact, we have been awarded as one of the global best practices in implementing migration and development initiatives. Despite those awards, this is the first time we're really understanding the science behind project management."*

Aileen Peñas, Atikha,  
Philippines

Women's rights activists came from all regions of the world to learn skills and discuss opportunities and challenges in working towards one common goal – gender equality.

Over 40 representatives from 24 women-led civil society organizations representing 26 countries and UN Women field staff in charge to support them, met in New York in May 2016 for the FGE's first global convening of grantees. Awarded US\$7.3 million in 2015, the grantees took part in hands-on, practice-oriented workshops. These cultivated skills in results-based management, partnership-building, evidence generation, strategic communications and resource mobilization, among other issues.



*"[The training] allowed us to have the necessary tools, not only for an appropriate implementation of the programme supported by FGE, but also for an institutional enrichment allowing [us] to take on the results-based management to other projects."*

Anelise Meléndez, Red Habitat, Bolivia

Participants reported feeling encouraged and equipped with new ideas and skills, such as on how to formulate realistic indicators and effectively communicate results, and were motivated by the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other organizations from around the globe working to make transformation possible. The training has been followed with ongoing technical support and guidance to ensure new knowledge is sustained and applied.

**Representatives from grantee organizations, UN Women focal points and the FGE team gathered at Glen Cove, New York, for training and exchanges. UN Women / Ryan Brown**



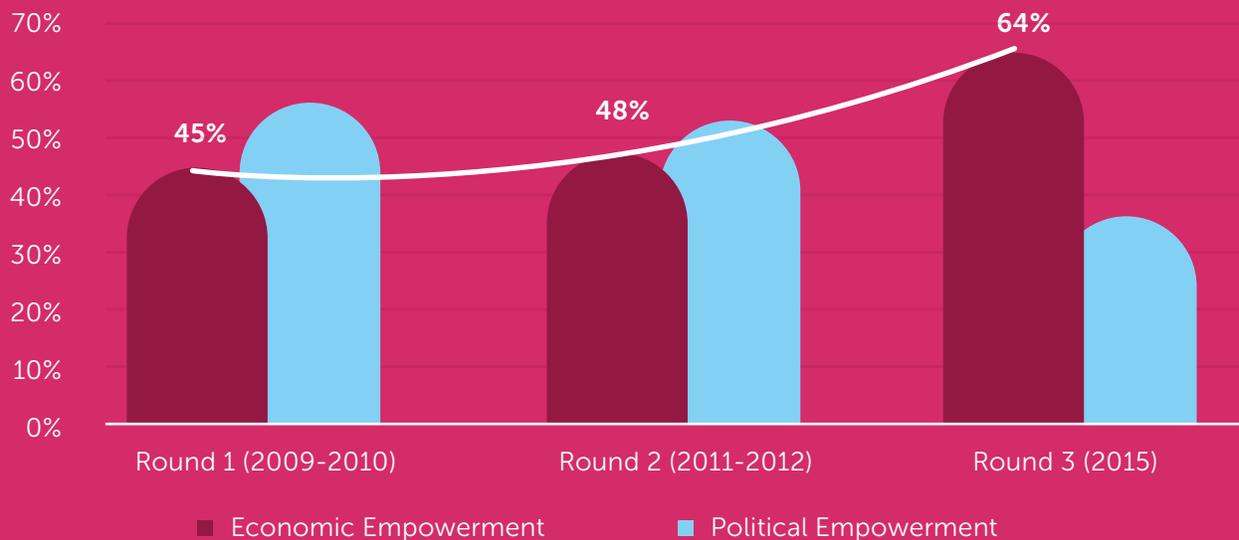
# WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The FGE's economic empowerment portfolio in 2016 had a total value of US\$6.8 million distributed among 22 programmes. These so far have directly impacted 37,400 beneficiaries in three sub-thematic areas:

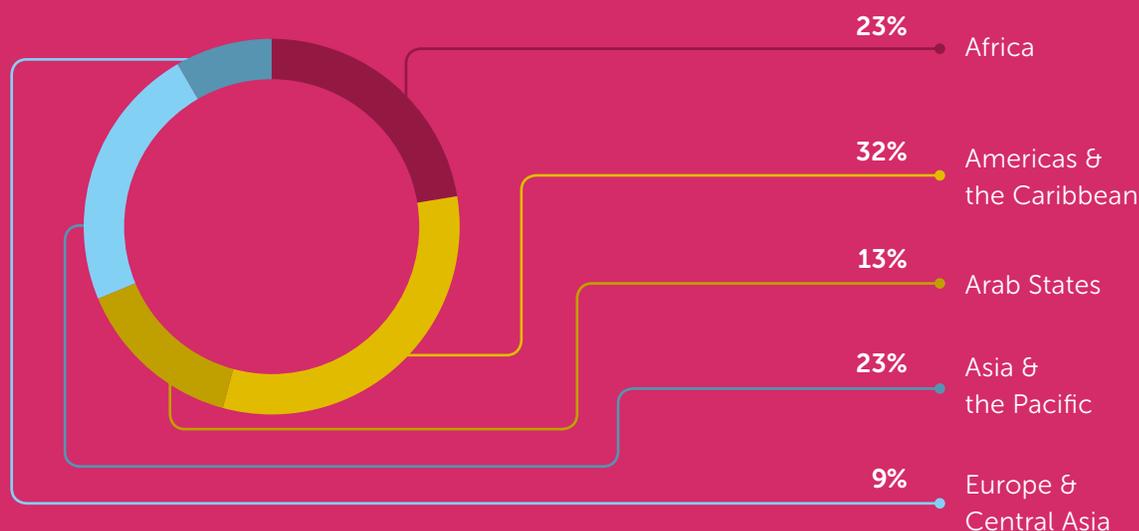
- Supporting rural women to access and control resources and assets
- Ensuring decent work and social protection
- Fostering sustainable entrepreneurship

Since the launch of the FGE, the proportion of programmes primarily focused on economic empowerment has been progressively increasing. Almost two-thirds of selected grantees in the 2015 grant-making cycle and 63 per cent of the 2016 active portfolio fell in this category.

## EVOLUTION OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOCUS (PERCENTAGE OF PROGRAMMES PER CYCLE)



## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC PORTFOLIO



That said, every FGE-supported programme active in 2016 integrated activities to expand women’s rights and roles in the public sphere, looking to simultaneously promote their economic and political empowerment. Almost 90 per cent of these programmes included at least one outcome aimed at enhancing beneficiaries’ capacities to participate in local decision-making, claim their rights and/or advocate for policy changes. This observation shows how grantees are adopting a more integrated approach to women’s empowerment. It confirms the FGE’s seven-year conclusion, based on programmatic evidence, that economic and political empowerment are firmly tied together, and that women’s economic independence is often a prerequisite for their involvement in community and public issues.

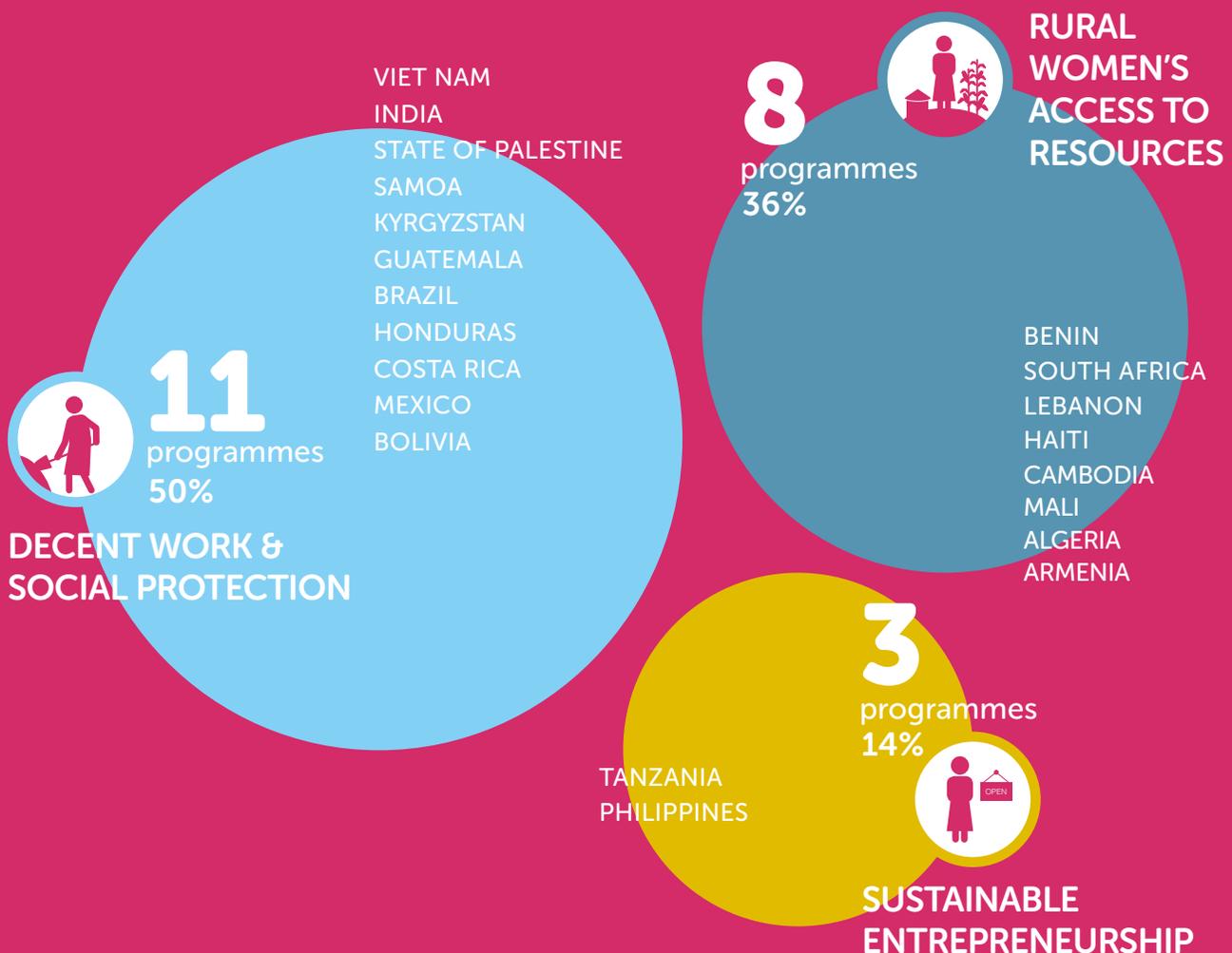
Grantees in the newest cycle have demonstrated a clear shift towards decent work and social protection – programmes in this area comprise half of the women’s economic empowerment portfolio. Less emphasis has gone towards women’s sustainable entrepreneurship. This trend echoes a global concern about women’s labour rights and equal pay, and builds on momentum generated by the High-level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment and priority themes at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The proportion of initiatives focused primarily on support to rural women’s access to and control over resources has increased over previous years. One-third of these programmes promote organic farming as a key strategy.

Almost 80 per cent of the economic empowerment programmes are concentrated in three regions: Americas and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific – the entire grantee portfolio in the last region in 2016 had an economic focus. Latin America has a strong portfolio in decent work, with six out of seven initiatives revolving around the rights of workers from the construction, domestic work and maquila (assembly plants) sectors. None of the grantees from Africa chose that area and instead maintained a focus on enhancing the livelihoods of marginalized groups of women from rural areas, strengthening their capacities as farmers and producers, and facilitating their access to credit and savings through economic groups.

Programmes in Asia and the Pacific are improving access to rights and economic autonomy among vulnerable groups of women, such as low-caste Dalits in South Asia, “nofotane” (married women susceptible to exploitation) in Samoa and migrant workers from the Philippines.

Establishing economic groups remains the most common strategy of women’s economic empowerment programmes, encompassing self-help groups, savings and loans groups, peer support groups and cooperatives. All active programmes use some sort of collective structure where women organize and obtain information, advice, training, assets and financial resources. Most groups operate at the community level, serving the most marginalized women and girls, who otherwise would not have access to new resources or a support network. The groups offer a strong basis for members to cultivate leadership skills, claim economic and social rights, and become empowered economic and social actors with the ability to spearhead and monitor the localization of the SDGs in their communities.

## ECONOMIC SUBTHEMES



## AT A GLANCE

22

programmes

22

countries

63%

of 2016 active  
portfolio

US\$6.8

million value

## KEY RESULTS INDICATORS



8,600

women accessed  
**sustainable income**

5,000

women gained  
**technical and  
vocational skills**

4,100

women benefitted  
from **social protection**  
measures and services

2,000

women with increased  
**household decision-  
making power**



4,600

600 women became land  
owners and accessed **natural  
resources**

4,700

women joined  
**cooperatives**



2,200

women accessed **income-  
generating** activities and new  
markets

2,300

women accessed **credit**

# ADVANCING THE SDGs

Examples of how FGE economic empowerment results contribute to the 2030 Agenda for women and girls:



## FGE STRATEGIES

- Equipping women with knowledge and skills
- Fostering networks
- Ensuring access to and control over resources
- Facilitating an enabling environment



## RESULTS TOWARDS THE SDGs



Access to social protection services, economic resources, financial services and land ownership. Increased incomes and entitlements diminishing extreme poverty. Enhanced economic autonomy.



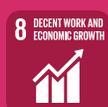
Improved quantity, quality, diversity and efficiency of small-scale food production. Sustainable and resilient organic agriculture methods for safe, nutritious and sufficient food.



Numeracy and literacy. Technical and vocational skills for employment, decent job and entrepreneurship. Higher incomes yield greater access to education for women and their children.



Effective advocacy recognizing unpaid domestic and care work. Equal rights to economic resources. Increased leadership and decision-making positions in the economic sphere.



Increased income and higher relevance as economic actors. Formation of women-led enterprises. Equal pay, decent work conditions and social protection, including for domestic migrant and care workers. Technology and creativity for higher efficiency, environmental sustainability and value.



Enhanced social, economic and political rights of groups facing multiple discrimination. Adoption of and reform for more equitable laws, policies and practices in the economic sphere.



Economic rights awareness and access to sustainable income-generation for reduced vulnerability to exploitation and violence. Improved economic status promotes participation in decision-making.

# SUPPORTING RURAL WOMEN TO ACCESS AND CONTROL RESOURCES & ASSETS



## ENHANCED FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN BENIN

The **Association Nationale des Femmes Agricultrices du Bénin** helped 64 women farmers' associations to improve competitiveness by using organic fertilizers, practicing crop rotation and water rationing techniques, and introducing vegetables that regenerate impoverished soils. Over 1,700 women have benefited from trainings, specifically designed to accommodate high rates of illiteracy, that have resulted in higher yields, improved food security, and better capacities to manage water scarcity and climate change. Women have also learned to transform what they grow into more lucrative processed products, making biscuits and cheese from soy and coconut milk-enriched tapioca from cassava. The economic success of the women's associations has been so significant that both men and women farmers want to be part of them.



*Djiman Mounratou, a member of a women's economic association in Loubga, increased her income by 30 per cent after using burned crops as fertilizer and boosting the productivity of her corn, soy and yam crops. Courtesy of Association Nationale des Femmes Agricultrices du Bénin (ANAF)*



**STORIES OF EMPOWERMENT**

**THE “RASPBERRY WOMEN”**

**OF ARMENIA TRANSFORM**

**THEIR COMMUNITIES WITH**

**ORGANIC FARMING**

*Lusine, posing proudly next to her raspberry orchard.  
Courtesy of Green Lane / Armen Sarukhanyan*

Lusine, 48, farms in Ashotavan, an impoverished rural community in Armenia. Many young people and men have left the area in search of education and better jobs, but Lusine has struggled to remain in her home, using her garden for subsistence farming.

Since 2016, new hope has come from training and small grants provided by the FGE grantee **Green Lane Agricultural Assistance NGO**. Its programme to empower rural women addresses the 30 per cent gender income gap among farmers, associated with women’s limited access to knowledge and technologies.

*“Before, we didn’t know much about agriculture and business. Green Lane gave us the literature, consultancy and support we needed,”* says Lusine, who has turned farming into her main occupation.

She and 170 other women have organized in 15 women’s farmers groups that make organic fertilizers and use organic methods to fight diseases and pests on higher value crops such as raspberries. Their greater productivity and income have had quick spillover effects. Women from neighbouring communities have created their own groups, and some women, trained as trainers, are teaching their neighbours and friends.

***“Before all of this, I was sleeping, and now I have woken up.”***

The groups have also provided room for women to become leaders with a say in community decision-making. *“They cannot simply ignore us anymore. We raised the most important issues with the head of the local administration, particularly the need for us to access natural gas. When he came to our community, he said, ‘Everyone is talking about these raspberry women,’”* Lusine notes with pride.

More than 180 Green Lane beneficiaries have gained IT skills, and each group has a Facebook page and email addresses. Lusine says her son is now considering a return to Ashotavan, intrigued by new ways of doing business. She is busy planning her next move – a greenhouse. *“Our project gives us a goal to work towards,”* she says. *“Before all of this I was sleeping, and now I have woken up.”*



## EMPOWERING VULNERABLE GROUPS OF WOMEN IN RURAL ALGERIA

Building on a previous programme funded by the FGE, the **Association El Ghaith** has strengthened project management capacities in 10 grass-roots rural associations. Aimed at helping 460 women improve their living conditions, the initiative is challenging limited education, inequality and discrimination by promoting access to cooperatives, microloans and income-generation activities. Nearly 150 rural women considered among the poorest and most vulnerable people in their communities have received extra support in learning about their rights, available public services, local governance, and agriculture and forestry. The programme has mobilized male relatives and husbands as key allies, using focus groups to sensitize them about women's rights and economic independence.



## WOMEN LEADING RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION IN LEBANON

With the support of the **Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development & Family Empowerment**, 240 rural women and home-based informal workers have organized around two cooperatives to enhance the quality and efficiency of their food production. They use skills gained in waste management, recycling and compost, hazard analysis and critical control points. The knowledge acquired is ensuring adequate food agriculture and manufacturing practices as per international standards, which have boosted product marketability while preparing these cooperatives for ISO certifications to compete internationally. The grantee also participated in three market exhibitions where they introduced products such as jams, pickles, rose water, pomegranate molasses, tomato puree and zaatar, to over 18,000 visitors from hospitality and food outlets, opening future business opportunities.



**STORIES OF EMPOWERMENT  
WOMEN IN RURAL  
CAMBODIA CULTIVATE  
THEIR WAY OUT OF  
VULNERABILITY**

*Khern Sreysor (right side, in red) provides monthly coaching to local farmers who benefited from agriculture trainings in Rohal village. Courtesy of Banteay Srei / Krem Chhat*

In five rural districts of Battambang and Siem Reap provinces in Cambodia, the FGE-supported grantee **Banteay Srei** works with the poorest, most marginalized women – including those who are illiterate or single mothers.

Twenty-year-old Vern Chantha is one. The fifth in a poor family of seven children with unemployed elderly parents, she decided to participate in training on agricultural techniques to improve productivity on her 100-square-metre family farm. *“Sometimes the plants didn’t grow well and we did not have any product to harvest even after our hard efforts,”* she says.

***“I am now seen [as a] person who knows about the rights of women and can lead the team.”***

With new skills and continued coaching on the use of non-chemical fertilizers and natural pesticides, her yields have risen, providing enough to sell for income. *“I am using the money to buy food and household supplies and to reinvest on my farmland,”* explains a happy Chantha. She is also pursuing her second year of a bachelor’s degree in management.

In total, 25 female community members have been trained to become trainers in agricultural techniques to raise pigs and chicken, and grow vegetables. Of the 100 poor rural women who gained skills through their guidance, almost a third have increased their incomes by 50 per cent.

The programme has also cultivated women’s knowledge of their rights and leadership skills. Khern Sreysor, 31, took part in training on leadership and public speaking. Already serving as a community facilitator in Banteay Srei’s activities, she gained enough confidence to secure an appointment as the Ro Hal Deputy Village Chief. She is active on women’s issues, including property rights and improved support in cases of domestic and gender-based violence.

*“I am now seen [as a] person who knows about the rights of women and can lead the team,”* she says. *“Now I want to be a candidate for the upcoming commune council elections and if I win, I may be able to help the community people more.”*

# ENSURING DECENT WORK & SOCIAL PROTECTION



## IMPROVING SOCIAL SERVICE OUTREACH IN BRAZIL

Training and a toolbox provided by **Promundo** have equipped more than 460 municipal social workers and health professionals to promote gender equality among beneficiaries of Bolsa Familia, the government poverty reduction programme. Thanks to their participation in awareness workshops, over 1,000 women and men shown positive shifts in perceptions of women's economic role in the family and the shared responsibility in family planning and care for children. A group of 170 men and boys who engaged in community activities such as football tournaments now think differently about equality in decision-making, household investments and parenting, and have increased the number of hours spent on childcare – a major step towards the equal distribution of unpaid care work, with positive implications for women's autonomy, and family economies and well-being.



## ENDING A FORM OF SLAVERY IN INDIA

While illegal in India, manual scavenging, which consists of cleaning dry latrines in exchange for housing, used clothing and minimal pay, is practiced mainly by women from the low Dalit caste. The **Jan Sahas** organization has informed women scavengers about their rights and existing government support schemes, and helped them find alternative sources of livelihood. Over 8,000 women have been liberated from this form of slavery, with over 6,600 finding alternative employment that has increased income by 310 per cent. More than 7,000 liberated women have organized into community-based organizations, leading advocacy efforts that have resulted in the passage of more than 60 local resolutions to stop scavenging, and ensure women secure decent work, social protection and other entitlements.

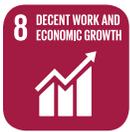


## PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN MAQUILA WORKERS IN HONDURAS

**Colectivo de Mujeres Hondureñas** advocates for tough laws to protect often exploited assembly plant or maquila workers. In 2016, the organization submitted an action of constitutionality against a social protection law to the Supreme Court of Justice, and made recommendations for a law on health in the workplace. More than 520 women in the province of Cortes accessed legal services related to obtaining social protection benefits; over 80 women obtained favorable resolutions in related court cases. This set legal precedents that will benefit working people across the country.



Shahira Afanedh (right), MSS Project Coordinator, and Nadia Dewkat (middle), MSS Project Manager, during a consultative session on the establishment of the coalition. Courtesy of Mother's School Society – Nablus / Ayman Abu Wardej



## MOBILIZING FOR WOMEN'S LABOUR RIGHTS IN THE STATE OF PALESTINE

Women in low-wage professions struggle with a high incidence of rights violations related to unequal pay, long working hours and sexual harassment, among other issues. **Mother's School Society (MSS) – Nablus** has mobilized a coalition to devise a comprehensive protection framework – members come from the Government, business and civil society. An unprecedented study highlighting gender equality and labour rights gaps in legislation will serve as a basis for improved statutes. Over 120 coalition members now better understand international labour standards, and have learned about mediation in solving conflicts and cases of rights violation.



## CAMPAIGNING FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS IN MEXICO

Four studies by the **Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoire** on the models and contributions of domestic care work provided a basis for a nation-wide advocacy and awareness-raising campaign to promote the rights of domestic workers. A thorough study of existing policies and programmes in Mexico City, for example, identified government actions that could exponentially improve conditions in the care economy if minor adjustments were made. This led to a Mexican government commitment to design a new national care institutional framework. Local, national and regional alliances with governmental and civil society actors have strengthened a well-articulated agenda aligned to international standards; the alliances can also sustain progress over time.



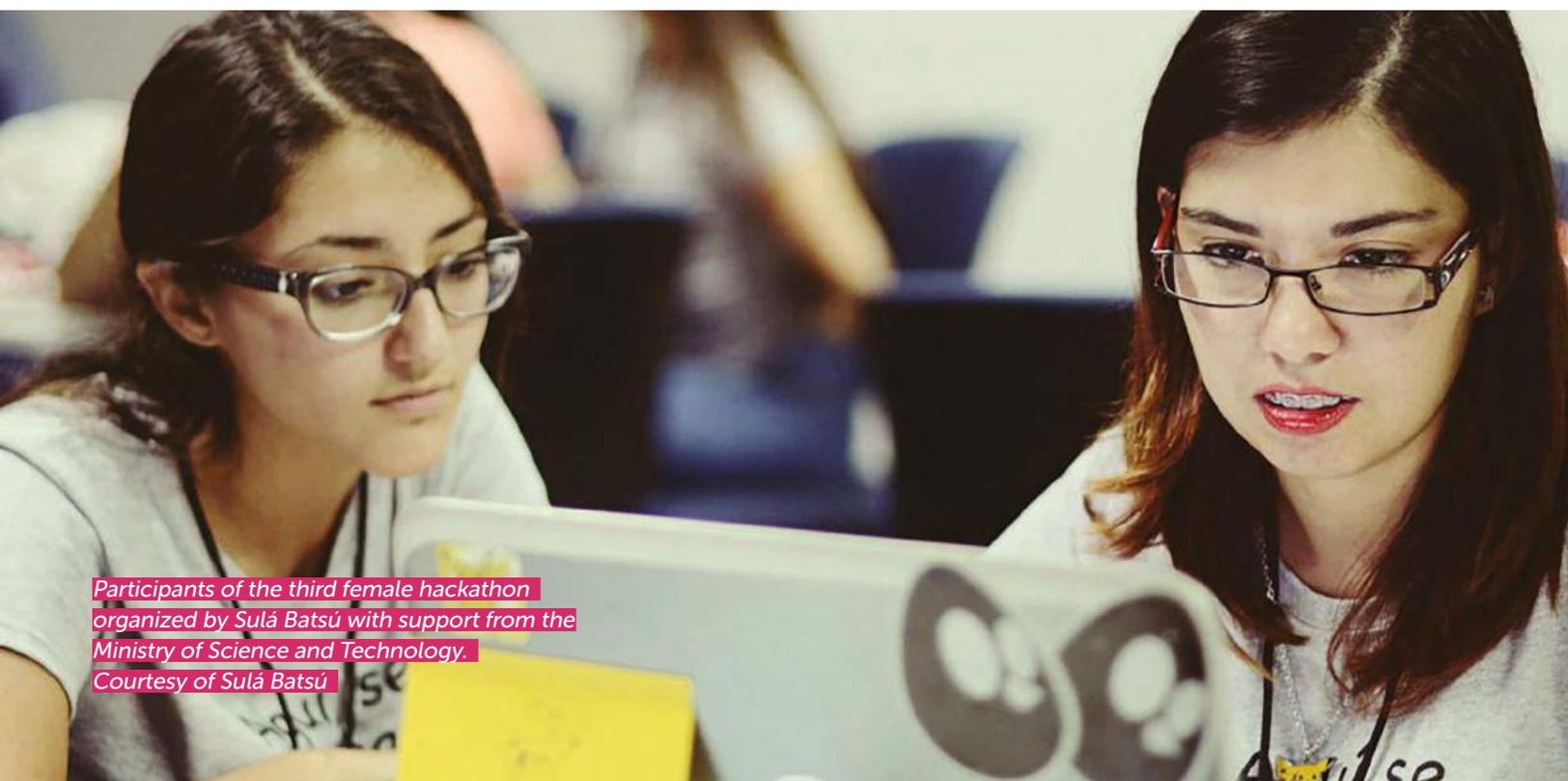
## SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS BOOSTS WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY IN COSTA RICA

Benefiting over 2,900 people between 2013 and 2016, the award-winning TIC<sup>1</sup>-as programme implemented by **Sulá Batsú** has improved technical capacities, motivations and life conditions among young rural women and girls. Results include a decline in the rate that women drop out of technology degrees from 50 per cent to 10 per cent, and a rise in the proportion of women registering for technology-related university studies from 13 per cent to 25 per cent.

A national network of women in technology, created after the first female hackathon in Central America in 2014, constitutes the cornerstone of the programme. More than 750 active members are employed in technology companies, where over 70 per cent have assumed leadership positions and spearhead women's access to technology through their work. Some of them have launched 25 digital-based entrepreneurial initiatives to address important issues in their communities including waste management, species preservation and environmental protection. The women developed a 20-point document on gender-inclusive careers that two national universities use to reinforce curricula and academic policies.

Concerted advocacy resulted in gender equality featuring in the strategic plans of the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the national and local Chambers of Information Technologies and Communication. Twelve companies from the rural area now integrate gender equality practices in their policies, minimizing the sexist environment and promoting women's leadership. Partnerships with Google and UNESCO aim to expand the programme in Costa Rica and beyond.

1. TIC-as" is a play on words that could either mean "Costa Rican women" (in a friendly way) or "information and communication technologies" in the Spanish diminutive for feminine.



*Participants of the third female hackathon organized by Sulá Batsú with support from the Ministry of Science and Technology. Courtesy of Sulá Batsú*



**STORIES OF EMPOWERMENT**  
**VILLAGE DECISION-MAKERS TAKE A STAND FOR SAMOA'S "NOFOTANE" WOMEN**

Religious and political leaders presenting during a training session in Savaia Upolu.  
Courtesy of Samoa Victim Support Group / Ame Sene

Sealuga Tauasa Malietoa, the 70-year-old Talking Chief at Manase Savaii village in rural Samoa, has pledged to support women's rights. His commitment is the result of trainings that the **Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG)**, an FGE grantee, is conducting to engage local leaders as advocates for "nofotane" women. The term refers to women married to men from a different village and living with their in-laws. They are often exploited as domestic servants and are highly vulnerable to domestic abuse.

Malietoa observed the treatment of nofotane women in his family, including his own mother, for years, and is now determined to spare his daughters a similar fate.

**"The message the training brings is invaluable. It is a wake-up call for equality."**

Polataivao Pouvale, High Chief of Fagaee Safune

*"Since I attended this training, I am ashamed of how I have been treating (...) nofotane women in my family. If I can make amends, and break this cycle for my children, I have to walk the talk," he asserts. "When this project ends, I will ensure that the changes are sustainable, that people will recognize and accept the importance of nofotane women."*

The grantee has gathered numerous testimonies on similar changes in mindsets and behaviours among more than 340 village leaders across 120 villages who have been trained to advocate for nofotane women's rights and women's economic contributions. Pipi Soloma, High Chief of Salelologa, told an emotional story about how his sister, who was a nofotane, died from domestic violence. *"[The training] has opened my eyes. I believe in nofotane women having a say in family discussions and in village matters... I will advocate for a change in mentality,"* he says.

The original set of influential individuals have in turn sensitized over 800 village leaders, women's committee leaders and church leaders, ensuring new thinking reaches deep into communities.

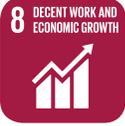
SVSG has involved 60 nofotane women in meetings to offer their testimonies, which has bolstered their awareness of their rights and self-esteem. Often, this marks the first time their voices have been heard in public spaces. Popular cultural events use songs, poems and traditional entertainments to further expand recognition and support.

# FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP



## TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF INDIGENOUS MAASAI WOMEN IN TANZANIA

The **Pastoral Women's Council** assists pastoralist Maasai women who have little control over economic resources and uneven support from polygamous husbands. Nineteen community savings and credit groups have allowed over 1,000 women to save US\$26,000, start or grow their businesses, and improve livelihoods. The programme has made water available in two villages, reducing time required to fetch it from distant sources, and distributed over 300 and vaccinated over 800 livestock. A management committee to administer newly acquired communal land applies gender parity, and the secretary is a woman, a significant precedent since similar committees are male dominated.



## PROVIDING FINANCIAL LITERACY TO MIGRANT WORKERS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Inspired by successful migrant domestic workers' cases of reintegration, **Atikha** offers financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills to Filipino migrant women working in Hong Kong and Singapore, and links them to investment programmes of selected social enterprises, banks and other agencies in the Philippines. Based on the PINOY WISE (Worldwide Initiative for Savings Investment and Entrepreneurship) model, a new approach entails training and mentoring simultaneously for workers and their families. By the end of 2016, over 400 migrant workers and their families had gained skills in saving, investing, engaging in business and addressing family issues; 66 workers made investments totaling US\$37,000 in Filipino cooperatives.



Natalia, a 48-year-old construction maintenance worker of La Paz's southern municipality area, lays stones for a retaining wall to protect against landslides. Courtesy of Sofia Bensadon

# IN FOCUS: WOMEN CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN BOLIVIA

## BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Since 2016, Taller de Proyectos del Habitat Urbano y Rural (Red Hábitat) has implemented a pioneering initiative in two of Bolivia's largest cities – El Alto and La Paz – to help women in the construction industry obtain better working conditions.

It is not uncommon to see women working in construction in Bolivian cities. Having done more "traditional" jobs, including as domestic workers and handicraft makers, some women try their luck in this male-dominated industry. Today, they make up 30 per cent of the country's construction workforce. Many are indigenous women who have migrated from rural areas in search of better livelihoods. Women builders are generally heads of household raising an average of four children. Younger, more educated women are increasingly joining this profession too, attracted by higher salaries.



Maintenance team workers from La Paz's southern municipality area travel home in the back of a truck after an arduous day of labour. Courtesy of Sofia Bensadon

Despite having comparatively better incomes, most women construction workers find themselves in exceedingly vulnerable situations due to temporary contracts and highly unstable labour conditions, lower wages than their male counterparts, and frequent exposure to gender-based violence, both at the workplace and at home. Employers do not compensate for overtime work. These constant challenges along with grueling work days on top of domestic unpaid care chores take their toll on women's physical and emotional health. A lack of awareness means many women do not claim their labour and social rights or report abuses by employers.

To address these challenges, Red Hábitat is partnering with and strengthening the grass-roots organization ASOMUC (the Association of Women in Construction). Their aims are to better represent the rights of women construction workers, advocate for decent work conditions and open spaces for women's participation in unions. Red Hábitat is training 30 women leaders from the building industry to lobby for policy reforms. Working with local governments, women's associations and the International Labour Organization (ILO), Red Hábitat and ASOMUC are also helping 150 women builders pursue more and better jobs, including by reaching out to employers, analysing existing market demands and facilitating the acquisition of technical skills. Engagement with media professionals raises the visibility of women's role in an industry that is the second largest contributor to national gross domestic product.

**As a result of advocacy efforts, the municipal government of La Paz agreed to provide different toilets for men and women in public works projects, work uniforms and local transportation adapted to women's needs.**

In 2016, ASOMUC gained the necessary political support to become a registered association for labour rights. Its members generated a common agenda identifying priority policy changes, comprising access to health services, retirement rights, job safety, equal pay for women, support for the care economy and measures to stop sexual and work harassment, among others. Women beneficiaries presented such concerns in 10 local, national and international events around labour rights and compliance with ILO standards.



**Flora, assistant worker and responsible for cleaning, carries a bag full of bricks to a building's second floor. Courtesy of Sofia Bensadon**

Through specialized training, over 40 women have gained technical construction skills and a set of tools to achieve high levels of professionalism and competitiveness, including a template to estimate work costs and a painting design manual. Women have developed their CVs and portfolios, which are available in an online database that local construction companies use to find qualified construction workers.

## MEET MARIA DEL CARMEN, A WOMAN “IN THE PROCESS OF RECONSTRUCTION”

María del Carmen Cáceres is the Secretary General of ASOMUC. She is also a worker in the local government emergency unit in La Paz. Carmen defines herself as “a woman in the process of reconstruction.” A survivor of domestic violence, she sacrificed her career as a nurse to enter the better-paid building industry to pay for her cancer-affected daughter’s medical expenses. Her new job, however, has been a source of renewed motivation.



María del Carmen, cleans the sewage system, a task performed every rainy season.  
Courtesy of Sofia Bensadon

*“I have found in painting and construction a way to express what I repressed for many years. I identify with my profession because I believe the same way damaged ceramic can be repaired, people’s lives can be fixed too, the way I am fixing mine.”*

Participation in the trainings offered by Red Hábitat meant a turning point in her life. *“I have gained confidence in myself, as now I know I can do everything I want to. While I keep finding barriers, both construction and this project make me feel I am valuable.”* Today, as a leader and proud advocate for women workers, she champions social security, equal working conditions and violence-free working environments.

### THROUGH THE EYES OF A PHOTOGRAPHER

Sofia Bensadon (1994), an Argentinian photographer passionate about the human stories behind the construction sites, is documenting the daily lives of women supported by Red Hábitat. Powerful images capture their challenging realities, but also their dreams, aspirations and resilience. With a beautiful and precise aesthetic, Sofia’s dignified portraits are helping Red Hábitat and the FGE reach a wide audience, with the hope that as the realities of these women become known to the public, decision makers will meet their claims for decent work.

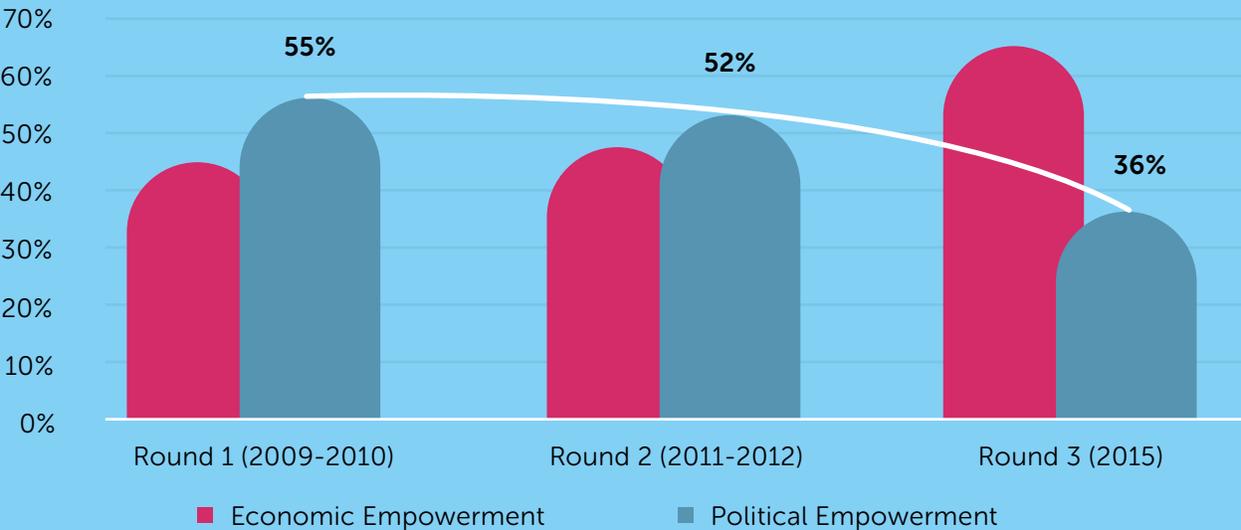
# WOMEN'S POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

The FGE's political empowerment portfolio in 2016 had a total value of US\$4.4 million distributed among 13 programmes. These so far have directly impacted 13,600 beneficiaries in three sub-thematic areas:

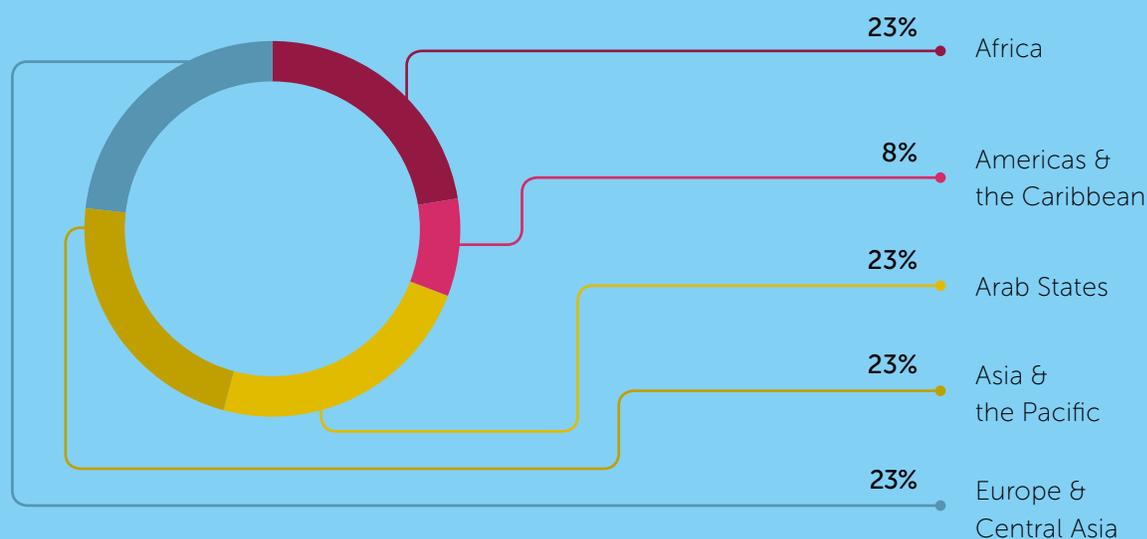
- Catalysing legislative and policy change
- Expanding and strengthening women's leadership
- Women engaging in electoral processes

The Fund's first two grant-making cycles saw an even distribution between programmes prioritizing the promotion of women's political engagement and leadership, and those promoting their economic empowerment, with a slight preference for the former, globally. The new cycle of grantees selected in 2015 tilted the balance towards the latter. Political empowerment initiatives represent only one-third of the active portfolio.

## EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT FOCUS (PERCENTAGE OF PROGRAMMES PER CYCLE)



## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF POLITICAL PORTFOLIO



As in previous years, most political empowerment programmes in 2016 stressed expanding women's leadership, both at local and national levels, in many cases with a strong emphasis on young women. Only one programme exclusively focused on fostering women's participation in electoral processes, whereas in previous years, this category represented 20 per cent of funded initiatives. The promotion of policy and legislative changes gained weight, representing almost a third of the active portfolio, and reflecting the need to reinforce the policy framework in the areas of women, peace and security: access to justice; gender-based violence; and access to education, property and employment, among others. Women's participation in Internet governance emerged as a new area, enriching the FGE-supported portfolio by introducing issues such as Internet safety for vulnerable groups of women.

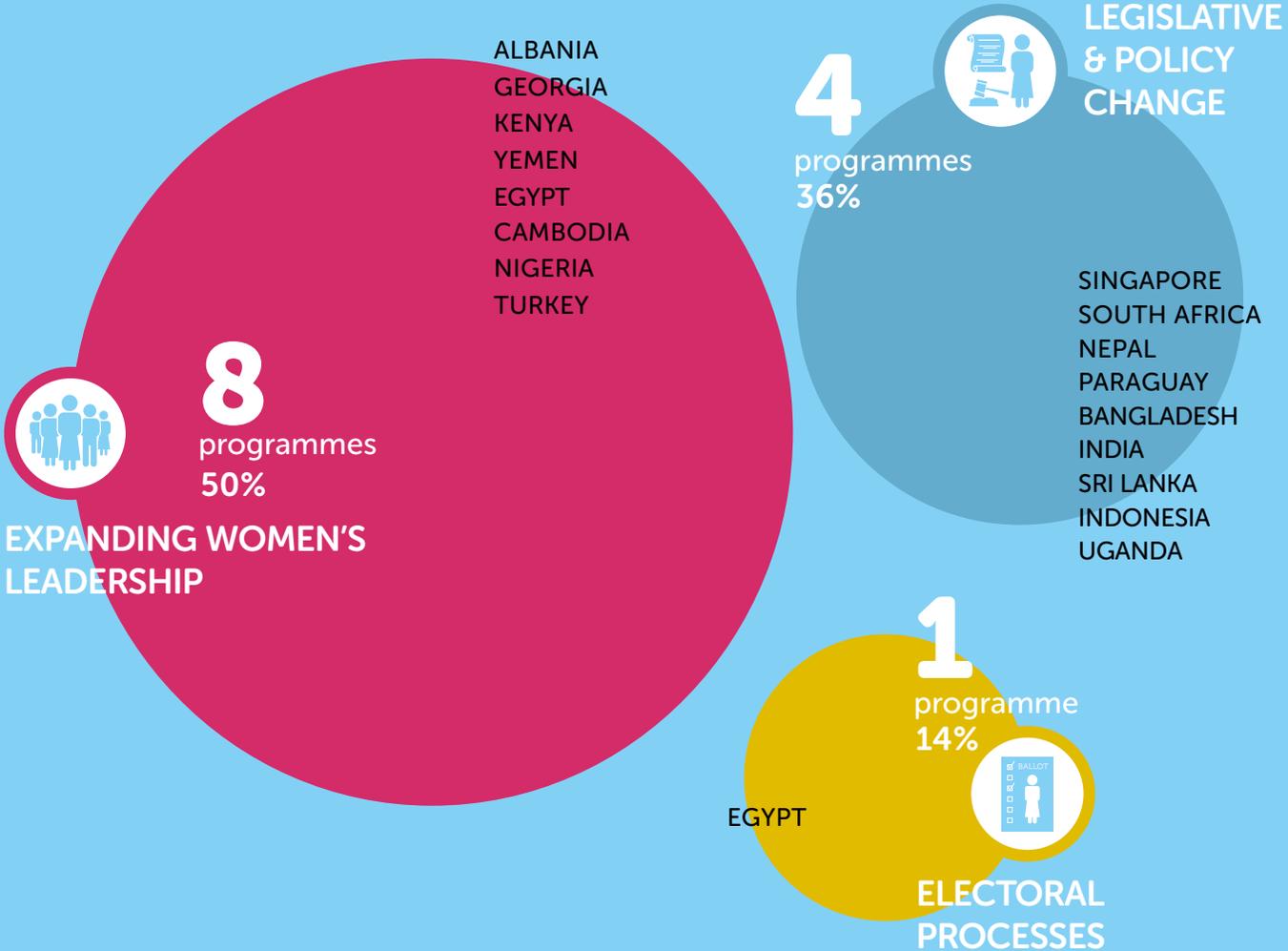
To some extent, the boundaries dividing these different areas of work are artificial. Most grantees combine two or three of them, with the promotion of women's leadership being a common denominator.

Political empowerment initiatives are evenly distributed among regions, except for the Americas and the Caribbean, where grantees have prioritized economic empowerment.

Trainings to build women's leadership skills and self-confidence continue to be the most widely used strategy. Grantees employ a variety of didactic methods such as mock campaigns, role play and theatre. Another common strategy is the establishment of networks of women activists, leaders, aspirants, candidates and politicians. This often occurs in tandem with forging alliances with a wide array of stakeholders, including politicians, political parties, government bodies, the media, religious and traditional leaders, and male gender equality champions.

A majority of programmes conduct research to build evidence that propels advocacy efforts – e.g., to map existing legislation and pinpoint gaps hindering women's political engagement or access to rights. Most programmes aspire to change pervasive negative perceptions about women's political involvement, such as by using traditional and social media, and testing different approaches through the arts.

# POLITICAL SUBTHEMES



## AT A GLANCE

13

programmes

19

countries

37%

of 2016 active  
portfolio

US\$4.4

million value

## KEY RESULTS INDICATORS



4,350

women **claimed their rights**

15,300

women **participated** in public **decision-making forums** to influence politics

160

women trained achieved **leadership positions** in institutions that affect their lives (e.g. political parties, public service providers)

200

**media personnel** trained to promote gender-responsive leadership



74

national and local **laws and policies** advocated for were adopted

150

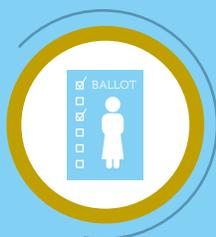
legislative and policy **recommendations** proposed

540

**consultation spaces** created to influence decision-making

30

**networks** for political action created or supported



30

women trained subsequently **elected** as representatives to national or local governing

4,200

women **candidates and aspirants** trained

# ADVANCING THE SDGs

Examples of how FGE political empowerment results contribute to the 2030 Agenda for women and girls:



## FGE STRATEGIES

- Facilitating access to decision-making spaces
- Expanding women's awareness, information, knowledge and skills
- Engaging allies and enablers (media, men, youth)
- Enhancing women's self-confidence and support networks



## RESULTS TOWARDS SDG 5

- Rights awareness and entitlement claims.
- Stronger self-confidence and increased access to public fora. Increased political participation and access to decision-making leading to gender-sensitive legislation and policies for sustainable development in all areas.
- Gender-responsive budgets for accessible services. Promotion of new leadership models and inclusive and representative processes.
- Improved household decision-making power. Use of ICTs for empowerment.



## SPILLOVER EFFECT TO ALL SDGs



# EXPANDING AND STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

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## CATALYSING SUPPORT FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ALBANIA

Concerted advocacy and capacity-building led by the **Association for Women with Social Problems** in collaboration with Operation 1325 and the Albanian Women Empowerment Network resulted in the first national conference on women, peace and security in Albania in March 2017. The Ministries of Social Welfare and Youth, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Defense and civil society agreed to develop a national action plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions, with 20 women's and human rights organizations forming a network to follow up. Understanding of the topic has grown among civil society actors, the Government and the media, based on a mapping of related policies, institutions and processes.



## MOBILIZING BEHIND WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN EGYPT

In disadvantaged areas of Upper and Lower Egypt, the **Association of Egyptian Female Lawyers** seeks to expand popular support for women's community and political involvement. Four educational films have used animation and stories of famous women political figures to spark the interest of 35,000 people. Over 80 awareness seminars engaged another 3,000 people. Other activities have included a youth performance advocating women's political participation, a first in Upper Egypt, and an "awareness network" established by eight NGOs, five political parties and four syndicates. The network spearheads efforts to boost the number of women aspirants and candidates in upcoming elections.



## OPENING POLITICAL PARTY DOORS IN YEMEN

Despite intensified conflict that has brought poverty, disease and violence to Yemen, some hope beams from courageous women and men working to end the fighting, and promote peace and political dialogue. In the Lahaj governorate, for example, 27-year old Naseeba has mobilized influential women to negotiate with the leader of an armed group, and succeeded in having it leave the region, which is largely inhabited by civilians and refugees. Somia in Hajjah province mediated a long-running dispute between two clans. She helped build a bridge between elders and leaders, and establish a security committee to safeguard the agreement. Naseeba and Somia represent just some of the women breaking barriers in Yemeni society as activists and change-makers – making a difference community by community.

Both women have also become well-known role models through publicity orchestrated by an FGE grantee, the **Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF)**. After hearing of the women, YLDF sought to bring them into its programme promoting women’s political participation, including by sharing their important work across communities. In a celebration marking International Women’s Day, the Foundation honoured their efforts as heroic women peace makers and conflict negotiators. By putting their stories in the public eye, YLDF is helping to normalize women’s role in the political sphere, and combat traditional and cultural stereotypes limiting their active participation.

YLDF also works closely with political parties, particularly male members, to integrate women in political processes, and with women to enhance their skills and knowledge, towards becoming more politically active and confident. In a 2016 national conference organized by the group, over 20 high-level leaders from seven political parties came together to help develop action plans to usher more women into party ranks. To date, 26 recommended actions have been put forth, such as reviews of party bylaws and regulations to encourage participation, awareness-raising among party leaders, support for women within parties, and alliance-building with other political stakeholders and the media.



Political party representatives participating in a capacity-building session in Yemen. Courtesy of Youth Leadership Development Foundation/Amin Nasher



**STORIES OF EMPOWERMENT  
IN GEORGIA, INFLUENCING  
AWARENESS ONE BROADCAST  
AT A TIME**

*Nana during one of her broadcasts from Tbilisi.  
Courtesy of Fund Sukhumi*

Those who tune in to watch Nana Robakidze on “Rioni,” a broadcaster in Kutaisi, Georgia, consider her a gender-sensitive journalist, but this was not always the case. *“In my journalistic life, there were years when I was not concerned about gender issues at all,”* she admits.

In 2014, **Fund Sukhumi**, an FGE-assisted grantee, invited her to become a member of one of three Gender Advisory Councils in the municipalities of Kutaisi, Ozurgeti and Senaki. The councils comprise representatives from local government, NGOs, internally displaced people, journalists and community leaders. Members learn about gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting, and collaborate with community members on gender needs assessments and policy recommendations to solve pressing local issues.

***“I believe that with every phrase, every new programme, I help the women to attract public attention to their cause.”***

*“[As a member of the council] I suddenly realized my responsibility,” Nana says. “I can say that the council represents the unity of resources that can not only raise women’s issues, but also address them.”*

Some 30 council recommendations have been integrated into local budgets, plans and municipal services. Each municipality now has a Gender Action Plan with an allocated budget, which increased by as much as 50 percent in 2016 over the previous year. Perhaps most importantly, the national Government has amended the Organic Law on Local Self-Government to stipulate the establishment of Gender Advisory Councils in every municipality.

The involvement of media representatives has broadened citizen awareness. Nana knows this role well. *“When I invite representatives of political parties to my TV programmes, I always ask them questions related to women’s needs so that they start thinking more on these issues and take them into consideration in their political agenda. I believe that with every phrase, every new programme, I help the women to attract public attention to their cause.”*

The broadcasts she has dedicated to gender topics are among the most watched. In highlighting women as capable decision-makers, they may have contributed to an increased number of local women representatives. Their share is now 39 per cent of local city council seats.

# CATALYSING POLICY & LEGISLATIVE CHANGE



## ADOPTING A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR DALIT WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA

A study conducted in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka by the **Feminist Dalit Organization** has shed light on policy gaps and implementation barriers hindering Dalit women from accessing education, employment and land. The study contains over 30 national and regional policy recommendations. Advocacy by women in Bangladesh has led to a government request for a list of Dalit women to include in existing public schemes, a significant shift, since these women usually go unrecognized.



## BRIDGING THE GENDER DIGITAL GAP IN SOUTH AFRICA AND UGANDA

**Women's Net** has brought over 200 women's rights activists into policy debates on Internet governance and Feminist Principles of the Internet. Seventeen have participated in the African School of Internet Governance, and regional and global Internet Governance Forum processes. The African Internet Governance Forum has now called for sensitizing women on how to safely use the Internet, and for the private sector to bring more women into technology. As a result of training 65 activists in Uganda, their recommendations on the draft Data Protection and Privacy Bill, 2015, will be presented to the ICT Committee at Parliament.



## USING CEDAW PRINCIPLES TO CHALLENGE ARGUMENTS AGAINST GENDER EQUALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Research by **Association of Women for Action and Research** and **Solidaritas Perempuan** sought to replace patriarchal perspectives on religion and culture with those of CEDAW. This was the basis for a series of nine legislative proposals, including amendments to the Family Justice Bill in Singapore and drafting of CEDAW shadow reports in Indonesia and Singapore. A network of over 560 gender advocates from both countries has emerged, sharing strategies to catalyse CEDAW implementation, and connecting with an estimated 650,000 people through mainstream and new media. The blog "Beyond the hijab" not only attracted 30,000 followers, but provided a safe online space where women could share concerns.

# WOMEN ENGAGING IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES



## SUPPORTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS IN EGYPT

The **Egyptian Center for Women's Rights** has equipped 830 young female activists from 18 political parties and 8 unions across seven governorates with necessary technical knowledge and skills to participate in local elections as candidates, campaigners and voters. The programme has also raised awareness among women's activists about the use of electoral quota systems, and garnered support from 15 political parties and 10 parliamentarians to amend the Local Administration Law so that women are assured of adequate representation in local offices.



Students in Alexandria, Egypt campaigning for women and men's equal political participation. Courtesy of Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers / Hany Ali



**STORIES OF EMPOWERMENT**

**THE UNBREAKABLE WILL  
OF A YOUNG LEADER  
IN KENYA**

*Veronica Long'ole is running in a county assembly election after convincing her father and other community members of her aptitude.  
Courtesy of Uraia Trust*

In Kenya, **Uraia Trust**, an FGE-assisted grantee, and its partners are joining forces to make sure that the 2017 general elections fully comply with a constitutional affirmative action measure. Known as “the two-thirds gender principle” it limits the representation of women or men to a maximum of two thirds in elective and appointive public bodies. Yet women’s political participation and representation remain low. Uraia is targeting change at different levels, working with political parties, community forums and even male gender equality champions.

*“The vision for my community as a secure place with improved infrastructure and development gives me the motivation.”*

The training of 360 women aspirants on electoral requirements has groomed them to be effective candidates. Veronica Long’ole is one. Appalled after a violent cattle rustling affected her family, she became determined to take on security issues in her community. “[The training] opened my mind. I knew I wanted to be a leader but I didn’t know the practical aspect,” explains the 25-year old, now equipped with skills to develop campaign messaging, mobilize social and political support, and speak publicly.

Veronica applied her new skills when she decided to compete against her own father, a former elected councilor, to stand in elections for the county assembly. Ignoring his threats to disown her, she mobilized her family, clan, community, national legislators and other leaders to mediate, and confidently shared her vision. The result was an overwhelming victory; Veronica garnered 85 per cent of the votes required to run for the seat. Her father blessed the decision of the people to let her contest; subsequently, Veronica negotiated support from six male contenders for the same position. The arguments used in her favour included her clear agenda for improvements in her community, and her energy and persistence.

Veronica is now tirelessly preparing for the upcoming elections, despite the obstacles she keeps encountering, including from other candidates competing for political party nominations. She has also not stopped researching issues to guide her development agenda, having defined top priorities such as fostering safety and improving livelihoods, health and the environment. “The vision for my community as a secure place with improved infrastructure and development gives me the motivation to serve,” she says.

# HARVESTING KNOWLEDGE: PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS SERIES

## 'LEAVING NO WOMAN BEHIND' IN ACTION

*"In their design, a number of FGE projects successfully identified specific obstacles that marginalized and vulnerable groups of women face in accessing their rights and developed specific strategies to overcome such barriers."*

Independent meta-analysis of FGE grantee evaluations (2015)

**70% OF FGE**  
**PROGRAMMES**  
**INVOLVE TWO OR**  
**MORE CATEGORIES**  
**OF MARGINALIZED**  
**WOMEN AS KEY DIRECT**  
**BENEFICIARIES**

### FGE'S SEVEN-YEAR COLLABORATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

Gender equality is at the forefront of the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs include a stand-alone goal to advance gender equality as well as gender-related targets across the rest of the goals. Further opening the door for dramatic progress in the lives of women and girls worldwide is the Agenda's principle of leaving no one behind.

Leaving no one behind means prioritizing human beings' dignity and placing the progress of the most marginalized communities first – with women and girls too often topping the list of excluded groups. The principle requires action to tackle the structural causes of inequality and marginalization.

This ambitious undertaking depends on collectively identifying the most effective strategies. The FGE offers practical insights from long experience in engaging with marginalized populations through women-led civil society organizations.

### A PRIORITY FROM THE START

Since its inception in 2009, the FGE has prioritized reaching vulnerable groups of women. It exclusively supports local and national women-led organizations proposing initiatives with high relevance and potential for impact in the lives of the most marginalized.

The FGE has identified 18 categories of women who, based on grantee programme rationales, are collectively experiencing structural exclusion, discrimination and vulnerability due to patriarchal power relations.

While rural and young women are the most targeted groups, reached by 68 per cent and 50 per cent of grantee programmes, respectively, many grantees strategically focus on smaller yet highly vulnerable groups struggling with multiple forms of discrimination, including widows, single mothers, caregivers, sex workers or LGBTQ (lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer) women.

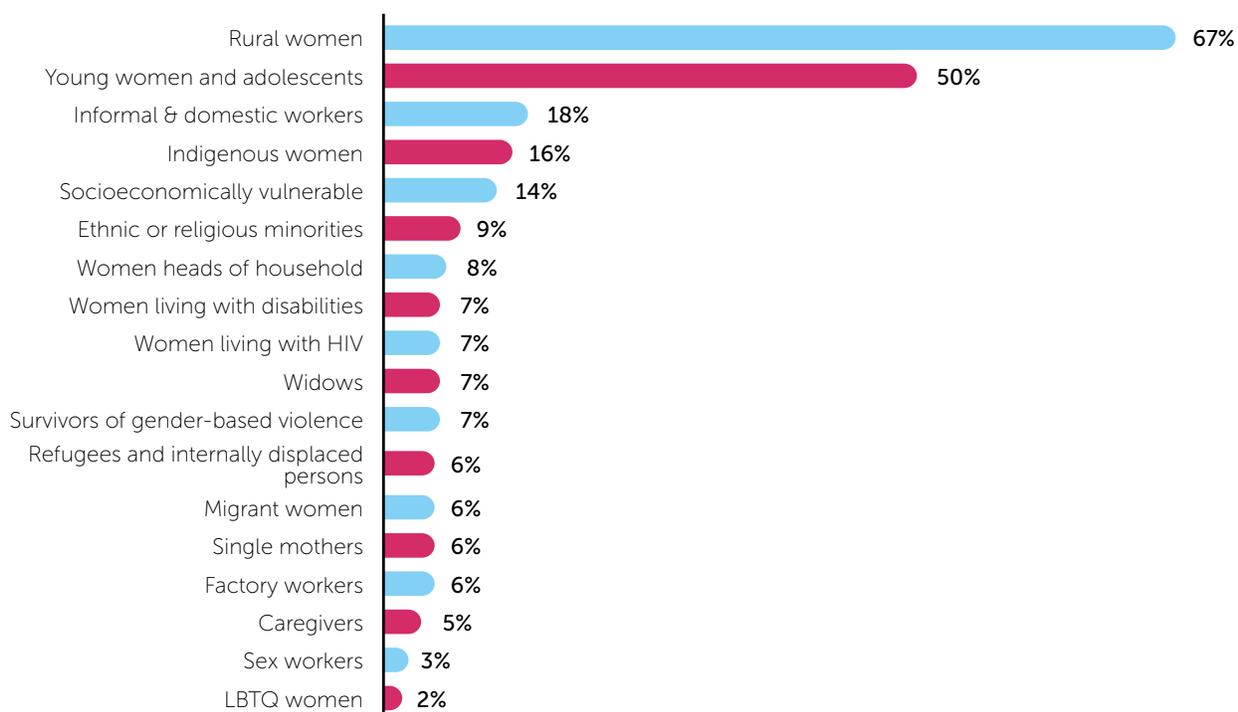
Out of 121 programmes supported by the Fund, 97 per cent have targeted marginalized populations as direct beneficiaries. Almost 70 per cent target two or more categories of vulnerable groups, and more than half target three or more - recognizing that different identities intersect and shape multiple forms of discrimination. Several layers of vulnerability make women more likely to be forgotten in policies and programmes. Further, their needs are unique and not necessarily a sum of the needs of the groups they are part of.

UNIPROBA in Burundi worked with young rural women who are members of the indigenous and ethnic minority Batwa. Jan Sahas supported women who face triple discrimination based on sex, caste and class in India. In Brazil, Fundo Elas and THEMIS protected the rights of women Afro-descendent domestic workers from disadvantaged social classes who are single mothers.

Programmes open opportunities for these women to gain skills and resources to become economically and/or politically empowered, and to make a substantive contribution to their families and communities.

## MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS SUPPORTED BY FGE PROJECTS

(% OF PROJECTS INVOLVING THESE GROUPS)



## BRINGING MARGINALIZED WOMEN AND GIRLS TO THE FOREFRONT

The experiences from FGE and its grantees in working with marginalized groups offer insights into operationalizing the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to leave no one behind. Some examples follow.



### UNCOVERING VULNERABILITIES

Generating studies and data can raise public awareness and sensitize decision makers about discrimination, and inform responses to the needs of vulnerable groups.

*The **Al-Shehab** organization led the first comprehensive social and economic study on the situation of women and child domestic workers in Egypt. The study serves as a basis for advocacy to defend their rights. Training for 25 domestic worker activists drew on its findings and led to the creation of the country's first non-governmental organization dedicated to domestic workers.*



### PRIORITIZING LITERACY

Promoting alphabetical, numeric and financial literacy skills in marginalized communities enhances economic opportunities, boosts confidence to challenge discriminatory power relations and erodes stigma.

*The Integrated Functional Adult Literacy (IFAL) programme implemented by the **Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA)** in Ethiopia enabled illiterate women members of economic groups to read, write and do arithmetic calculations for their income generating activities, while gaining knowledge of social and economic rights and to effectively engage at the household and community level.*



### INFLUENCING POLICIES

The elaboration of common agendas and spaces to act and lead help strengthen grass-roots advocacy for inclusive policies. Connecting decision-makers with their constituencies makes policy-making better informed.

*A regional **CHIRAPAQ** programme in Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala and Peru opened reflection spaces on indigenous women's economic rights. Advocacy by local partners, including a widows' organization, successfully pushed the repeal of a legislative decree undermining food security in Guatemala. A local policy in Peru improved access to economic rights.*



## TAKING A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Rights-holders need to know and claim their rights, while decision-makers bear a duty to fulfil these. Essential measures entail fostering the recognition of and response to the interconnection among different levels of social, economic and political rights, and helping marginalized populations define their own priorities.

***Tebtebba** enhanced the capacities of 800 members of six indigenous rights organizations in Nepal and the Philippines to effectively promote indigenous women's rights, based on international human rights instruments and national laws. More than 270 newly documented case of rights violations emerged, supported by advocacy and evidence to pursue legal remedies.*



## PURSUING HIGH-IMPACT TRAINING

Culturally relevant and accessible content, and feminist and participatory approaches built from learners' experiences and knowledge are hallmarks of FGE-supported grantees. Many use local experts – including programme beneficiaries – as facilitators and advisers.

*An independent evaluation of **PRADAN** and **Jagori's** intervention in India highlighted exceptional results. Trainings included contextualized examples, a distinctively feminist perspective, self-exploration and safe spaces provided by self-help groups. More than 35,000 women in four states, including from low-caste Dalit and tribal communities, are now participating in local governance and demanding their entitlements.*



## FOSTERING A COLLECTIVE VOICE

Groups with collective identity offer safe spaces, foster belonging and support emerging leaders. A collective approach facilitates access to economic resources, and powers efforts to advocate inclusive policies and claim rights. Using informal and formal community structures helps guarantee sustainability.

*In Tanzania, **KWIECO** helped almost 1,200 rural women living in poverty gain business management skills and access legal assistance and capital. Fifty peer support groups assisted 680 women to start new businesses and 860 to scale up their existing enterprises. Thirty women identified as role models were trained to deliver women's empowerment messages in communities and mentor other women.*



## ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY

Identifying beneficiaries' barriers and limitations, including financial, social, geographical and time availability, informs the application of dedicated resources to ensure access to programme information, services and activities.

***Amel Association** in Lebanon adapted a method similar to school buses to pick up women for training. This reduced logistical and economic barriers faced by rural and refugee participants in remote areas, and ensured women's safety. Nursery care facilities also increase participation, as **AÇEV's** programme on multilevel decision-making in Turkey showed.*



### 1. BEING INTENTIONAL

Reaching the most marginalized women requires an intention to do so at the core of the programme. Otherwise, their realities are likely to remain invisible and their needs sidelined.

*FGE grant eligibility criteria require a demonstrated commitment to working with women and girls who are economically, politically, socially, culturally or otherwise excluded, marginalized and/or disempowered.*

### 2. KNOWING THE CONTEXT AND LOOKING FOR SPECIFICITIES

This includes identifying non-income-based inequalities that affect an individual's rights and status. Populations impacted by several layers of vulnerability have unique needs. Understanding how different vulnerabilities intersect and the power relations among groups, and tailoring project strategies accordingly is essential.

*The FGE requires proposals to demonstrate a strong understanding of the context, based on existing knowledge and evidence, and to provide a thorough contextual analysis from a gender perspective.*



### 3. APPLYING BENEFICIARY-FOCUSED DESIGN AND FLEXIBLE PROCESSES

Beneficiaries are the best positioned experts to help find and test solutions. Feedback mechanisms and flexible programming tools that allow for adjustments lead to more relevant interventions in constantly changing realities.

*FGE programmes are implemented organically. Our tools allow grantees to redirect strategies to respond to the emerging needs of beneficiaries and/or changing country dynamics.*

### 4. WORKING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that are close to beneficiaries are more likely to identify key change-makers and effective strategies to address real needs on the ground. National and self-led organizations can galvanize significant support for major policy changes.

*FGE funds women-led national organizations that reach vulnerable populations – either directly or through grass-roots partners – and have the capacity to influence decision-making.*



### 5. STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONS' CAPACITIES

Complementing financial support with capacity strengthening helps organizations consolidate their role as a relevant actor and advocate for the most disadvantaged groups, while maximizing sustainability – especially when they are themselves part of the vulnerable populations.

*FGE provides technical support and training to all its grantees, which include networks of female domestic workers, women with disabilities and women living with HIV, among others.*

### 6. GENERATING KNOWLEDGE

Working with marginalized communities often implies operating with knowledge gaps about how to best support them. Efforts to document successes and failures are key to more impactful interventions.

*The FGE creates tools to systematize lessons from programmes. For example, it captured perceptions of local economic barriers and opportunities for women in fragile contexts in a study surveying rural, displaced and refugee women in Guinea, Lebanon and Sudan.*



# THE FGE LEGACY: GRANTEE PERSPECTIVES

What happens after FGE-supported programmes end? Beyond the output and outcome indicators, what were their main contributions, the most significant changes for women and girls? These were two of the questions that the FGE asked its grantees from the first (2009-2010) and second (2012-2013) grant-making cycles that had implemented a total of 96 programmes. The responses received from 70 per cent of former grantees offered some interesting findings.

Overall, the programmes reporting higher levels of results in scale or significance seem to have accelerated further progress. This type of catalytic effect often coincides with organizations that bring an open outlook and flexibility to adapt their strategies to circumstances. Successful initiatives empower programme beneficiaries as active players setting their own priorities and driving their own development processes. Mostly led by women's organizations and following feminist and gender equality principles, these programmes paved the way for gender-sensitive policy frameworks and consolidated networks that serve as springboards for women to gain political and economic power.

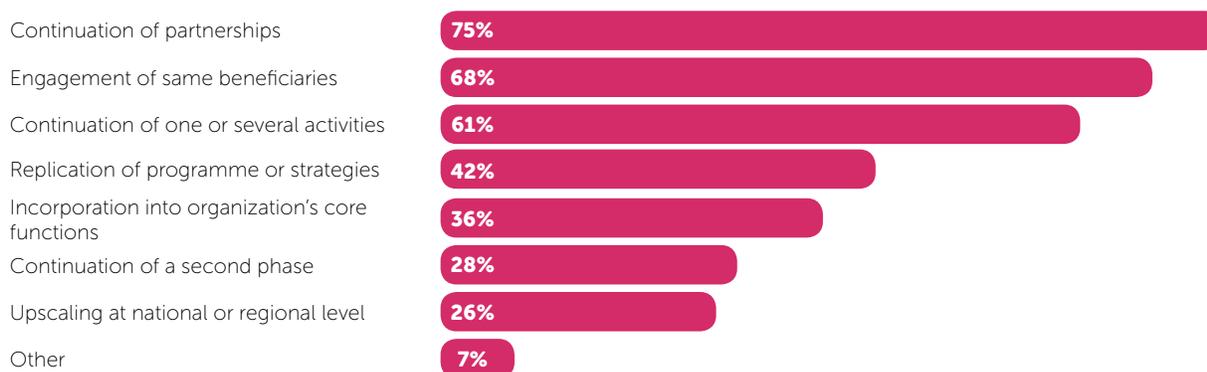
## AFTER THE FGE GRANT

All respondents indicated they continued their work in a variety of ways after FGE funding ended, with most of them maintaining partnerships created during the programme. While only 30 per cent implemented a second phase of the same programme, the large majority continued engaging with the same beneficiaries and sustained some activities. More than 40 per cent reported replicating their initiatives; one in four scaled them up.

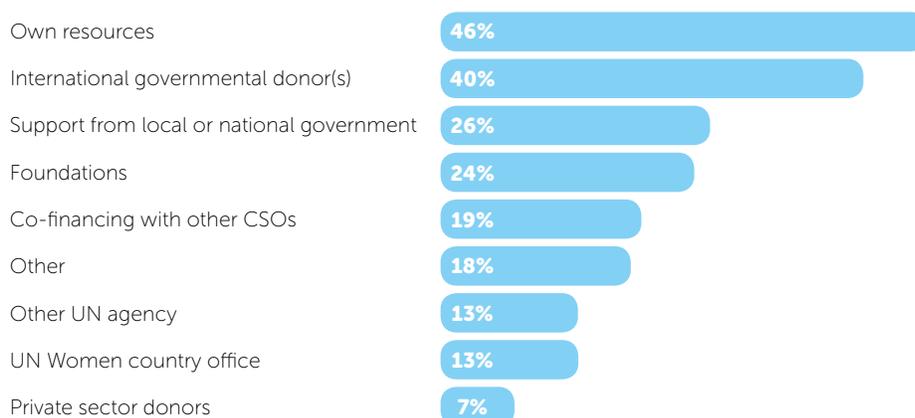
The FGE partnership helped grantees secure further support from other donors, including governments and foundations. Examples include the United States Department of State (Badya Center, Sudan) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (PRADAN and Jagori, India). One in four programmes continued to implement activities with the support of local or national governments. Private sector companies have also helped former grantees expand activities, including under corporate social responsibility policies. Commercial banks have offered free financial literacy training to saving groups members in Uganda, for instance, and business outlets have commercialized the products of rural women in Lebanon. Approximately 13 per cent of respondents received further funding from UN Women country offices, such as UEWCA in Ethiopia, whose member organization Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia is now the implementing partner of a UN Women programme promoting the economic empowerment of rural women through access to technology and innovation. Plans are on the way to replicate UEWCA's successful literacy model with South Sudanese refugees, maximizing the initial FGE investment.

The integration of successful grantee strategies into policies and broader programmes has been documented by government and peer civil society groups. For example, in the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Education moved towards bridging the technology gender gap by incorporating in its extended educational curriculum the successful, evidence-based strategy of girl-only science and technology clubs promoted by the Research Center for Feminine Action (CIPAF) – now benefitting over 4,500 girls in more than 80 schools from the initial 300 girls in 7 schools. In Algeria, both the Ministry of Solidarity and Family and NGOs are applying strategies pioneered by grantee El Ghaith to empower rural women based on local assets and market needs. In India, the ICT-enabled info-centres allowing marginalized women to understand their rights and secure services established by IT for Change and Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan have now been institutionalized by local councils.

### WHAT HAPPENED AFTER FGE-SUPPORTED PROGRAMME?



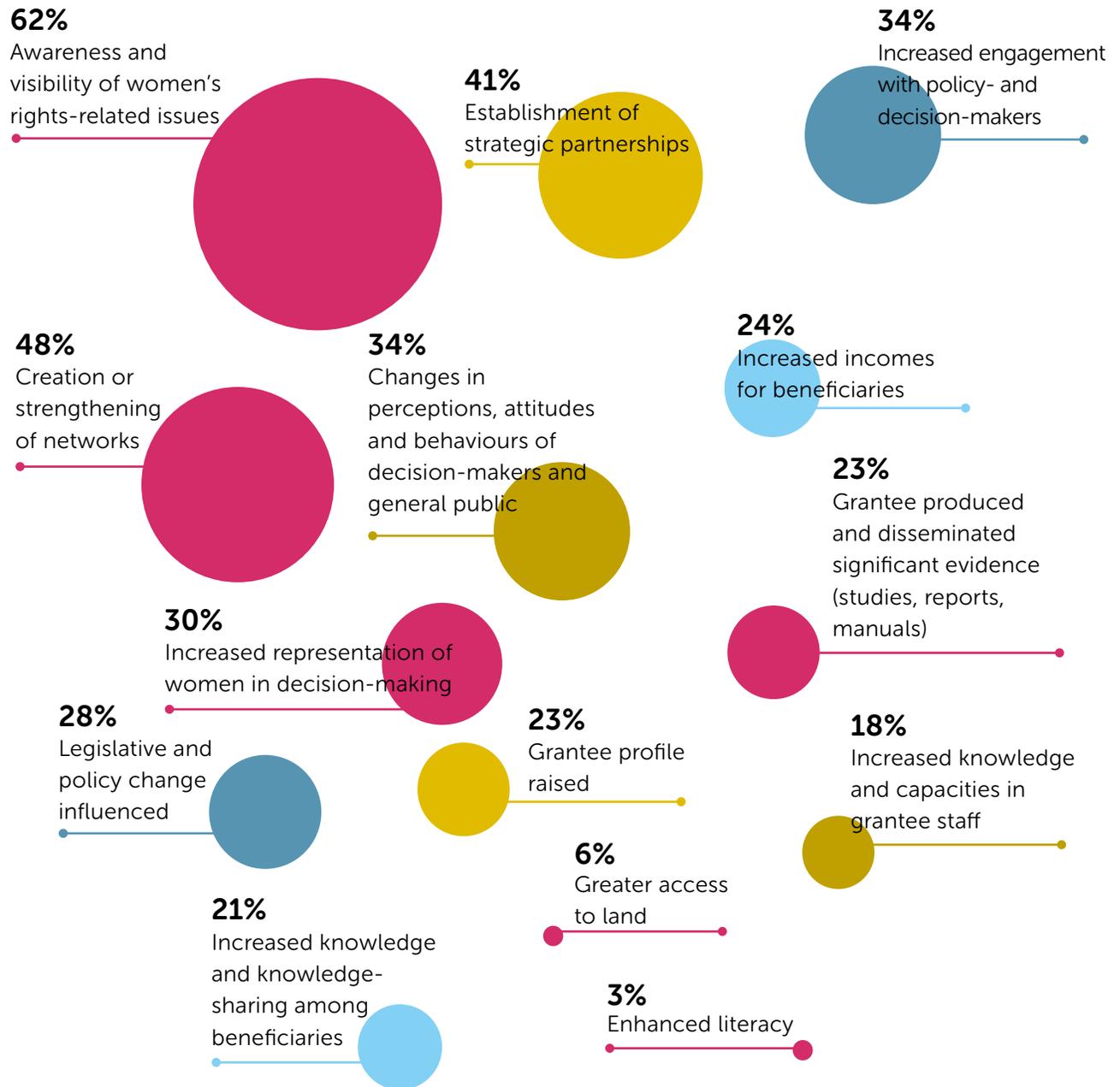
### SOURCES OF FUNDING AFTER FGE-SUPPORTED PROGRAMME



## A GLIMPSE AT THE TRANSFORMATION

Answers to the questionnaires illuminated trends in the types of successes that grantees believe produce the most significant changes. While this information is limited to grantee perceptions, it does provide a revealing glimpse of transformation triggered by FGE support.

### MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ACCORDING TO GRANTEES



## FROM INNER EMPOWERMENT TO SYSTEMIC CHANGE

### **BUILDING SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE**

One in five respondents pointed at increases in beneficiaries' knowledge and skills as among the main programme legacies. Stronger capacities helped improve self-esteem and social status, allowing women to apply their training in daily practice. Such skills also allowed women to sustain their participation in public matters and engage with decision-makers, which for 34 per cent of respondents was a key programme objective. Increased knowledge was also reported as having positive spillover effect in women's self-esteem, continued education, professional career and overall health for women and girls.

### **BEYOND ECONOMIC GAINS**

Women's increased economic resources were highlighted by 24 per cent of respondents. They all reported economic empowerment as an impact that goes beyond higher income. Empowerment has a strong spillover effect, leading women to invest more economic resources in new businesses and education, reducing their dependency and vulnerability, enhancing their participation in household decision-making, and encouraging many to become vocal community actors in development and political processes.

## AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ENABLES EQUALITY

### **MINDSETS, ATTITUDES, BEHAVIOURS**

Among the most common results claimed by grantees were greater public awareness of issues related to women's rights, and changes in attitudes and behaviors; 62 per cent and 34 per cent of programmes, respectively, achieved these. Such results are difficult and costly to measure as they require specific social research data collection methods, so they are most often – with some notable exceptions – based either on grantees' perceptions or estimated via proxy indicators, such as an increased number of elected women or the passing of women's rights-related policies. While more efforts are needed in this regard, it seems clear, based on numerous testimonies, anecdotal evidence and reported results, that such transformations did occur.

## LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ADVANCES

More than half of FGE-supported programmes aimed to influence laws and policies, and 90 per cent engaged in advocacy with local and national decision-makers. Almost 30 per cent of respondents claimed a positive influence on policy advancements as their main legacy. While many factors contribute to passing laws, policies and programmes, many grantees make substantive contributions to such gains, especially by mobilizing diverse actors around a common agenda and conducting evidence-based advocacy anchored in an international women's rights framework.

The remaining challenge often raised by grantees is implementation, given insufficient political will and scarce resources. For example, in Mexico, successful litigation won with the support of Equidad de Género led to a Supreme Court stipulation for gender electoral quotas. This established a precedent that enabled constitutional reform establishing gender parity in national electoral processes three years later.

## GENERATING EVIDENCE

Almost 25 percent of respondents reported major reports, studies, manuals and strategic documents as a critical contribution to women's rights. The data and evidence generated often shine a light on the realities of marginalized groups of women that were previously unknown to the public and/or to decision-makers. As a basis for awareness-raising, policy advocacy, training and further research, such studies have contributed to the knowledge base on women's empowerment and become lasting reference points for policy-makers and advocates.

## THE POWER OF NETWORKS

From community self-help groups to national alliances, women's empowerment goes hand in hand with their ability to learn, share and engage with their peers in safe spaces that permit leadership to flourish. Almost half of respondents considered the creation of groups and networks a major legacy. Seventy per cent of FGE supported programmes support or help develop these, and almost all use some sort of collective structure. Groups and networks continue to work after the programme ends, including economic empowerment groups that provide the most marginalized women with access to credit and savings, and political associations rooted in cross-party alliances or civil society networks that serve as powerful vehicles for advocacy.

## THE VALUE OF PIONEER INITIATIVES

Some grantees appreciated how FGE supports projects that otherwise are difficult to fund. The FGE's demand-driven approach and focus on national or regional mid-size organizations allow the flexibility to test novel strategies, work in non-traditional areas, and back initiatives that show high potential for impact with additional institutional support.

In Egypt, for example, the Women and Memory Forum has raised the visibility of women's roles in public spaces in past decades, challenging traditional gender norms. Its innovations have encompassed an unprecedented Archive of Women's Oral History, and the first Arabic manual on oral history documentation from a gender-sensitive perspective.

## THE IMPACT OF THE THREE-PILLAR APPROACH: STRONGER CIVIL SOCIETY TO ACCELERATE SOCIAL CHANGE

Almost 20 per cent of respondents underlined increased staff capacities. This is the result of FGE's purposeful investment in strengthening civil society skills related to results-based management and effective programming – the other two “pillars” complementing FGE's financial aid. Almost 25 per cent of respondents reported their organization has higher visibility and credibility among public authorities and other civil society stakeholders, as a result of having implemented sound and rigorous initiatives with proven results, and thanks to the exposure gained.

Silaka NGO in Cambodia has become the facilitator for CSOs working on gender at the national level and the key source of feedback from civil society to the Government in developing national indicators for SDG 5. In Tanzania, many local government authorities and civil society organizations have requested KWIECO to support them in replicating its notable successes in women's economic empowerment.

Many grantees reported programming is now further aligned with gender equality goals – especially those for which women's empowerment was not a central area of work prior to the intervention and that past strategies with proven effectiveness are better integrated in current activities. PRADAN India rearticulated its organizational mission, vision and approach around gender equality as a result of collaboration with feminist organization Jagori.

# FGE LEGACY CASE STUDY: POSITIVE WOMEN RAISE THEIR VOICES IN UKRAINE

**Grantee:** All Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS

**Grant amount:** US\$499,921

**Implementation period:** 2010-2011

**Direct beneficiaries reached:** 1,268

## **Main strategies used:**

- “Power mapping” to identify allies at national and local levels
- Research and evidence, including sectoral gender audits, to build arguments for gender budgeting
- Promotion of sex-disaggregated data, women’s reproductive rights and integration of the needs of vulnerable groups in service delivery

## **What made it unique:**

First project in Ukraine designed by women living with HIV for women living with HIV with a real opportunity for active participation and empowerment.

## **Key results during the programme:**

- Unprecedented study analysing linkages between HIV/AIDS and gender
- Incorporation of gender aspects into the national HIV/AIDS plan
- Incorporation of HIV-related issues into the national gender equality programme
- Creation of the Ukrainian Network of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, which later became the Positive Women Network

## **Key impact in the long term:**

The Positive Women Network has become the main driver of gender and HIV issues in Ukraine, with 42 member organizations.

In 2016, the network prepared the first alternative report to the CEDAW Committee submitted by women living with HIV on behalf of marginalized groups of women.

Model replicated in Ukraine for other national policies.

Research conducted was the basis for a law granting adoption rights to people living with HIV.



**MY IMPACT STORY**

**OLENA STRYZHAK, CHAIR  
OF THE BOARD OF POSITIVE  
WOMEN NETWORK**

*Olena Stryzhak speaks with ICTV, a Ukrainian television channel.  
Courtesy of Olena Stryzhak / Alina Yaroslavska*

Today, Olena Stryzhak chairs the board of the charitable organization Positive Women Network in Ukraine. But back in 2000, the thought of getting involved in social activism had not even crossed her mind. Twenty-one years old and pregnant, her life took an unexpected turn when she learned at a routine pregnancy check-up that she was HIV positive. At that time, doctors advised pregnant HIV positive women to abort, but Olena decided to carry on.

*"This programme showed me that we can achieve great things by working together without a lot of money. We only need one dream, one goal."*

One year after she delivered her baby, she met a team from the **All Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS** and started to work with them, becoming head of the Cherkasy regional branch of the network in 2004. *"I wanted to give women inspiration, to make them know about their rights and help them gain confidence and motivation,"* Olena explains. *"The project supported by FGE encouraged us to develop activities from women's perspectives. We started to provide gender-sensitive services,"* Olena says. She recalls how the programme established day centres for children, allowing their HIV-affected mothers to attend classes and consultations. Self-defence courses helped women feel more independent and powerful.

Olena developed communication and negotiation skills as she called on politicians to change their understanding of HIV. *"The Fund showed us that it is possible to influence decisions. It taught us to have clear targets for how to work with our government. Other donors don't do that."*

In 2011, the many programme beneficiaries who had started to work at the network joined Olena in creating the first network of women living with HIV in Ukraine, known as Positive Women Network. The name reflects not only their medical status, but also an attitude of strength and independence. Conducting research and policy advocacy, providing mentoring and services, and promoting education and awareness, Positive Women Network is the main driver of gender and HIV issues in the country, representing women living with HIV and those vulnerable to contracting the virus. As the mother of a healthy daughter who is now 16, Olena has not lost passion for what she does. *"My work can help other women who have just learned about their HIV condition, and are pregnant or want to have children."*

# FGE LEGACY CASE STUDY: MAKING A CASE FOR GENDER BUDGETING IN UGANDA

**Grantee:** Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)

**Grant amount:** US\$205,000

**Implementation period:** 2010-2012

**Direct beneficiaries reached:** 550

## **Main strategies used:**

- “Power mapping” to identify allies at national and local levels
- Research and evidence, including sectoral gender audits, to build arguments for gender budgeting
- “Village club model” for community monitoring of public budget allocations and service delivery, with strong women’s participation
- Trial and error of different strategies and entry points for advocacy

## **What made it unique:**

Piloting of a model to build demand and capacities for gender-responsive budgeting at the community level.

## **Key results during the programme:**

- 16 clubs established in five districts with 320 members, leading to 50 petitions made to duty bearers, of which 60 per cent received a response
- 130 legislators and 70 technocrats gained gender budgeting skills
- Advocacy influenced adoption of parliamentary actions to encourage gender budgeting implementation, an increase in budgets for ministries such as Health, Education and Gender, and gender audits conducted in four ministries
- Proposal developed and advocated for a “Certificate of Gender and Equity” requiring all sectors to integrate gender and equity in budgets

## **Key impact in the long term:**

Certificate for Gender Equity approved by Parliament in 2015 as part of the Public Finance and Management Act (first country with such a certificate).

Village club model scaled up to more than 100 locations. Some clubs have become self-sufficient and continue to monitor public services and expenses. Some registered as community-based organizations or formed saving groups. Club members enjoy greater status as community leaders.



## MY IMPACT STORY

# ELIZABETH SAABA FROM KIBUKU DISTRICT

*Elizabeth posing next to the placenta pit built in her community thanks to her leadership.  
Courtesy of the Forum for Women in Democracy*

When the **Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE)** used FGE support to launch its unique gender budgeting programme in five districts of Uganda, many didn't know what to expect. Elizabeth Saaba, a 51-year-old small-scale farmer from Kibuku, was immediately drawn to the idea, however. Setting up "village budget clubs" could give communities a say in local budgets – specifically women, often for the first time.

With training from FOWODE, the clubs began demonstrating how collective voice translated into impact. "Before, I thought decision-making was only for men, (which) kept me at the level of the kitchen," says Elizabeth. "I am now empowered to make decisions at family level and also on cross-cutting issues that affect communities in my district."

Elizabeth's village budget club called attention to their community's lack of a maternity ward and placenta pit – two essential resources for women's health and safe waste management. After the club mobilized the community and presented these issues to local authorities, the district allocated funds for construction, and assigned two midwives to handle family care and maternal services. The number of women seeking maternal services each month increased an average of 74 per cent, while waste disposal management and hygiene at the health facility improved. Women felt their needs were seen—a sharp contrast from previous gender-blind budget processes.

*"I am now empowered to make decisions at family level and also on cross-cutting issues that affect communities in Kibuku district."*

As Elizabeth's experience grew, so did her confidence. She soon became a counsellor helping other local women with personal challenges. When she was elected as a local representative, she gained even greater influence on the local budget process. "Attracting support from men was challenging," she acknowledges. Yet her reputation and community engagement meant she eventually succeeded.

Today, she chairs the District Women's Caucus, representing over 180,000 people, and extending the important work she started in the village budget club to the district level. Over 100 village budget clubs actively monitor public services and expenses, mobilizing citizens, and shaping the next round of women like Elizabeth to lead their communities to a better life.

# INVESTING IN MEANINGFUL GRANT-MAKING

Investing in women and girls reverberates through all of society, with a multitude of benefits reaching individuals, families, communities and nations. Smart investments, however, include those ensuring that benefits reach the most marginalized and last over time. Women's organizations from the global South know the realities on the ground and are best placed to achieve change. Yet their expertise is often overlooked and underfunded, with only 0.5 per cent of development aid going to them.<sup>2</sup>

By focusing specifically on the initiatives and capacities of locally led women's organizations, the FGE ensures that gains in women's rights are attained and sustained.

## **The Fund goes beyond other financial mechanisms and donors by:**

- Encouraging greater impact with larger funding versus smaller seed grants
- Partnering with national organizations with access to decision-makers and to grass-roots CSOs
- Exclusively funding women-led national and regional civil society organizations
- Under the aegis of UN Women, providing political leverage to strong women-led organizations
- Awarding programme proposals of the highest quality based on rigorous processes
- Combining financial and technical support for more capable civil society
- Producing and exchanging global knowledge and communication products

## **The Fund helps UN Women be more 'fit for purpose' and adds value to its work by:**

- Being flexible mechanism for civil society and localization of the SDGs
- Expanding UN Women's reach where there is no field presence
- Supporting high-quality, innovative interventions with strong potential for impact
- Identifying new and effective civil society partners
- Financing civil society priorities within the framework of international gender equality standards
- Intentionally extending access to the most marginalized, supporting efforts to leave no one behind

2. OECD, 2016, "Donor Support to Southern Women's Rights Organizations." [www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/OECD-report-on-womens-rights-organisations.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/OECD-report-on-womens-rights-organisations.pdf).

## TEST FOR POTENTIAL FGE DONORS

Unsure whether you are a potential FGE donor? Here is a quick test to find out.

Answer 'yes' or 'no' the questions below.

1. Do you believe that the 2030 Agenda will only happen if women and men have equal opportunities, and women and girls around the world are free and empowered?
2. Are you convinced that the most marginalized populations should be the priority target groups, and no one should be left behind?
3. Do you think that the most effective, innovative and sustainable development interventions are designed by practitioners closest to beneficiaries?
4. In your opinion, do women's civil society organizations play a critical role in society and need to be supported technically and financially?

**Solution:** If you answered "yes" to all four, the FGE is the perfect fit for you. Please contact [Elisa Fernández](mailto:elisa.fernandez@unwomen.org) at [elisa.fernandez@unwomen.org](mailto:elisa.fernandez@unwomen.org) or [Nancy Khweiss](mailto:nancy.khweiss@unwomen.org) at [nancy.khweiss@unwomen.org](mailto:nancy.khweiss@unwomen.org) for more information.

## JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF FGE DONORS

By becoming a contributor to the FGE, you:

- Get **value for your money**, creating tangible results for women and girls around the world
- Invest in a **validated grant-making formula and programme approach**
- Ensure your money **reaches the most marginalized** and is invested in leaving no women behind
- Advance **learning and innovation**, through knowledge products and testing of new approaches
- Join UN Women's frontline efforts to **empower civil society's** to work on gender equality and the SDGs

The FGE welcomes the following partnership modes:

- **Single or multi-year** contributions
- **Global or regional** contributions
- **Thematic** contributions
- Contributions to **innovative solutions** for leaving no one behind

### 2016 ACTIVE DONORS

(BY SIZE OF CONTRIBUTION)

**Governments:** Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Israel

**Private Sector:** Chanel Foundation, L'Occitane Foundation, Angélica Fuentes Foundation, Tupperware, JP Morgan Chase, Esprit

**UN Women National Committees:** Singapore, United States, Germany

**Founding Donor:** Government of Spain

# LIST OF 2016 ACTIVE PROGRAMMES

## AFRICA

### Benin

**Association Nationale des Femmes Agricultrices du Bénin (ANaF)**

Initiative for Empowering Women Farmers in Benin – “Mingézé!”  
**US\$305,000**

### Kenya

**Uraia Trust**  
Enhancing Political Capacities of Women

**US\$384,997**

### Mali

**Association d’Entraide et de Développement**  
Rural Women Entrepreneurship Support Program

**US\$334,121**

### Nigeria

**Alliances for Africa**  
Implementing 35% Affirmative Action in 5 States in Nigeria by 2018

**US\$230,000**

### South Africa, Uganda

**Women’s Net**  
Increasing Women’s Decision-Making and Influence in Internet Governance and ICT Policy for the Realization of Women’s Rights in Africa

**US\$257,520**

### South Africa

**Rural Women’s Movement**  
Sisonke Rural Women’s

Empowerment Programme  
**US\$220,000**

### Tanzania

**Pastoral Women’s Council**  
Empowering Pastoralist Maasai Women in Ngorongoro District, Northern Tanzania

**US\$390,001**

### Tanzania

**Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Consultancy**

**Organization**  
Women Economic Empowerment for Justice in Tanzania

**US\$450,000**

## AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Bolivia

**Taller de Proyectos del Habitat Urbano y Rural (RED HABITAT)**  
Women in Construction. Towards their Political and Economic Empowerment.

**US\$269,166**

### Brazil

**Instituto Promundo**  
Engaging Women and Men with Gender Transformative Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programming: An Integrated Intervention and Impact Evaluation that Promotes Equitable, Non-Violent Attitudes and Behaviors in Support of Women’s Economic Empowerment and Gender Equality

**US\$445,000**

### Costa Rica

**Cooperativa Autogestionaria de Servicios Profesionales Multidisciplinarios de Responsabilidad Limitada Sulá Batsú R.L.**

ICTs – Creating Employment and Work Opportunities for Women in the Productive Sector of Information Technologies and Communication in Costa Rica  
**US\$355,000**

### Guatemala

**Asociación de Trabajadoras del Hogar a Domicilio y de Maquila (ATRAHDOM)**  
The Rights and Economic Empowerment of Women  
**US\$264,166**

### Haiti

**Solidarite des Femmes Haitiennes (SOFA)**  
Strengthening of the Rural Organic Farming Feminist School of Saint Michel the L’attalaye farm  
**US\$364,166**

### Honduras

**Asociación Colectiva de Mujeres Hondureñas (CODEMUH)**  
Human Labour Rights of Women Maquila Workers  
**US\$369,170**

### Mexico

**Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoire, AC**  
Empowerment for an Agenda of Social Responsibility in Care Work  
**US\$214,166**

Paraguay

**Centro de Documentación y Estudios**

Empowering Women for Political and Economic Equality in Paraguay

**US\$339,166**

## ARAB STATES

Algeria

**Association El Ghaith**

Self-Promotion of Vulnerable Groups (Women and Girls) by the Creation of Income-Generating Activities

**US\$295,000**

Egypt

**Egyptian Center for Women's Rights**

A Wave of Women's Voices – 1,000 and Counting...

**US\$545,000**

Egypt

**Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers**

Enhancing Women's Political Participation

**US\$260,000**

Lebanon

**Lebanon Family Planning**

**Association for Development & Family Empowerment**

Promotion of the Economical Status of Rural Women in South Lebanon

**US\$255,000**

State of Palestine

**Mother's School Society –**

**Nablus**

Empower Women for Their Dignity and Future

**US\$200,000**

Yemen

**Youth Leadership Development Foundation**

Women in Politics

**US\$260,000**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Cambodia

**Banteay Srei – Citadel of Women**

Sustainable Economic Empowerment of Cambodian Women (SEECW)

**US\$400,000**

Cambodia

**Silaka**

Empowering Women Leaders at Sub-National Level in Cambodia

**US\$345,000**

India

**Jan Sahas Social Development Society**

Dignity Campaign – Action for Liberation of Dalit Manual Scavenger Women in India

**US\$220,000**

Philippines

**Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives Inc.**

Coming Home: Reintegration Program for Domestic Workers from the Philippines

**US\$399,925**

Regional

**Feminist Dalit Organisation**

Strengthening Policies and Budgets for Dalit Women's Economic Rights in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka)

**US\$400,000**

Samoa

**Samoa Victim Support Group**

Economic Empowerment of "Nofotane" Women in Rural Samoa

**US\$200,000**

Singapore & Indonesia

**Association of Women for Action and Research and Solidaritas Perempuan**

Enabling CEDAW through

Gender-Equitable Interpretations and Expressions of Culture in Singapore, Indonesia and beyond  
**US\$550,000**

Viet Nam

**Institute for Development and Community Health**

WE ARE WOMEN: A Rights-based Approach to Empowering Migrant Women

**US\$200,000**

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Albania

**Association for Women with Social Problems**

Women Rights - From Concept to Albanian Reality

**US\$200,000**

Armenia

**Green Lane Agricultural Assistance NGO**

Economic Empowerment of Rural Women Groups through Capacity Building

**US\$315,000**

Georgia

**Fund Sukhumi**

Gender Advisory Councils – Increasing Women's Role in Social Change of Regions

**US\$305,000**

Kyrgyzstan

**AIDS Foundation East-West in the Kyrgyz Republic**

Our choice. Economic empowerment of vulnerable women in Kyrgyzstan

**US\$300,000**

Turkey

**Mother Child Education Foundation (AÇEV)**

Politics for Women: Empowerment through Representation (POWER) Project

**US\$355,000**



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