



AWID Second Fundher Report:

Financial Sustainability for Women's Movements Worldwide

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An AWID Action-Research Project

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But first...

Why are women's organizations
and movements important?

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Key contributions made by women's
organizations and movements

- Raising the visibility and voice of women
- Unearthing the nature of gender discrimination
- Increasing formal equality
- Creating and engendering international norm structures
- Building new institutional arrangements and mechanisms to advance equality
- Mobilizing and empowering women in communities and at other levels
- Creating women's funds

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So, what did we find out?

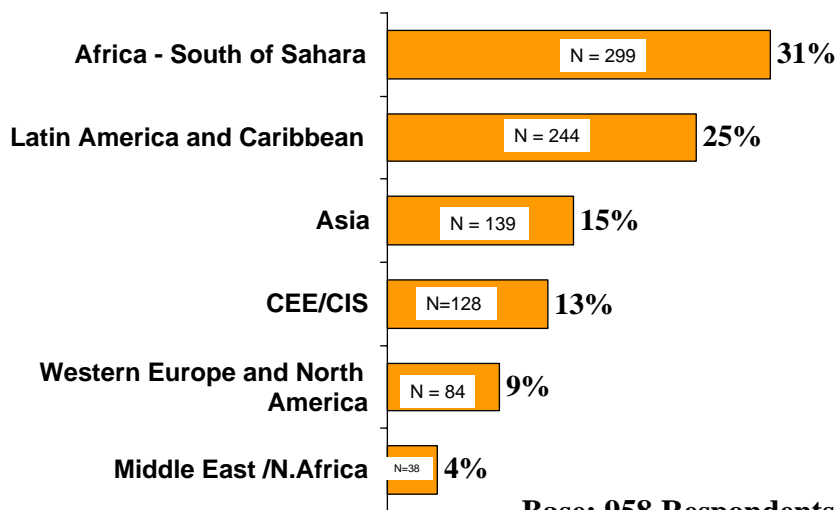
Funding situation of women's organizations worldwide...

Our 2006 survey results

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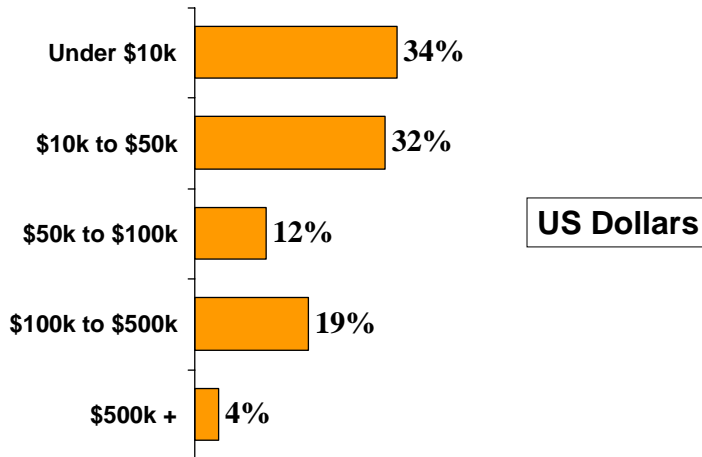
Regional Distribution

In what country is your organization based? (Recoded from country)



Budget Size

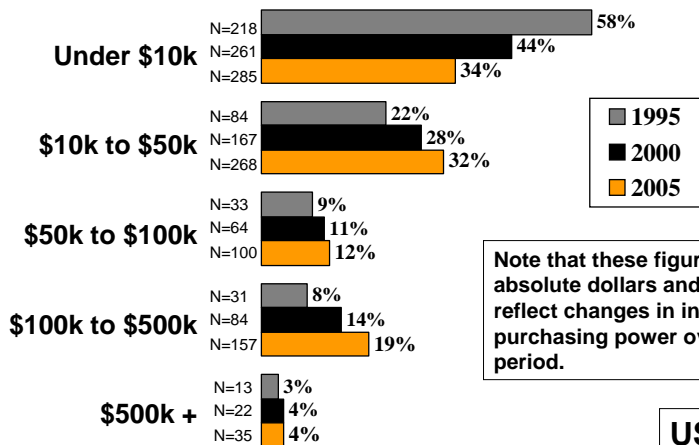
What was your organization's total income in 2005?



Sample = 845 respondents

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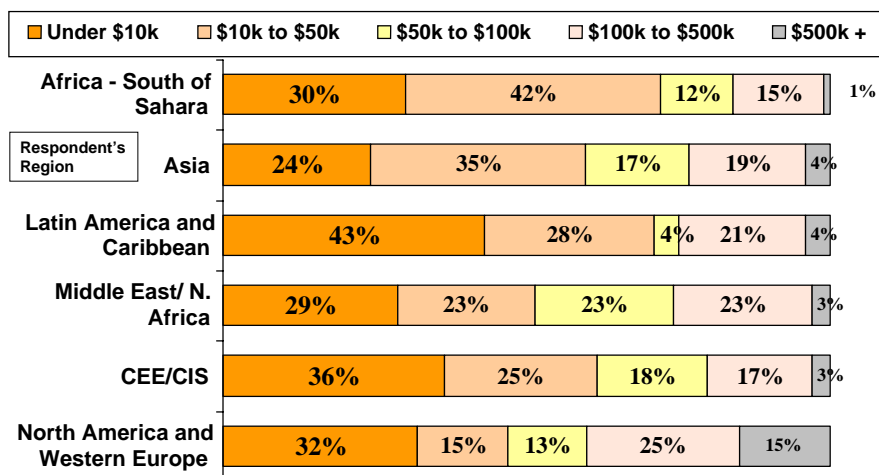
Budget sizes - 1995 to 2005



Sample = 379/598/845 respondents

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Overall Revenue Ranges by Region: 2005



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Sample = 845 respondents

Big challenges...

- Women's organizations are in a state of "survival and resistance"
- When asked in August 2006, most say they would need to double their budget to do everything they hope to do this year
- Women's rights work is made much more difficult given dominant conservative agendas, neoliberalism, growing violence, and destruction of the social fabric
- Compared to other social movements and sectors, women's organizations have very small budgets
- Capacity, leadership, and vision to mobilize large resources is also a challenge

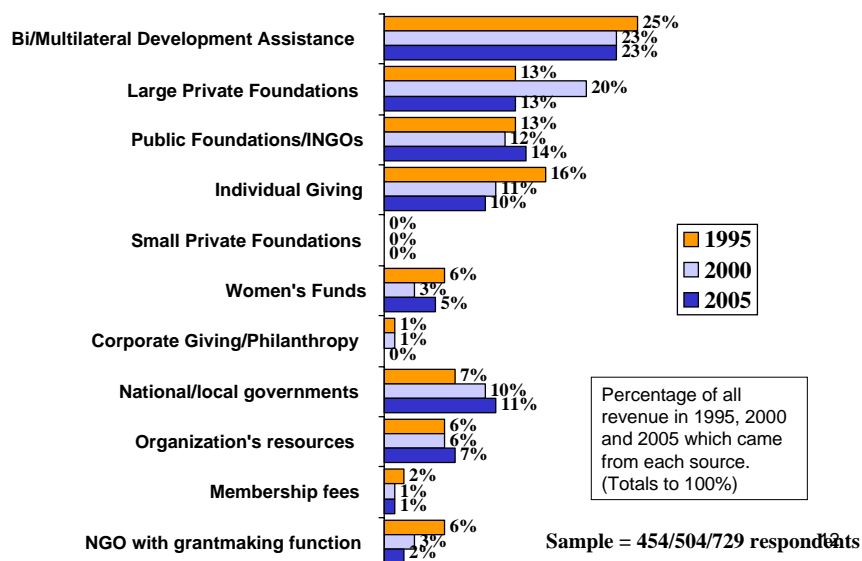
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But opportunities exist...

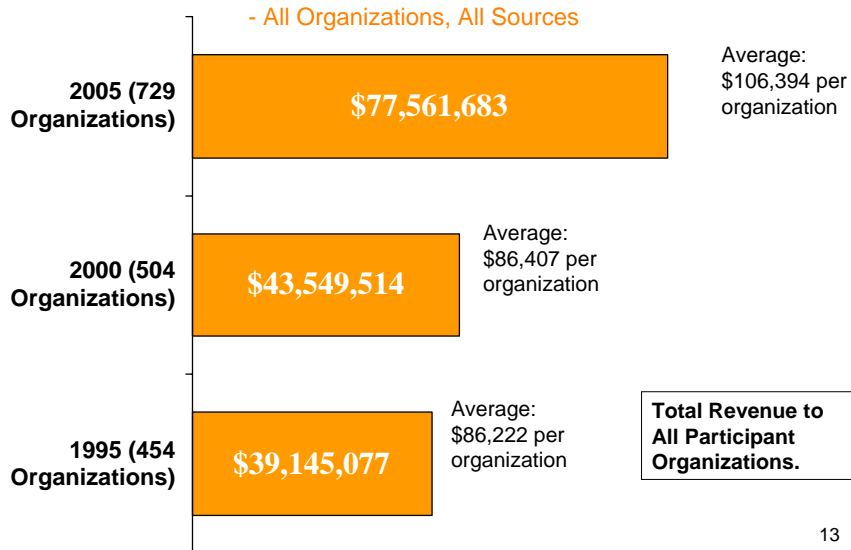
- The seems to be changing, opportunities are opening up and the pool of available resources may become larger than ever before. The question is how can they be harnessed?
- Women's organizations around the world are strategizing about expanding the resource base for women's organizations and movements

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Where has the money come from? Income 1995 - 2005



How well resourced are we together? Total Revenue 1995 – 2005



The funding landscape

Government sources:

1. Bilateral and Multilateral Development Agencies

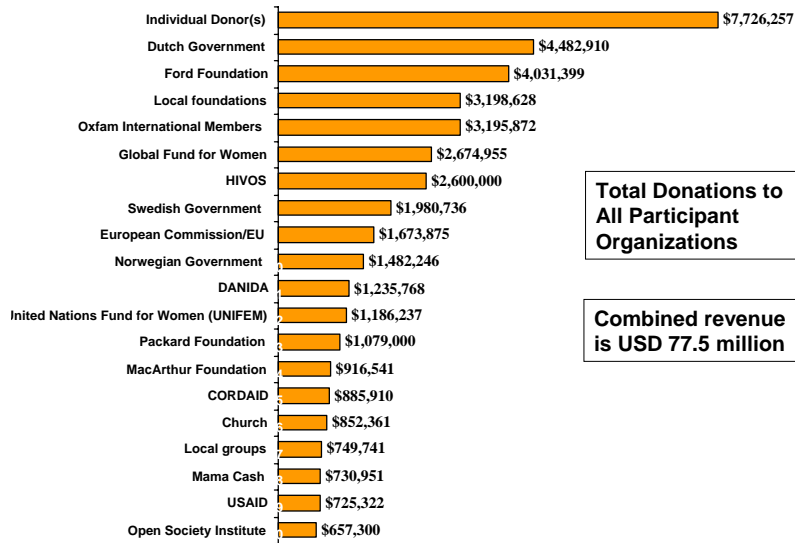
Private foundations and philanthropy:

2. Large Private Foundations
3. Individual Giving, Small Private Foundations
4. Corporate Philanthropy

Public Foundations:

5. Public Foundations / INGOs
6. Women's Funds

Top 20 Donors: 2005



Total Donations to All Participant Organizations

Combined revenue is USD 77.5 million

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Base: 729 respondents

Bilateral and Multilateral Development Agencies



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Bilateral and Multilateral Funding

- What is it? Public monies, channeled through “Official Development Assistance” (ODA)
- ODA was mentioned by 35% of AWID survey respondents as a source of revenue in 2005 (down slightly from 2000)
- Bilateral and multilateral funding accounts for 23% of combined revenue in 2005 for AWID respondents – this is unchanged from 2000

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- Total ODA funding in 2004 was USD 79 billion
- Of the 79 billion USD, only 4.2% went directly to NGOs, or 3.3 billion dollars
- Most of the NGO money flows to INGOs, a minority goes directly to global South
- European Commission’s support to NGOs in 2004 was 9% (USD 877 million) of total external aid, of which 50% went to humanitarian aid and relief operations

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- How much goes to gender equality? Roughly only six percent is 'tracked' with a "gender equality marker" – in other words it is hard to hold to account governments on how much they actually contribute to gender equality
- Of what we know, only 0.1 percent of this funding goes explicitly to 'women in development', and another 3.6% has gender equality as a significant or principal objective (this is the average based on analysis of 1999-2003 data), and for 2003-2004 figures represents about 7.5 billion USD

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Challenges

Within the agencies:

- Systems for tracking the money and ensuring accountability to commitments are very weak and inconsistent. So while a policy could be good, it is very often not followed up with strong programs or funding – sometimes referred to as 'policy evaporation'
- Gender mainstreaming, as a concept and an approach, has been misconstrued and wrongly applied. Was always meant to mean a two-track strategy: integrating gender equality across all policies and programs, as well as focus on women's empowerment specifically – the latter got deprioritized and mainstreaming got depoliticized

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- Gender specialists, departments and budget lines got eroded in the past years since 1995
- Meanwhile “success” is very often defined as measurable results yet we know that ‘not everything that counts can be counted’. The push for “measures” often means technical approaches are taken to political problems. Very linear and often apolitical models of social change or development still permeate these institutions in the forms of discourses or evaluation tools

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More challenges with ODA – the changing external context...

- Security agendas have overwhelmed the foreign policies of many donor governments (of 79 billion in ODA in 2004, 10 billion went to Iraq and Afghanistan alongside an overall pressure to include military projects into foreign aid budgets)
- The US administration, the largest ODA contributor in absolute numbers, has imposed conditionalities around its funding (Global Gag rule, anti-Prostitution restrictions, etc) related to women’s rights
- The 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (ODA’s consensus document) does not acknowledge gender equality as central to aid effectiveness nor the critical role of civil society; many donors are still trying to figure out how best to do gender equality work in this new paradigm

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ODA Opportunities

- UNIFEM & OECD-DAC gender network are undertaking research and policy work to link gender equality to the Aid Effectiveness agenda; concept of aid effectiveness has to integrate support for women's rights
- Around 10 donors most recently evaluated and renewed their commitment to gender equality and women's rights (DFID, NORAD, SIDA, Netherlands, etc)
- A very recent study of 27 donors identified that a key element for the promotion of gender equality in the new aid environment is the support to independent women's organizations and movements. **The fact that new approaches have resulted in a decrease in funding available to civil society and women's organizations needs to be compensated by other approaches that guarantee women's organizing**

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ODA opportunities...

- ODA is supposed to be increasing: 79 billion in 2004, USD 106 billion in 2005 and could reach USD 130 billion by 2010 (if targets are met)
- ODA support to NGOs is slightly on the rise: DFID is the largest donor, followed by Netherlands, Japan, Sweden, Ireland then Switzerland
- Increasing number of special funds are also growing that could potentially benefit women's rights groups: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria, UN Democracy Fund, the recently created Safe Abortion Action Fund...or the "new" UN Agency for Women??
- Increasing advocacy around gender equality and aid effectiveness could open up opportunities to advance these agendas as well, but much remain to be said and understand in this process

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International NGOS/ Public Foundations



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INGOs/Public Foundations

- Who are they? Hivos, Oxfam-Novib, ActionAid, CARE, etc
- According to the AWID Survey INGOs were mentioned by 25% of AWID survey respondents as a source of revenue (up from 20% in 2000)
- INGOs account for 14% of combined revenue (up from 12% in 2000)
- Their money to women's rights is not insignificant:
 - In Action Aid, women's rights is 1 of 7 core themes. In 2005 they spent USD 8.2 million (EUR 6,392,000) on grants to organizations working on women's rights
 - HIVOS' core theme 'gender, women & development' is also 1 of 7 themes. In 2005 USD 10.1 million (EUR 7,855,000) for women's organizations
 - Oxfam's collectively allocate just under 10 percent to work related to gender equality and minority rights in 2005 of total budget

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Challenges

- Many INGO allies have been back-sliding in recent years: Face constraints of their own funders (governments, individuals, faith-based groups)
- The nature of INGO “partnerships” with national organizations is often complex and reflects competition for resources
- Many are dominated by their public global campaign departments which affect how and with whom they work
- Some are criticized for absorbing local capacity and fundraising from same sources as local women’s organizations

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Challenges

- Often used as intermediaries for bilateral donors to channel funding to “local” organizations. INGOs get almost 3 times as much ODA as NGOs, based in recipient countries. This creates significant tensions:
 - How much do they actually give in grants as opposed to spending on their own staff and campaigns?
 - As INGOs increasingly position themselves as leaders on women’s rights issues, they also attract funding from private sources, raising further concern about competition over resources.

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Opportunities

In the last year, **several INGOs have strengthened their commitment** to women's rights:

- Hivos committed to 30% of its overall giving to reach women's organizations by 2010
- Oxfam Canada, with a 12 million dollar budget, committed to making women's rights it's CORE theme
- Oxfam Novib's grants budget will grow from 10% to 15% in terms of support to women's rights and minority rights by 2010;
- Groups like CARE, ActionAid International also strengthening women's rights work

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Women's Funds

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Women's Funds

- Who are they? Semillas, Mama Cash, Central American Women's Fund, African Women's Development Fund, Global Fund for Women, Slovak-Czech women's fund...
- They grant only to women's organizations or women's rights initiatives
- In 2005:
 - Women's funds were mentioned by 46% of AWID survey respondents as a source of revenue (up from 28% in 2000)
 - Women's funds account for 5% of combined revenue (up from 3% in 2000)

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- In 2005 women's funds (outside of the US, or granting outside of the US) collectively earned USD 26.5 million in revenue (down slightly from 2004 due to the Global Fund for Women's large campaign the year before)
- In 2005 they spent USD 15 million in grants to women's organizations all around the world
- In 2005 they held close to USD 27 million in long term assets
- Average grant size varies by size of the Fund, between USD 4,000 and USD15,000

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Challenges

- There are some concerns about the role of women's funds in relation to other women's organizations:
 - Competition for resources (with larger women's organizations)
 - Grantmaking: is there a shared strategic framework? How do the funds contribute to movement-building, especially if their grants are so small?

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Opportunities

- Women's funds are growing strong:
 - Growing in numbers (now in around 20 countries) and steady growth in revenue. New ones in the making in the Middle East, Argentina and Georgia
 - Women's funds based in the Global South and East have tripled revenue since 2000; raising USD 18 million. If similar growth path continues they will raise 43.5 million in the next 5 years
- The purpose of Women's Funds is to expand the resource base for women's organizations
- Many women's funds take the lead in innovative ways of raising money and strengthening financial sustainability of women's movements – especially when they are able to raise 34% of combined annual revenue from individuals

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In conclusion...

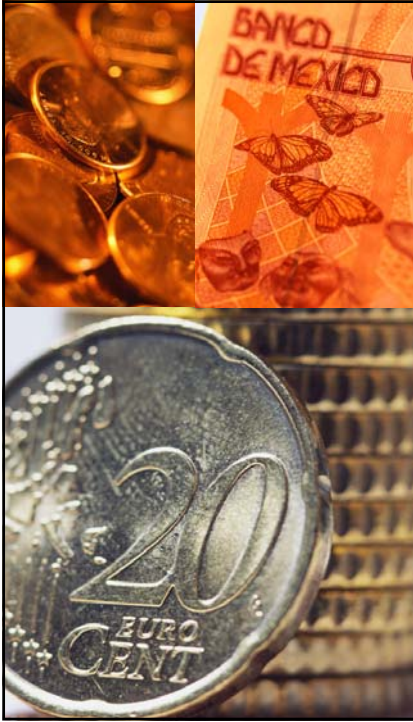
- the challenges ahead are not straight forward
- there are indeed opportunities to tap, but they need to be contextualized in local realities and considered with particular attention to the nature of our work and the future of the women's rights agendas
- we need to open our minds, be creative, be strategic and be bold in how we think about these issues and their implications to our urgent agenda in the advancement of women's rights
- this meeting will provide an essential space for that collective thinking and strategy development!

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Finally, let's not forget that...

- Women's organizations and movements are key driving forces for social change, to defend and advance women's rights and gender equality at all levels.
- Support to strengthen them is key to ensure the sustainability and advancement of these agendas and other key struggles for social change around the globe.

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