

Increasing Accountability in Financing for Gender Equality (F4GE)

Civil Society Grant Facility

Call for Proposals

With Support from the Following Partners:



Table of Contents

Background.....	2
The CSOs grant facility	3
Budget and Duration of Proposals	5
Application and Selection Process	5
Application Procedures	6
Appraisal and Selection Process	7

Background:

Governments around the world have made commitments to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in many different areas. Several international and regional conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) demonstrate States' commitment to the realization of women's rights and the achievement of gender equality. Implementation of those commitments at national level can be evidenced by some progress made on development outcomes related to women's empowerment and the realization of gender equality across sectors. Gender equality commitments have been reflected in different types of government actions including legislation, policies and programmes, planning, budgeting processes as well as the establishment of national mechanisms on gender equality. Likewise, national development strategies and line ministry/sector plans should have clear targets and performance monitoring measures on gender equality.

Public institutions have a major role to play in their accountability to citizens, including women. The manner in which public institutions implement policies or deliver services can have a direct impact on women's lives. As such, the extent to which these institutions implement programmes that are effective, responsive and accountable to the differential needs of women and girls reflect the commitment of the State to gender equality in actuality. Public programmes and services should have adequate budgets in sector and local plans designed to deliver equitable and non-discriminatory services to women and girls. Furthermore, equitable and sustainable financing arrangements should be in place to support the implementation of these programmes.

Financing gender equality commitments is therefore a necessity in ensuring progress on gender equality outcomes. **But it is also critical to understand that financing for gender equality is a process and not merely about allocation of resources.** The Secretary-General's report for the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women defined financing for gender equality as the process of "Ensuring adequate resource allocations to translate commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment into action, including financing of critical stakeholders within national women's mechanisms, and women's organizations". The CSW agreed conclusions (2008) identified a set of actions to be taken by various actors to guarantee financing for gender equality. The actions identified for State actors include the following:

- a) ensure an enabling policy environment for financing for gender equality, through macroeconomic policies that are conducive to increased Financing for Gender Equality;
- b) address systemic issues to ensure coherence between economic policies and financing for gender equality requirements;
- c) strengthen capacity for gender responsive planning and budgeting and implementation in the public sector;
- d) ensure gender responsive public finance reform to enable gender responsive accountability in public finance management;
- e) strengthen parliamentary oversight and citizen engagement in monitoring financing for gender equality; and
- f) strengthen systems for measuring financing for gender equality.

One of the goals of UN Women's Strategic Plan (2012-13) focuses on supporting technical capacity in national planning and budgeting and advocating for increased financing for gender equality to strengthen the implementation of gender equality commitments. By working to achieve this goal, UN

Women seeks to support stronger implementation of commitments for gender equality and the empowerment of women at country level.

UN Women's programme "Increasing Accountability in Financing for Gender Equality" (F4GE) aims to **"increase the volume and effective use of aid and domestic resources to implement national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment"**. The programme is implemented by UN Women in collaboration with ITC/ILO and with support from the European Commission (EC) and the government of Spain and is implemented in 15 countries (Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Senegal, Ukraine, Cameroon, Tanzania, Nepal, Peru, Bolivia and Rwanda) in addition to targeted activities in Zambia (October 2011-March 2015). In the 15 countries, the programme seeks to mobilize financing towards women's priorities identified in national policies and plans by ensuring that these plans are costed and budgeted for in public budgets and ODA. Given the focus of the programme, partnerships have been developed with Ministries of Finance, select line ministries, National Women's Machineries, donor agencies and joint coordination mechanisms at country level as well as UN agencies. The programme also seeks to support a close partnership between EU delegations, UN Women and ITC/ILO for a strengthened response to gender equality priorities in EU country development cooperation programmes.

Gender equality advocates have a critical role in informing national and global policies by engaging in policy dialogue, and advocacy. They continue to play a key role in strengthening accountability in financing for development by monitoring service delivery and amplifying demands of their communities and excluded groups. However, these roles are often constrained by the absence of a genuine space for participation and negotiation as well as the limited capacity and resources available for these advocates. This role also requires availability of information on public investments and performance in addressing inequality and achieving aspired development outcomes. Such information is often not easily accessible, and therefore obstructs the ability of citizens to effectively participate in policy making and monitoring. The programme seeks to empower women's organizations and gender equality advocates to exercise their right to play this role and have a voice in shaping public policy and monitoring public sector institutions' investment and performance towards outcomes related to gender equality and women's empowerment.

1. The CSOs grant facility

Under the F4GE Programme, a grant making facility will be available to support innovative knowledge building, advocacy, capacity building, alliance-building and networking for financing for gender equality. This facility is intended to contribute to one of the programme outcomes, "Feminist economists and gender equality advocates have engaged effectively in supporting stronger policy coherence on gender equality in the economic and development effectiveness policy fora".

The grant making facility provides a flexible mechanism that allows civil society organizations the opportunity to test innovative approaches for generating new knowledge, undertake effective advocacy and perform a critical citizen monitoring role, in relation to financing for gender equality. **The grants provided will support implementation of activities over a period of one year.**

The facility is intended to contribute to the following objectives:

- a) Build knowledge and evidence on financing for gender equality**
- b) Build Capacity of Gender Equality Advocates to demand and monitor Financing for Gender Equality**

c) Empower networks of feminist economists and women's organizations for effective policy advocacy for accountability and financing for gender equality

Civil society organizations and networks, and academic or educational institutions are invited to submit proposals under one of the three areas of action as outlined below.

a) Build Knowledge and Evidence on Financing for Gender Equality:

The facility will support proposals for initiatives that are aimed at building knowledge and evidence on gaps in financing for gender equality. As such, the facility will support action oriented research in relation to gaps, trends or good practices on financing for gender equality.

Proposals may include action oriented research to generate the following:

- Technical analysis and research on measurement and definition of financing for gender equality.
- Gender budget analysis of sector programmes related to women's economic and social rights such as social protection, security, health, education, energy, water, roads, transport, agriculture, information among others. Examples include sector/programme budget analysis, gender analysis of public expenditures reviews and other relevant areas.
- Analysis of financing of women's organizations and national women's mechanisms.
- Analysis of practices of donors and governments in relation to financing for gender equality with a view to identifying barriers and proposing innovative approaches for financing national gender equality commitments.
- Gender focused research on transparency, corruption, access to information, citizen monitoring of the delivery of public services and/or humanitarian and development assistance.
- Development of specialized and innovative tools for use by advocates on areas relevant for financing for gender equality, including but not limited to gender budget analysis, monitoring of public service delivery, humanitarian and development assistance.

b) Build Capacity of Gender Equality Advocates to Demand and Monitor Financing for Gender Equality:

The facility will support proposals for initiatives that are aimed at building capacity of gender equality advocates and women's organizations to demand and monitor quality and quantity of financing for gender equality. Civil society can mobilize towards increased financing for gender equality and women's organizations through substantive engagement in policy advocacy and monitoring of public sector institutions investment and performance towards outcomes related to gender equality and women's empowerment. This would require a range of skills and competencies in order to effectively perform these roles.

Proposals may include capacity building activities to support the following:

- Capacity building on gender budget analysis towards specific areas of women's rights, or funding of women's organizations and gender mechanisms.
- Development of practical advocacy tools. For example the development of gender-budget advocacy tool kits to provide them with practical guidance to support their advocacy efforts for increasing financing for gender equality.
- Creation or strengthening of gender observatories that monitor financing for gender equality at national, or local levels.

- Strengthening the capacity of women's organizations to participate in monitoring public budgets and/or service-delivery.

c) Empower networks of feminist economists and women's organizations for effective policy advocacy for accountability and financing for gender equality

The facility will support proposals for initiatives that are aimed at strengthening networks of gender advocates to influence policy responses related to financing for gender equality. It would include activities to increase the access and participation of gender equality advocates and feminist economists in policy spaces, through alliance-building, networking at national, regional or global levels. Specific mobilization for effective engagement in policy processes such as national development strategies, the economic crisis, aid and development effectiveness, the MDGs and beyond are encouraged.

Proposals may include initiatives that support the following:

- strengthening networks of women's organizations including feminist economists to develop common agendas, and build consensus on key messages to influence strategic policy development processes.
- Strengthening alliances with key social movements and actors for financing for gender equality.
- Convening multi stakeholder policy dialogues.
- Supporting initiatives to advocate for increased women's access to public services and to promote gender-responsiveness in the delivery of services in specific sectors.
- strengthening networking capabilities that will lead to stronger policy advocacy for financing for gender equality at national, regional or global levels including outreach to community based organizations.
- Strengthening information and knowledge exchange/sharing capacity among networks of feminist economists and/or gender-budget advocates.

2. Budget and Duration of Proposals

The size of the grants provided will range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for initiatives that do not exceed one year (ending in November 2013). Funds cannot be requested to cover costs of infrastructure such as purchase of land, property, acquisition of office space, construction or repair of existing buildings or offices, including for example, the building and furnishing of service facilities.

3. Reporting Requirements

Applicants will be requested to submit one final narrative and financial report. 80% of the grant will be disbursed to grantees with the balance of 20% to be provided after submission of a final narrative and financial report.

4. Application and Selection Process

Applicants should take note of the following:

- Applicants may apply under one or more areas of action.
- Timeline for the proposals should not exceed one year.
- The scope can be either national, local or international.
- Proposals can be submitted by one organization or jointly by two organizations or more.
- Applying organizations must be legally registered.

- Eligible applicants may be non-governmental organizations, academic or educational institutions.
- For proposals on research and analysis, research methodologies should be clearly outlined and evidence of capacity in conducting research and analysis should be included.
- Applications from organizations that have experience in the subject of the proposal are encouraged.

The following applications will not be considered:

- Proposals received from individuals.
- Proposals received from organizations that do not have a legal status.
- Government entities, including national women's machineries.
- Proposals that have incomplete documentation.

5. Application Procedures

Applicants are requested to complete that attached proposal template (Annex) which contains the following components:

1) A narrative proposal section consisting of the following:

- **Context and problem analysis (1½ pages or less):** A brief summary of existing gaps, barriers, and challenges in one of the three areas of action.
- **Project design and justification (2 pages or less):** A description of what the proposal is seeking to achieve to address the gaps, barriers and challenges and strategies and approaches that the organization proposes to follow to ensure results. Innovative approaches to be utilized can be outlined in this section.
- **Expected results (½ page):** Expected outputs and outcomes of the proposal.
- **Partnerships (½ - 1 page):** A description and roles of the partners needed to implement the project should be provided.

2) A Budget Proposal fulfilling the following requirements:

- An output based budget – i.e. budget showing how much is required to achieve each output.
- The budget should include an allocation for preparation of a certified financial report.
- The administrative /indirect/ cost should not exceed 10% of total budget.

Other:

- Applicants must attach a workplan, and annex additional supporting documents such as organizational brochure, previous annual reports and latest audit report. Reports on activities and programmes previously implemented in areas related to the call are also welcomed.

Deadline for Submission: Proposals are due on 31 October 2012.

Please send proposals to gender.budgets@unwomen.org .

6. Appraisal and Selection Process

The appraisal process will involve review and selection by a Proposals Review Committee at UNW. The Review Committee will undertake the appraisals guided by the following criteria:

- Extent to which the proposal fulfills the requirements of the Call for Proposals as outlined in this document (20%)
- Technical quality of the proposal and the extent to which the proposed activities are relevant to the areas of action in the Call (25%)
- Extent to which the proposals are innovative, creative and are catalytic (10%)
- Extent to which a participatory process was used to bring together various relevant partners (10%)
- Realistic work plan to complete the activities (15%)
- Applicant's institutional capacity and relevant experience (20%)

Annex

Proposal Template

Civil Society Grant Application

"Increasing Accountability in Financing for Gender Equality"

Send proposals to: gender.budgets@unwomen.org by **31 October 2012**

Contact Information

a. Organization contact

Organization name*			
Organization Acronym			
Address			
City, State or Province		Postal Code	
Country		Website	
Telephone number		Fax number	

*Name of the applicant organization. In case there is more than one organization applying, only include the name of the organization that will be responsible for project management and contractual obligations. There will be an opportunity to list names of co-applicants later.

b. Head of Organization/ Primary contact person

c. Secondary contact person

Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr.	Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr.
First Name		First Name	
Last Name		Last Name	
Telephone number		Telephone number	
Fax number		Fax number	
E-mail		E-mail	

Skype (if applicable)		Skype (if applicable)	
Address		Address	

2. Organizational Information

a. Type of organization (select one)

☐ Women led NGO
☐ Women's Cooperative
☐ Women's Fund/Human Rights Organization
☐ Network / Coalition
☐ Membership Association
☐ Academic/Educational Institution
☐ Faith-based
☐ Other (Please specify):

b. Level at which the organization operates (select all that apply)

☐ Community-based/grassroots ☐ Sub-national (i.e. province, state) ☐ Regional
☐ Local ☐ National ☐ International

c. Year the Organization was established.

d. Mission Statement of Organization

e. Annual Organizational Budget	2008	2009	2010
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f. Primary Sources of Funding

g. Does the organization have a bank ☐ Yes ☐ No

account?		
h. Does the organization have previous work experience with UN Women, other UN agency, international donor or development partner?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If so, please state name of agency, year, amount, fund or programme title and use of funds received.		
i. Affiliation (Please indicate any affiliation or cooperation with national, regional or international associations, networks or organizations)		
Context and problem analysis (1½ pages or less): A brief summary of existing gaps, barriers, and challenges in one of the three areas of action.		
Project design and justification (2 pages or less): A description of strategies and approaches that the organization proposes to develop to address the gaps. Innovative approaches can be outlined in this section.		
Expected results (½ page): Expected outputs and outcomes of your project.		
Partnerships (½ - 1page): A description and roles of the partners needed to implement the project should be provided.		
Monitoring and Evaluation (1/2 page): Provide details of how baseline data will be collected to		

measure progress, and how the project will be documented and monitored. Indicate what oversight mechanisms will be in place. Describe how project results/outcomes will be measured, what measurements will be used and who will be responsible for measuring them.

Budget Proposal:

- An output based budget – i.e. budget showing how much is required to achieve each output.
- The budget should include an allocation for preparation of a certified financial report.
- The administrative/indirect cost should not exceed 10% of total budget.

Workplan: (12 months)