

FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



As advocates across the globe continue to voice their concerns about the pervasive gender gaps and UN member states rally around new development goals, today more than ever, civil society emerges as a fundamental agent of change to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

Despite government commitments to international gender equality agreements, change has not trickled down to women's and girls' lives with the hoped-for speed and effectiveness. As UN Women's *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016* report demonstrates, formal equality has not translated into substantial equality for women in the most marginalized groups.

Alongside its extensive collaboration with governments, UN Women acknowledges the critical role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in bridging such gender gaps. Women's organizations enable women and girls, many of whom face multiple levels of discrimination, to be seen and heard as leaders and change-makers in their communities and societies; and to gain recognition for their significant contributions to economies as formal and informal workers. They galvanize advocacy and propose gender-sensitive law and policy reforms, and they occupy a unique position from which to hold duty bearers accountable for gender-responsive delivery on services.

In line with that vision, the Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) is UN Women's global grant-making mechanism dedicated to support civil society-led programming for women's political and economic empowerment.

Our first illustrated report captures the progress of 67 active grantee programmes in 2014, highlighting key results, lessons from grantees and significant stories of change. For example, rural women in Ethiopia

have supported each other through savings groups to start income-generating activities. Thanks to new legislation, domestic workers in Argentina and Chile are receiving minimum wages. Migrant workers in Viet Nam are benefiting from social protection services. Rural and refugee women in Lebanon are gaining skills that enabled them to open new businesses. Female candidates in Georgia have successfully run for office, and local authorities in Zimbabwe are now equipped to plan government budgets in a gender-responsive manner.

The post-2015 era represents a crucial opportunity to position gender equality at the top of development priorities. Through the FGE, UN Women is ready to place women's organizations at the forefront of efforts to implement and monitor the new Sustainable Development Goals, starting with the launch of a new grant-making cycle exclusively devoted to this endeavour.

However, a collective effort will be needed to ensure that the existing transformational potential on the ground is matched with adequate funding to make it a reality – out of a demand of \$532 million value applications received this year, less than 2 per cent will be met. The Fund is eager to expand its partnerships and donor base from both the public and private sectors to garner support for women-led CSOs and help amplify their voice and influence. We count on your support!

Elisa Fernández

Chief, UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality

FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY: MISSION, VISION, & PORTFOLIO

UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) is a global fund dedicated to gender equality and women's economic and political empowerment.



UN Women / Gaganjit Singh

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka commending the efforts of the grassroots women leaders during her visit to an FGE-funded programme in India.

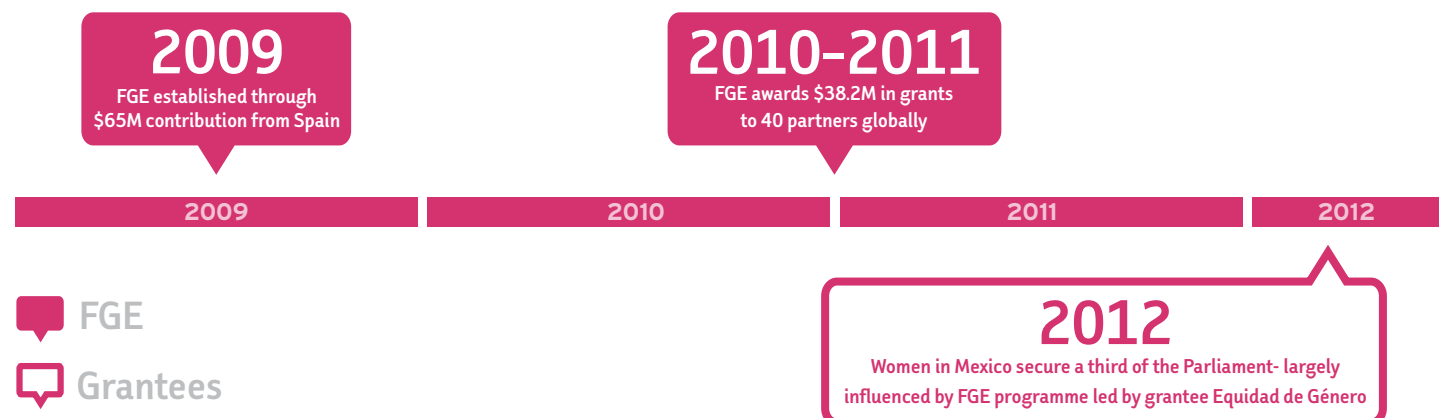
It has been created to deliver tangible, high-impact results for women and girls around the world, particularly those from traditionally disadvantaged and excluded communities such as rural women, refugee and internally displaced women, migrant and domestic workers and women living with HIV.

Since its establishment in 2009, the Fund has directly supported gender equality advocates across five regions: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Americas and the Caribbean. In less than five years, the Fund has completed two grant-making cycles, awarding over \$56.5 million to 96 grantee programmes in 72 countries and directly impacting over 9.7 million women, men, girls and boys.

The year 2014 marked a turning point for the FGE. The Fund developed a new three year strategy (2015-2017) that renewed its commitment to civil society organizations (CSOs), especially those led by women. This anchors FGE's work in the post-

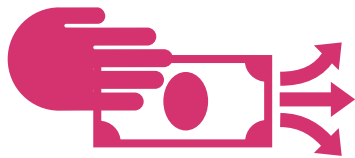
2015 agenda and aligns with UN Women's Executive Director's vision of civil society as a strategic partner in achieving gender equality. A third grant-making cycle for new FGE initiatives will begin on 1 January 2016.

FGE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



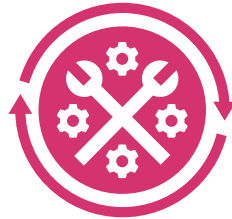
THE THREE-PILLAR APPROACH

The Fund for Gender Equality is a unique grant-making mechanism that adds substantive value to the work of civil society organizations. Its core functions are to:



Sustain

CSOs financially by awarding substantive grants for the implementation of dynamic and impactful programmes, following a rigorous and competitive global selection process



Support

CSOs with a package of technical services, strategic guidance and programme monitoring to enhance their expertise and organizational capacities to implement strategic and innovative interventions and amplify their visibility



Strengthen

The capacities of CSOs to plan, implement, report on and evaluate high-impact programmes founded on results-based management (RBM) principles, to enable them to capture and disseminate the knowledge and results generated

"The constant communication, monitoring and visits by the FGE focal person and the team from the Country Office has been another pillar of strength for the project."

–Zubo, Zimbabwe

"The [FGE proposal development] process ensures that the design is really home-grown, fully owned by implementing partners and reflecting their local context and specificities."

–PCPD, Palestine

2012–2013

FGE grants over \$18M to 56 civil society partners

2015

Launch of 3rd grants cycle to advance Post-2015 Agenda

2012

2013

2014

2015

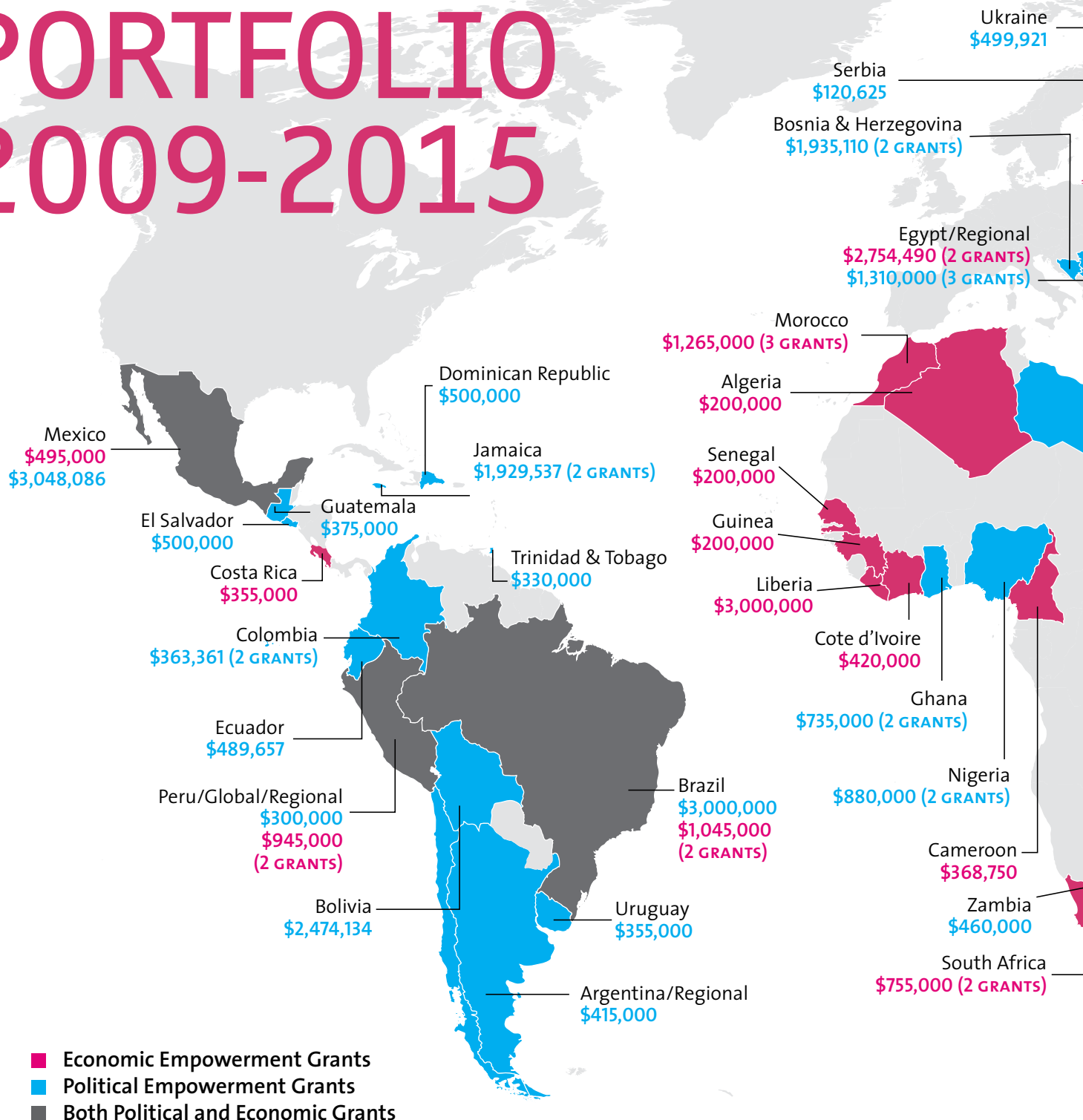
2013

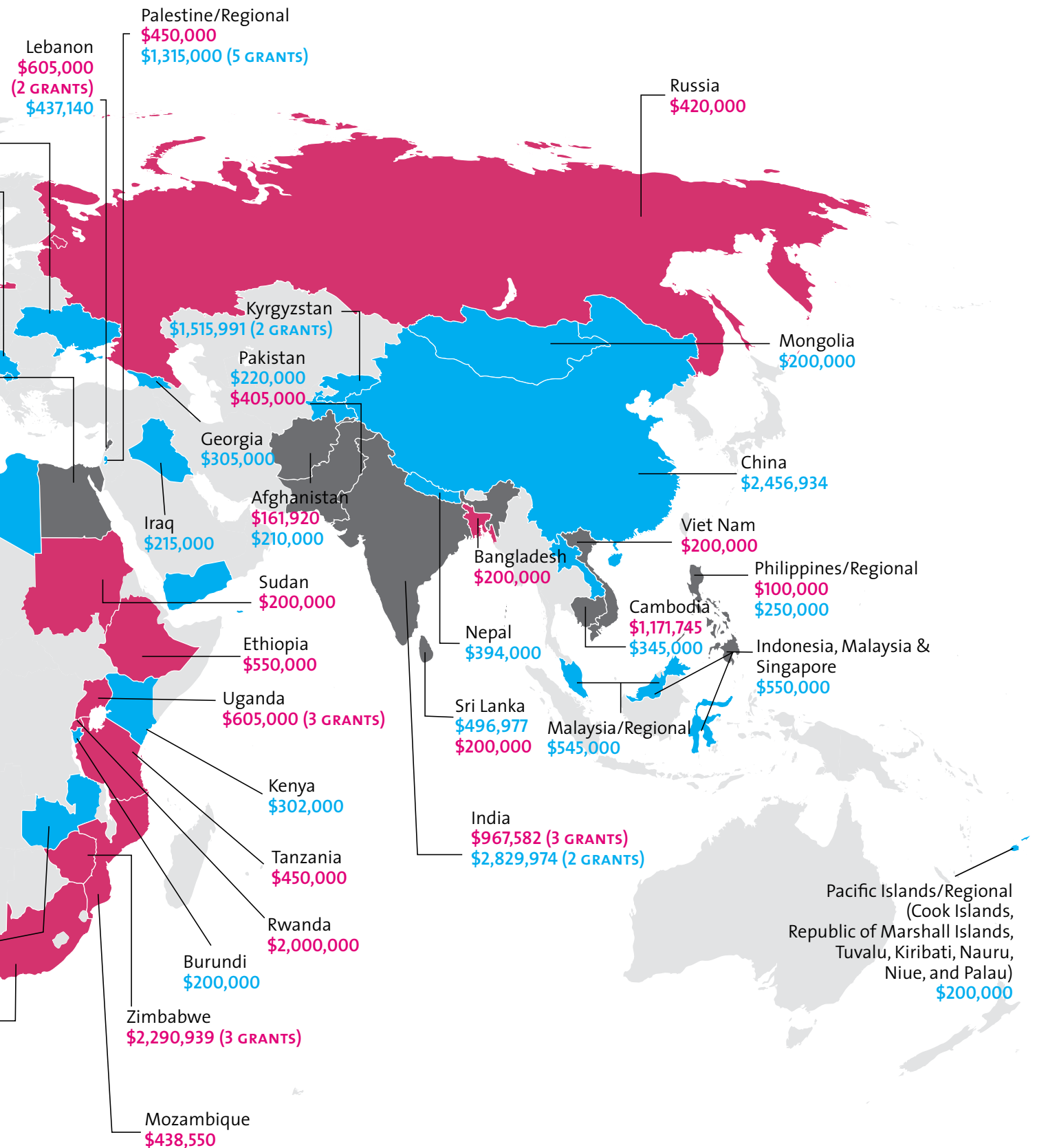
New law in Kyrgyzstan toughens penalties for bride kidnapping as result of campaign led by FGE grantee Women Support Center

2014

FGE grantees in Palestine, PCPD and JCW, submit draft gender-sensitive constitution to government representatives

FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY GLOBAL PORTFOLIO 2009-2015





2014 AGGREGATED

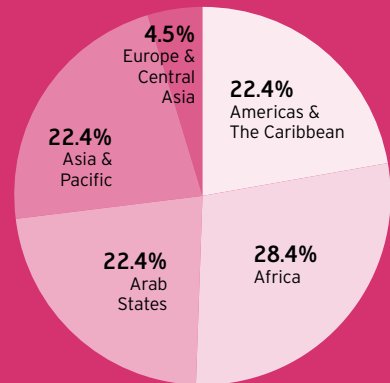
PORTFOLIO & EXPENDITURE IN 2014

67 ACTIVE PROGRAMMES

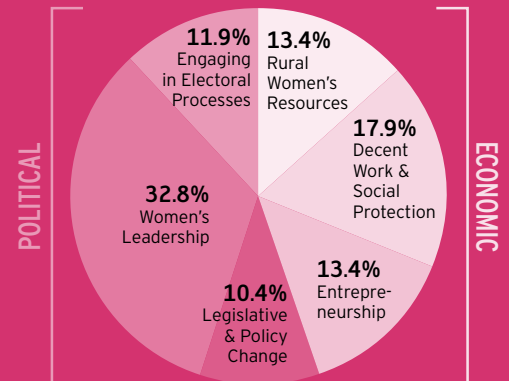
US\$43.8M
TOTAL VALUE OF ACTIVE GRANTS

US\$257,000
INVESTED IN PROGRAMME EVALUATIONS

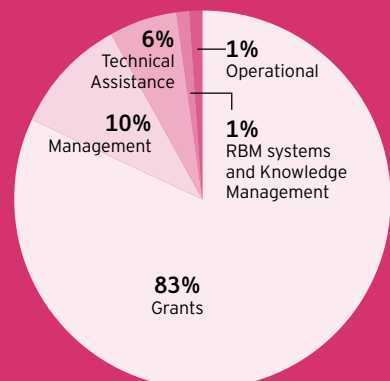
US\$10M
2014 TOTAL GRANTEE EXPENDITURE



PROGRAMME DISTRIBUTION BY REGION



PROGRAMME DISTRIBUTION BY SUB-THEME



DISTRIBUTION OF FGE EXPENDITURES

DATA

CUMULATIVE RESULTS BY 2014

210,000

LIVES OF WOMEN & GIRLS
IMPACTED
IN 2014 ALONE

340,000

STAKEHOLDERS SENSITIZED ABOUT
GENDER EQUALITY
& WOMEN'S RIGHTS

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS

58,000
WOMEN

PARTICIPATED IN
PUBLIC
FORUMS
TO INFLUENCE
POLICIES

550 NEW

CONSTITUTIONAL
PROVISIONS,
LAWS & POLICIES
PROTECTING
WOMEN'S
POLITICAL & ECONOMIC
RIGHTS
ADOPTED

134 WOMEN
ELECTED TO OFFICE

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INDICATORS

3,100
WOMEN

BECAME
LAND
OWNERS

10,400
WOMEN
ACCESSED
SUSTAINABLE
INCOME

& GREATER CONTROL OVER
PRODUCTIVE
RESOURCES

10,500
WOMEN
BENEFITTED FROM
SOCIAL
PROTECTION
MEASURES

& SERVICES

E-CHICAS clubs organized by CIPAF ensure that girls and young women are not excluded from areas of knowledge such as math, science, engineering and technologies, while building their self-esteem and leadership.



AWARDS & VISIBILITY

FGE grantees enhanced international visibility and public recognition in 2014.



Courtesy of Jan Sahas, India

Jan Sahas Secretary, Ashif Shaikh (center), accepts the 2014 Star Impact Award from former US President Bill Clinton (left).

In addition to the programmatic results, the work of FGE grantees has received increased acknowledgment for its relevance; its impact in women's lives, particularly in marginalized communities; and/or its innovative approaches. FGE grantee Jan Sahas Social Development Society, a gender equality organization based in Madhya Pradesh, **India**, received the 2014 Star Impact Award (along with a cash prize of US\$100,000) for their groundbreaking "Campaign for Dignity," which promotes economic empowerment for women manual scavengers from Dalit communities. Jan Sahas received a grant of US\$ 220,000 from the Fund for Gender Equality in 2013 to roll out the campaign that has achieved

strong advancements to liberate and empower women away from the banned practice of cleaning dry latrines.

Based in the **Dominican Republic**, FGE former grantee Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina (CIPAF) also won international recognition for their work on closing the gender gaps in technology by taking home one of the first ever Gender Equality Mainstreaming Technology (GEM-TECH) Awards, jointly awarded by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and UN Women. CIPAF received a US\$ 500,000 grant from FGE in 2010 to implement the programme "Gendering the National Strategy for the Information Society in Dominican Republic: e-dominicana."



UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson during her visit to Uruguayan Parliament where she met Vice President Danilo Astori.

UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka helped leverage the exposure of FGE grantees Institute of Community Health and Development (LIGHT) in **Viet Nam** and IT for Change and Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan in **India** by conducting official missions to learn about their programmes. British Actor Emma Watson, UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador, enhanced the positioning of gender parity in the political agenda in **Uruguay** after her meeting with government and civil society representatives in support of grantee Cotidiano Mujer's campaign as part of the programme "More Women, Better Politics."

WOMEN'S POLITICAL

In 2014, the Fund supported **37 active programmes amounting US\$27.3 million with a focus on women's political empowerment (WPE)** - aiming to improve and expand the capabilities and opportunities for women to take on leadership roles, participate fully in political processes and influence decision-making in all spheres and at all levels of public and political life. **In 33 countries, 213,000 direct beneficiaries were reached** through activities in three sub-themes prioritized by grantees:



**Catalysing
Legislative
and Policy
Change**



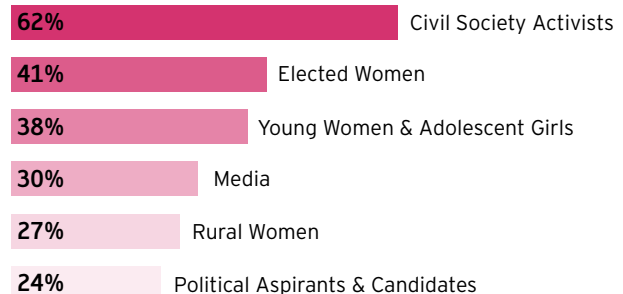
**Expanding and
Strengthening
Women's
Leadership**



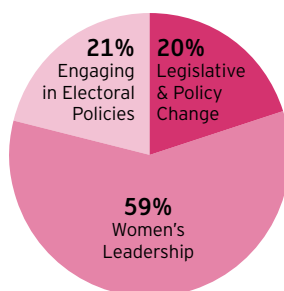
**Engaging
Women in
Electoral
Politics**

FGE grantees are prioritizing programmes to foster women's political agency, accompanying nationally-relevant political processes and transitions. Expanding women's leadership constitutes an essential component of grantees' efforts and investments across all regions. Americas & the Caribbean and Asia & the Pacific regions place a greater focus on electoral processes. Over 40 per cent of grantees are influencing local governance, while 20 per cent are strengthening policy implementation simultaneously at the sub-national and national levels by establishing linkages between them.

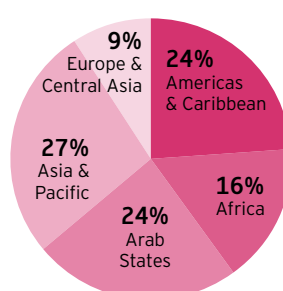
Most Common Types of WPE Programme Beneficiaries (% of programmes targeting them):



WPE Programme Distribution by Sub-themes



WPE Programme Geographic Distribution

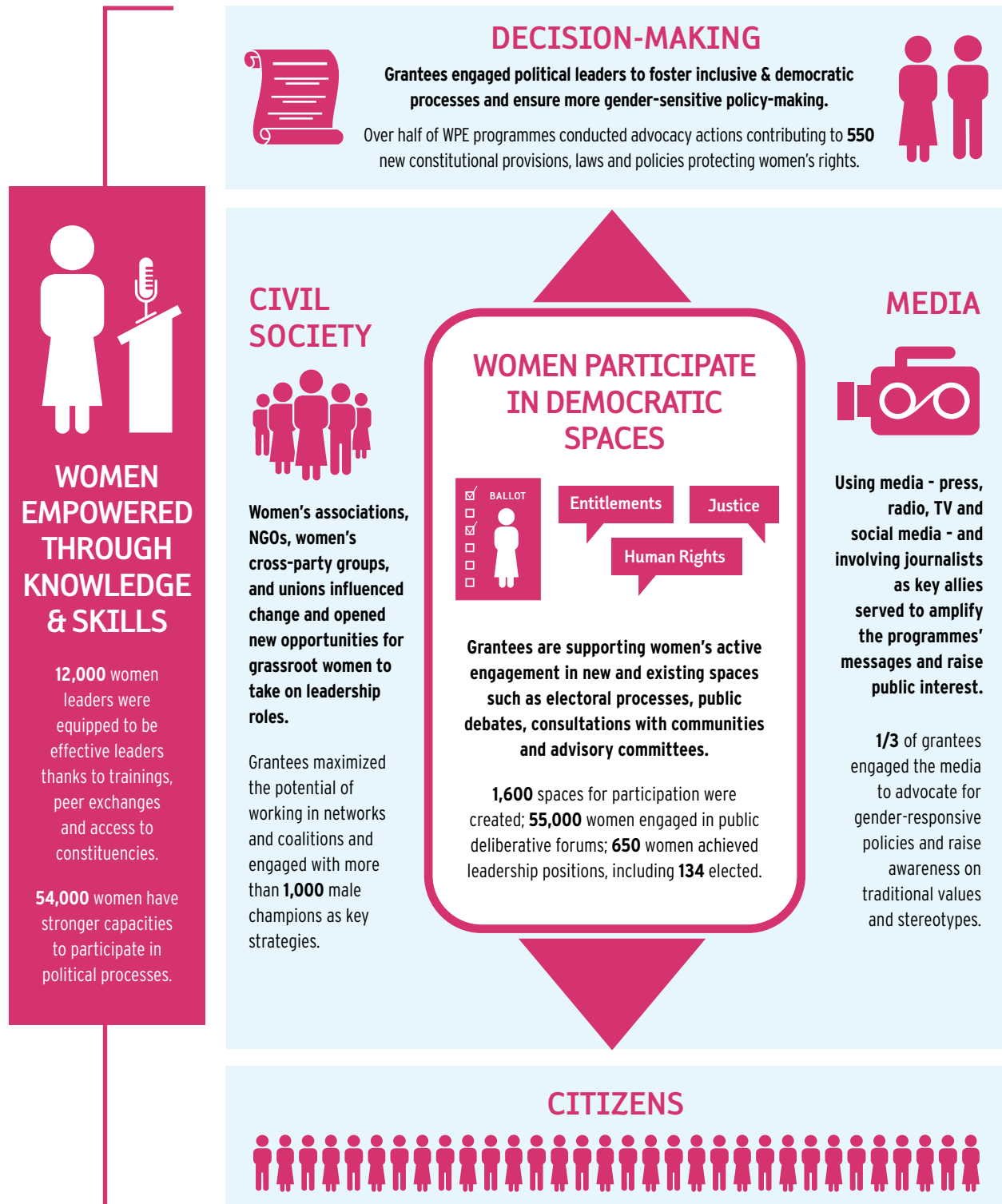


Programmes across the five regions supported a broad spectrum of beneficiaries but maintained a consistent focus on targeting civil society advocates and elected leaders. Youth and media also constituted key target groups, recognizing their potential as change-makers.

Most programmes are engaging these actors to strengthen their capacities, with a strong emphasis in developing women's leadership, communication and advocacy skills to influence policies and transform gender stereotypes - reflecting how such assets are central to the way FGE grantees approach WPE. Likewise, the use and creation of spaces for participation are pivotal to bridge the gap between citizens and decision-makers, in which civil society play a fundamental facilitator role.

EMPOWERMENT

HOW FGE GRANTEES APPROACH WOMEN'S POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT





*Strategic planning workshop
of Libya Women's Peace
Platform in Tripoli, Libya.*

Courtesy of Karama

CASE STUDY: KARAMA IN EGYPT, LIBYA AND YEMEN

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENHANCE GENDER EQUALITY

Through the programme “Inclusive Democracy: Ensuring Women’s Political Rights in Egypt, Libya and Yemen”, Karama has been supporting local, national and regional civil society networks to increase Arab women’s political representation. The programme has increased civil society advocacy capacities to enhance women’s presence in the public sphere and strengthen national calls for reform, contributing to the adoption of 11 gender-equitable pieces of legislation, including:

- In Egypt, the 2014 Electoral Decree for Parliament ensures at least 10 per cent seats for women and two Constitutional provisions guarantee a 25 per cent female quota in local councils.
- In Libya, the 2014 electoral law for the House of Representatives includes a 16.5 per cent quota for women.
- In Yemen, a 30 per cent quota for women was established in the transitional body and the draft Constitution guarantees 30 per cent women representation in government bodies and agencies.

In addition, two networks on women, peace and security – in Yemen and in the Arab States (regional) – have institutionalized coordinated advocacy for women’s empowerment and leadership in critical contexts, particularly vital in a region where conflict is a daily reality for many, especially those who work to advance women’s rights and voices.

This unfortunate reality was highlighted by the brutal assassination in June 2014 of women’s human rights defender, Salwa Bugaighis. Co-founder of Karama’s national partner in Libya, the Libyan Women Platform for Peace (LWPP), Salwa had been publicly calling for people to vote on the day of the national elections when she was killed. To honour her courage and remarkable work promoting women’s rights, LWPP and Karama have launched the Justice for Salwa Is Justice for All campaign to call for justice and safety for all human rights defenders.

**550
NEW**



**CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS,
LAWS & POLICIES ADOPTED**

7 PROGRAMMES

LESSONS FROM GRANTEES

● ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AT LOCAL LEVEL

In **Zimbabwe**, the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) has facilitated a paradigm shift in the way the Mutoko Rural District Council conducts its budgetary process. The FGE grantee has transformed traditional consultation into 'consult-action' by obtaining information directly from the end recipients of public services, including previously excluded groups such as women, the aged, youth, people with disabilities, cross-border traders and people living with HIV. This allowed for the realization among Council members that involving grassroots stakeholders made its poverty reduction efforts more cost-effective. To institutionalize such practice, ZWRCN established Gender Budget Action Committees (GBAC), which since 2014 have participated in the Council's budget consultation meetings. This now permanent structure, of which women make up 75 per cent, represents community groups' interests in the local and national budgetary decision-making process.

CATALYSING LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CHANGE

Grantees are spearheading efforts to promote legal and policy frameworks aligned to international standards—including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)—from national-level constitutional reforms to local-level programmes.

When it comes to effecting policy change, FGE grantees are adopting a rights-based approach whereby they ensure that duty bearers and right-holders both fulfil their responsibilities. They are strengthening the capacities of decision-makers to design and implement gender-sensitive policies and budgets while supporting the role of grassroots and other civil society actors to demand accountability and ensure that policy makers are providing citizens with the services they need.

FGE grantees have equipped 66,000 women with the necessary legal knowledge, advocacy skills, strong networks and greater capacity to articulate a common agenda with agreed priorities and policy proposals. As a result, at least 850 constitutional, legal and policy recommendations have been proposed by FGE beneficiaries in public governance forums.

BOLIVIA After the 2009 Constitution was adopted and a new legislative framework had to be developed, Asociación Coordinadora de la Mujer rallied civil society and peasant organizations, which proposed the introduction of substantive gender-specific measures in 23 legislative proposals. Of these, 13 were adopted as a result of advocacy and negotiations, including laws on the Constitutional Court, decentralization and violence against women. The initiative's success was based on the confluence of three factors: the Government's openness to including women's groups in the reform processes; the engagement of women in key decision-making positions (e.g., presidents of upper and lower houses in Parliament); and the rallying of 663 indigenous, peasant and urban women's rights organizations in a united movement.

Meeting of the Gender Advisory Council in Ozurgeti, Georgia.



Courtesy of Fund Sukhumi

CASE STUDY: FUND SUKHUMI IN GEORGIA

GENDER ADVISORY COUNCILS CATALYZE GENDER EQUALITY IN LOCAL LEVEL GOVERNANCE

FGE grantee Fund Sukhumi has worked with city councils in three municipalities to establish Gender Advisory Councils (GACs) made up of local elected representatives, civil society advocates and journalists. Through training, research and advocacy activities around the GACs, the programme has had some remarkable results.

- The number of elected women in the local councils doubled to 21 in the three target cities after the June 2014 elections. All of them had been trained by the grantee, representing 50 per cent of women candidates trained.
- Members of the Georgian Parliament, including the Vice Speaker, have officially recognized the GACs as an effective institutional mechanism for gender mainstreaming at the local level, with “tangible and significant” changes observed in terms of gender sensitization.
- Gender Action Plans and their corresponding budgets have been approved in the three municipalities.

One of the municipalities, Ozurgeti, has emerged as a particular success story. The city council has achieved gender balance with seven women out of 15 council members, a cohesive, gender-sensitive bond has developed among different members of the community and GAC members have been selected to occupy relevant positions in the City Hall. A special role was played by regional media companies and journalists, who are actively engaged in GAC activities and are key to sensitizing society about gender issues. “Involvement in GAC transformed me into a gender-sensitive person. Now, it’s my mission to spread more information among the population on gender issues and inform the relevant policy makers on specific gender needs to be addressed. I’m intending to use my profession to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment.” (Irina, GAC member and recently appointed senior editor of the popular newspaper Axali Gazeti.)

**55,000
WOMEN**



PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC FORUMS

22 PROGRAMMES

LESSONS FROM GRANTEES

• CREATE NEW PUBLIC SPACES FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

In **Palestine**, the Anabta Women Welfare Society has opened a "House of Women" in the West Bank, a cultural and social center for women where they acquire political, social and cultural knowledge and skills transferable to their communities. The House, the first of its kind in the area, also serves as both a space of free expression and a venue for community participation in local issues. Benefits of the space include increased women's access to justice, improved families' psychosocial status and reduced levels of violence. Managed by both female and male volunteers, it has developed new social capital in support of gender justice and equity. The centre has now been officially registered and secured funds for future activities.

EXPANDING & STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

FGE grantees are following a dual strategy of developing women's capacities to participate and influence decision-making spaces while also transforming formal and informal power structures to facilitate women's access to them.

Forty per cent of the programmes aimed at enhancing women's agency to influence the political structures and norms around them are doing so with a primary focus at the local and community levels. More than 70 per cent of WPE programmes are addressing women's individual knowledge and skills as a priority, with a focus on learning about their rights and political system and building their self-confidence, communication and leadership skills. As a result, 42,000 women have taken the step to claim their rights and entitlements in different instances.

A fundamental strategy put forward by grantees to expand women's leadership is the fostering of horizontal (among peers) and/or vertical (connecting elected women with their constituencies) interaction spaces, both face-to-face and facilitated through information and communication technologies (ICTs). Such spaces constitute a social innovation, filling the gap left by weaker or traditional political structures. They allow for grass-roots women to voice their concerns to decision makers and put forward their own proposals and for elected representatives to access first-hand information on community issues. In a few cases, these informal spaces have been institutionalized and integrated into the formal political system.

FGE grantees are also transforming informal structures by influencing social and cultural perceptions about the rights and abilities of women to lead, reaching out to non-traditional stakeholders such as men and boys or the media and conducting evidence-based awareness-raising campaigns.

INDIA Grantees Pradan and Jagori have created over 900 collectives supported by a cadre of 1,000 women leaders and 2,000 resource persons for mutual support and empowerment, mobilizing 73,000 women across nine districts. The groups have used a cascading training system where trained members become trainers of other members. As a result, 45 per cent of them have submitted applications claiming their land title rights or their pension, housing or toilet entitlements; and 60 per cent have participated in the Gram Sabha (community level decision-making forum), contacted their duty bearers about their needs, made policy and programme proposals and/or stood for election themselves.

PALESTINE In the West Bank, the Association of Women Committees for Social Work established informal community-based committees comprised of 242 women leaders and advocates. The Committees prepared action plans to solve 10 identified community issues (e.g. lack of adequate schooling infrastructure, sewage systems, etc.), submitted them to the local Council and implemented them through the provision of micro-grants. Thanks to this, not only were seven of the problems solved, benefiting 17,000 community members, but also perceptions about women's role in the community were transformed while positioning them in the formal local decision-making process (the Committees are likely to be institutionalized as an advisory body to the Council).



*Elected women Senators at
Uruguayan Parliament in
Montevideo, Uruguay.*

Courtesy of Comisión Administrativa del Poder Legislativo, Uruguay

CASE STUDY: COTIDIANO MUJER IN URUGUAY

TOWARD MAKING PARITY A REALITY WITH LEGISLATED PARTY QUOTAS

Uruguayan Law 18.476 of 2009 establishing a one-time gender quota led to a significant increase in women senators in the October 2014 legislative elections, going from less than 7 per cent to 29 per cent. Moreover, the Cabinet appointed after the elections saw a record number of women ministers (40 per cent) compared to previously (15 per cent).

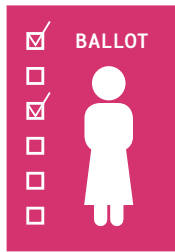
These positive developments are the result of concerted efforts among civil society organizations, including FGE grantee Cotidiano Mujer (CM) and its partners Comisión Nacional de Seguimiento and Ciudadánas en Red, which had been advocating for the best possible application of the law. Under its programme “More women, better politics”, CM created a common agenda for women, developed the capacities of female politicians and drafted a bill to broaden the quota law to 50-50 gender representation, collecting at least 5,000 signatures in support. CM also ran a highly visible awareness-raising campaign with 11 video commercials featuring public figures, managing to include the concept of parity in the public political debate.

However, challenges remain. Women obtained only 16 per cent of seats in the House of Representatives - just a small increase from the previous 13 per cent. While the law mandates at least one woman for every three candidates, women are usually left in non-eligible positions within the lists. Furthermore, some women renounced their positions after being elected due to internal party re-arrangements or their appointment in other positions, leaving those seats to be claimed by men.

Far from relaxing after the elections, Cotidiano Mujer is already strategizing with newly elected women parliamentarians to establish legislative commitments including a new political participation law to ensure equal representation.

134 WOMEN ELECTED TO OFFICE

8 PROGRAMMES



LESSONS FROM GRANTEES

- **USE STRATEGIC LITIGATION AND MENTORING FOR MORE - AND MORE POWERFUL - ELECTED WOMEN**

Equidad de Género's SUMA Initiative in **Mexico** supported the litigation of strategic cases of political rights violations, bringing about significant binding court resolutions. This, along with a mentoring project, were two of the successful strategies contributing to an increase in women state legislators by 23 per cent and municipal presidents by 53 per cent.

ENGAGING WOMEN IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

WPE programmes are giving priority to supporting women's participation in electoral processes - as voters, candidates and elected representatives.

WPE programmes have reinforced the knowledge, skills and self-confidence of 12,000 women leaders to make a sufficient pool of qualified women political aspirants and candidates available. In addition, political parties have been sensitized and technically supported to be willing and able to recruit more women; while the general public's awareness about the importance of women's political involvement was raised through traditional and social media.

When special temporary measures are not in place, civil society is advocating for its establishment or at the very least for an increase in the number of female candidates and elected women, relying on alliances among different sectors of society. Recognizing that the existence of a quota system does not guarantee its flawless implementation and positive impact, FGE grantees are making sure it translates into substantive representation of women in politics, both quantitatively and qualitatively, by monitoring the application of existing special temporary measures. Forty per cent of WPE programmes are also supporting elected female representatives to be effective leaders once elected by facilitating their access to strategic practical knowledge and peer networks as well as their contact with their constituencies.

Finally, grantees are making sure that the most marginalized women are not excluded from electoral processes. Thanks to sensitization campaigns and information sessions, women from rural areas and ethnic minorities learned about their political rights and were supported to obtain identity cards entitling them to vote.

PAKISTAN Twenty-two women parliamentarians from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province managed to include for the first time ever a project on women's political empowerment in the provincial Annual Development Plan for 2014-2015, with an allocated budget of approximately \$400,000, to build the capacities of female members of the Provincial Assembly through the School of Local Government. The female parliamentarians had previously mobilized another \$200,000 from the Chief Minister to implement women's empowerment projects. A Gender Equality Network (GEN) was formed and institutionalized, the first of its kind to connect women's advocates with women parliamentarians to push for issues related to education, sexual harassment, women's economic development and budget allocations.

NIGERIA A strong advocacy campaign that included the organization of a summit on women in politics, the submission of an affirmative action petition with more than 2,000 signatories and a radio awareness campaign organized by Community Life Project increased the commitment of political party leaders to women's political participation. This commitment was verified in the 2015 legislative elections after the number of women candidates from the state of Osun doubled in the case of the Senate (from 5 to 11) and tripled in the case of the Federal House of Representatives (from 7 to 21).

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC

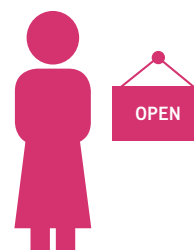
In 2014, the Fund supported **30 active programmes amounting to \$16.6 million with a focus on women's economic empowerment (WEE)** – aiming to increase women's capabilities and opportunities to access, own, inherit and control productive resources and assets such as land and credit, to enjoy safe social protection services and decent work protections and to participate fully in economic decision-making from the household to the national government. In total, **97,000 direct beneficiaries were reached in 27 countries** through activities in three sub-themes prioritized by grantees:



Supporting Rural Women to Access and Control Resources and Assets



Ensuring Decent Work and Social Protection

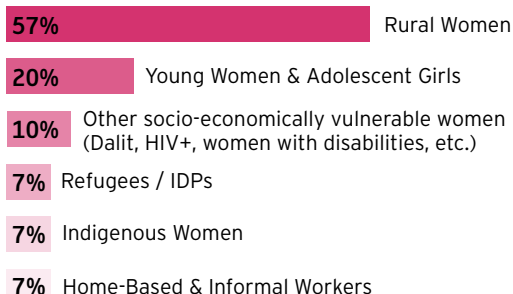


Fostering Sustainable Entrepreneurship

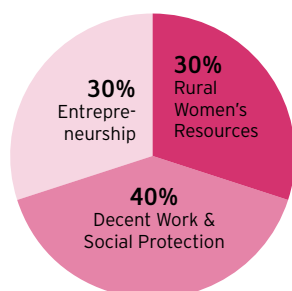
Most programmes in Africa and the Arab States, prioritize supporting rural women's access to and control over resources, while those in the Americas & the Caribbean and Asia & the Pacific regions place a greater focus on supporting access to social protection and decent work. Programmes fostering women's entrepreneurship were most prevalent in Africa.

Rural women prevail as key beneficiaries in the majority of WEE programmes, although other socially and economically vulnerable groups such as women refugees, informal workers and indigenous women have been specifically targeted by a significant number of grantees. Young women have been involved as key stakeholders in one every five programmes.

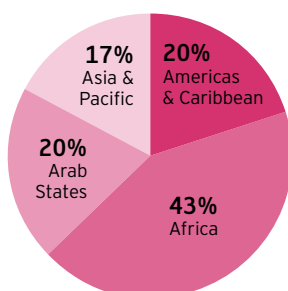
Most Common Types of WEE Programme Beneficiaries (% of programmes targeting them):



WEE Programme Distribution by Sub-themes



WEE Programme Geographic Distribution



Using the international and national legal basis alongside traditional values as their overarching framework, FGE grantees understand women's economic empowerment as a multi-dimensional phenomenon requiring a number of actors and strategies to ensure that women's needs are met while the structural causes of inequality are addressed. Strengthening beneficiaries' capacities lies at the core of all the programmes, with a view to increase the relevant knowledge and practical skills that will allow women to access sustainable sources of livelihood and basic services, and overall, regain self-confidence and take control over their lives by claiming their rights.

EMPOWERMENT

HOW FGE GRANTEES APPROACH WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

NETWORKS

43 networks were developed and **344** women's unions, economic associations, cooperatives and self-help groups were created.



RESOURCES

Over **3,100** women gained control over land and other property; **6,200** women accessed micro-loans to start income-generating activities.



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Economic

24% of programmes have engaged with the private sector as employers, partners or providers to amplify women's professional options.

Political

2,500 leaders gained capacities to implement gender equality commitments; advocacy actions led to **56** new economic rights laws and policies.

Cultural

21% of programmes affected positive perception and attitude changes among husbands, families and communities as women gained autonomy.



KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

120,000 beneficiaries learned about their rights. **15,000** women gained literacy, life, business, advocacy and marketing, and vocational skills through innovative ICT, peer exchanges and study tour learning schemes.



Gelane Defere at her house showing the malt she farmed in Oromiya Regional State, Ethiopia.

Courtesy of Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Association (UEWCA)

IMPACT STORY: UEWCA IN ETHIOPIA

SAVINGS GROUPS ENABLE ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS FOR WOMEN: THE CASE OF GELANE DEFERE IN ETHIOPIA

Gelane Defere, 35 years old, is a single mother of four children in Oromiya Regional State, Ethiopia. Raising her children without a stable source of income was not an easy task, and she was even forced to send her son to other family members for schooling. Before she joined the UEWCA (Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations) programme, she used to get Birr 10-30 (\$0.5-1.5) per week by selling malt, with no knowledge of business, savings or access to financial support.

"This programme has paved a way in my life to success. It gave me knowledge, access to finance and a group of women to share my personal and social challenges with. When I started saving with my self-help group, my saving was Birr 3 (\$0.15) per week. Now my business is booming and from my malt selling I am earning Birr 500 (\$24) revenue and saving Birr 50-100 (\$2.5-5) per week. Thanks to the opportunity that I get in this programme, I am more knowledgeable and aware of my earnings. Above all, I am going to send my kids to school and create a better life for them and even dream big to expand my business."

Gelane is just one of the beneficiaries of UEWCA, which has supported 2,000 vulnerable women - including those with low incomes, heads of household, school drop-outs, women living with HIV and nomads - to increase their assertiveness, business and agricultural skills and engage in profitable income-generating activities.

**12,000
RURAL
WOMEN**
PROVIDED WITH
SUSTAINABLE INCOME



9 PROGRAMMES

LESSONS FROM GRANTEES

● FACILITATE TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAININGS

Amel Association in **Lebanon** adapted a method similar to school buses to pick up beneficiaries during training days to address the barriers faced by participants in remote rural areas to accessing training venues. This method has eased the concerns of beneficiaries and their families as it ensures women's safety and access to reliable transportation.

SUPPORTING RURAL WOMEN TO ACCESS AND CONTROL RESOURCES AND ASSETS

Most grantees aiming to empower rural women economically have centred their efforts at the local level. Helping women organize in groups to collectively learn, undertake productive activities and access resources have been top priorities.

Land is a fundamental resource for women in rural contexts. While there have been significant legislative advances in women's equal property rights, customs and traditions remain an obstacle. Thanks to awareness raising to deconstruct patriarchal values, and the provision of legal assistance, 3,100 women have gained ownership, inheritance or administrative control over land or other property.

Women's access to financial resources is also critical to secure sustainable income, either through new businesses or improvement of existing ones. Organized through women's economic groups - which have established collective systems of loans and savings, with excellent results of solvency and return of investments - 6,200 rural women have gained access to credit or grants, both financial and in-kind (seeds and animals).

Confronted with a very low education level in rural areas, grantees are prioritizing women's literacy and learning about sustainable agriculture, basic accounting and business management. In addition, women are gaining communication, leadership and advocacy skills that are enabling them to step up in the public arena and influence decision-makers at community level.

ZIMBABWE Thanks to trainings on biodiversity, environmental management, fish farming, utilization of baobab and marula trees, value addition and craft production chains, poor rural women from the Binga District have increased their incomes by 17 per cent since the beginning of the programme implemented by Basilwizi and Zubo Trust. Women have accessed three national and international markets thanks to the programme's training and exchange sessions on international trade regulations and marketing strategies. As a result of women's advocacy activities with local leaders, seven Environmental Management Committees have been established in Chinonge ward within which women are occupying leadership roles in them.

ALGERIA Two thousand rural women from the 20 poorest municipalities of the remote Bordj Bou Arreridj province in Morocco learned about their rights to education, health, professional training and employment opportunities, and 400 of them were empowered as economic producers after receiving livestock and training on agricultural and marketing techniques. Unprecedented research by grantee El Ghaith shed light on the socio-economic situation of rural women in the area and helped bring about change in the attitudes and awareness of community leaders and members. For example, men started to accept women's participation in the programme activities on their own.



Courtesy of Jan Sahas

Dalit manual scavengers burning their baskets in an act of protest in Uttar Pradesh, India.

CASE STUDY: JAN SAHAS IN INDIA

SUPPORTING THE MOST EXCLUDED: MANUAL SCAVENGER DALIT WOMEN IN INDIA

Combining community efforts with advocacy and legal interventions, FGE grantee Jan Sahas is using a holistic approach to support Dalit manual scavengers in India - the 'Untouchable of the Untouchables' - 95 per cent of whom are women. Manual scavengers clean the dry latrines used by their villages, often carrying heavy loads of excrement to disposal sites in exchange for housing, used clothing and a salary of 10 cents to US\$1. These workers face a range of physical injuries that exacerbate the mental anxiety caused by the social stigma they face.

Jan Sahas informs women scavengers about their rights and existing government programmes and fosters support for them to find alternative sources of livelihood. Based on a national consultation with government, civil society and the international community, the grantee is now piloting a hybrid social enterprise model for the economic inclusion and rehabilitation of manual scavengers, which includes the formation of self-help groups and a social enterprise that will provide market links.

2014 key results include:

- Over five pieces of legislation were passed in 2014 and 48 local bodies have taken action based on advocacy actions.
- 43 centres have been created, benefiting over 1,500 women.
- Over 3,000 women have stopped scavenging, with 89 per cent of them subsequently benefiting from the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, working in agriculture and increasing their average income by 212 per cent.
- Former scavengers have organized around 12 community-based organizations and started taking collective acts of protest for the abandonment of scavenging, such as publicly burning their baskets.

**5,000
WOMEN
ACCESSED**



SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES

12 PROGRAMMES

LESSONS FROM GRANTEES

• ESTABLISH COMMON POLICY ADVOCACY AGENDAS

Agreement on joint national and regional advocacy agendas among 37 women's workers organizations and unions was critical for the adoption of key legislation to protect the rights of women sewing workers, domestic workers and home-based workers in the **Southern Cone**, including Law N°20,786 on Domestic Work in **Chile** and the Regulation of Law N°26844 on work contracts for domestic workers in **Argentina**. In addition, it allowed for critical peer-to-peer exchanges and learning, and worked as a unifying move away from local specificities and political affiliations.

ENSURING DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Grantees are enabling marginalized groups in the work force, such as migrant and domestic workers, to access social protection services and fostering innovative strategies and alliances for women's equal insertion in the labour market.

Programmes are promoting legislative changes to recognize migrant and domestic workers' labour rights, including by strengthening women's trade unions to advocate for political reforms. Unpaid care and domestic work is also an area where FGE grantees are effecting change by achieving their recognition as a crucial contribution to economic development and human well-being.

Social assistance is another aspect of social protection that grantees are addressing, not only in terms of facilitating women's access but also by ensuring that it does not reinforce gender stereotypes – for instance by engaging men through targeted activities and campaigns.

Grantees are identifying innovative ways to expand job opportunities for women by equipping them with skills in demand in the labour market, establishing alliances with the private sector and bridging the gap between women and employers. Government officials and private companies are being sensitized and engaged as key allies against gender discrimination. Some countries have introduced the gender equality seal, a gender-auditing tool for public and private firms. While most of the vocational skills correspond to women's traditional gender roles, FGE partner organizations are also challenging gender-based occupational segregation by promoting skills in non-traditional areas, such as construction or electronics.

EGYPT After acquiring market-driven skills, over 80 young women were hired by factories in the new Salheya area and 20 have initiated small businesses in apiculture, sewing garments and food conservation thanks to the job placement offered by the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration. The programme supported the Ministry to institutionalize the Gender Equity Seal and create a gender unit to replicate this initiative with other private sector companies.

SRI LANKA The Centre for Women's Research has supported more than 1,300 young women school drop-outs from low-income rural and urban groups to enroll in vocational training, on-the-job placements and official apprenticeship schemes in sectors as varied as IT, motor winding, masonry and quality control in the garment industry. These positions are expected to lead directly to employment opportunities in most cases.



Meena Dodo speaking at a public event for home-based workers in Karachi, Pakistan.

Courtesy of Thardeep

IMPACT STORY: THARDEEP IN PAKISTAN

PEER NETWORKS & NEW SKILLS EMPOWER HOME-BASED ARTISANS: THE CASE OF MEENA DODO IN PAKISTAN

Meena Dodo comes from a marginalized community in Detha Bheel village. After joining the SOJHRO group of Artisan Women to improve her embroidery and needlework skills, she participated in various training sessions organized by FGE grantee Thardeep, that focused on colour, quality and design, fair wages and legal rights.

"With the support of the project team, I mobilized my family and got permission to attend the Women's Workshop organized in Karachi, where I openly and confidently expressed my views. This event of home-based workers really bonded us in a network to share experiences and learning with each other and do work with fine quality as per market needs." After presenting her enthusiastic views around craft making and group ownership, Meena was selected as the manager of her artisan women's group and obtained a part-time job as a trainer for livelihood promotion in a local NGO.

Meena is one of the 400 home-based artisan women from marginalized rural indigenous communities that Thardeep is supporting in 20 villages in the District of Tharparkar, 10 of which have produced and tested 10 new products.

**1,500
WOMEN
ACCESSED MARKETS**



9 PROGRAMMES

LESSONS FROM GRANTEES

• ADOPT A COMPETITIVE APPROACH TO START-UP GRANTS

In **Ethiopia**, the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia, partner of FGE grantee UEWCA, has created a competitive approach to seed-funding grants that requires beneficiaries, as part of a competitive process, to prepare and defend their business plan before they are granted the capital. As reported by the grantee, this has created a sense of accomplishment among the winning women and has signified a shift in gender roles and relations in a culture where a man's duty is to provide productive assets to the family. In addition, this approach also ensures a minimum quality in business models, increasing the likelihood of sustainability.

FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WEE programmes are fostering women's individual capacities to start, improve and sustain a business. Beneficiaries are receiving highly specialized training to add value to and market their products.

Grantees are promoting women's businesses by equipping them with the supplies and resources they need to get started. In total, 6,200 women gained access to seed funding through micro-grants and micro-credits, as well as materials such as cloths, seeds, animals or mobile phones to contact suppliers and customers.

Access to markets is the cornerstone and perhaps the biggest challenge when trying to promote entrepreneurship. Grantees are proposing a range of innovative strategies to address this, from facilitating physical transportation to markets to conducting research and participating in international fairs. At least 1,500 women gained access to markets with the support of these programmes.

Learning about, developing and implementing marketing strategies is a key priority. Grantees are involving experts and advisers in the programmes to maximize the potential demand for beneficiaries' products. Strategies followed include: 1) promoting processed products instead of raw or non-treated ones, in order to increase their value; 2) ensuring the product adheres to the highest - hygiene and safety - quality standards; and 3) creating a unique branding to secure a market niche, for instance by linking the product to the woman's background, singling out a story and a context, or by using local products with nutritional and health benefits, and/or traditional significance.

While programmes are largely based on increasing women's skills, grantees are recognizing and nurturing the self-confidence and personal transformation as critical to women's empowerment and the stepping stone for them to start gaining progressive leadership roles in their families and communities.

LEBANON

Grantee Amel Association is supporting rural Lebanese women and refugee and migrant women from Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Palestine and Syria to increase their financial independence. Thanks to marketing and managerial skills training, 170 women are now able to manage their own business. A specific branding for the programme's products has been developed including a logo and a name, MENNA, meaning 'from us' or an abbreviation of 'hand-made production'. Women have designed and implemented marketing plans as part of a highly interactive capacity development initiative where experts provided hands-on advice and women were able to learn from each other and utilize their own interests and cultural heritage to make unique products. An extensive network of 13 NGOs has been developed around the MENNA emblem, and a MENNA shop has been opened in Beirut, allowing for the display and commercialization of the women's products.

FEATURED STRATEGIES



WOMEN'S ECONOMIC GROUPS: STRATEGY FOR EFFICIENCY AND EMPOWERMENT

Women's economic or self-help groups have emerged as a key empowerment strategy in 30 per cent of the programmes with an economic focus; they have shown positive results in increasing women's access to resources and creating leadership spaces and solidarity networks. By 2014, 345 women's collective structures had been created.



Courtesy of Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Association (UEWCA)

Women beneficiaries from a self-help group in Ethiopia counting the weekly money saved.

These groups bring together women with similar needs and interests through the organization of activities for common profit. They are well suited to cultures that value community over individual approaches as they place less pressure on the individual and enhance the sense of unity and ownership among the members.

Literacy, rights and vocational skills trainings are usually organized around the groups, where women members often also become trainers. Most groups develop their own statutes, appointing key positions such as chairperson and treasurer, and some obtain official registration from local authorities. This enables groups to open bank accounts and access public grants or land ownership, which would not be possible for individual

women with insufficient income or property. It also opens new spaces for leadership for the members, which enhances the programme's sustainability and in many cases represents a starting point for women to gain increasing levels of public engagement.

Women's groups tend to gather financial resources to cover administrative costs and even emergency funds in case of accidents, illnesses or childbirths, thus providing a useful safety net. Many offer the opportunity for vulnerable groups to enter micro-loans and savings schemes that they could otherwise not access. In addition to their organizational and strategic role, the groups constitute a safe space for women to exchange information and concerns. Women feel valuable and part of a community, increasing their self-esteem.

"Before I joined the group, I had no vision for my life and my family. I have learned about the importance of saving and started applying it to my own home. Through our discussions, I saved my fourth daughter from early marriage. I also learned to read and write. Now I have a plan to support my children to continue their education. My husband has also started supporting me."

–*Korfu Tefera*, 35 years old, beneficiary from Oromiya Regional State, Ethiopia [UEWCA]

"Our lives have changed. Every one of us was afraid of loans, but we have understood that women can do wonders once united. Women are doing things that they would otherwise not be able to do without these loans from our group. The profit is ours so we have nothing to lose."

–*Anastasia Shirima*, Chairperson of Agape group in Siha District, United Republic of Tanzania [KWIECO]

IMPACT STORY

CHANGING LIVES: KWIECO IN UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

14 December 2014 is a memorable day for Mama Joyce Eliabu Munuo (44) and her peers from Eden Group of Messe village in Siha District, United Republic of Tanzania. Joyce won 160 out of 204 votes for village chairperson, the first woman to do so in the history of her village. Women, overwhelmed with joy, could not resist showing their happiness by singing songs.

Joyce has faced a number of challenges in her life, including being discriminated against for not having a child after her marriage. When KWIECO introduced the women's empowerment project in her village, she joined. The skills she gained on enterprise management allowed her to make savings from her sugarcane and livestock business and invest them in improving the productivity of her cattle. This increased her income and standard of living. With the human rights knowledge she acquired, Joyce was able to support a number of community members (e.g. women in abusive relationships and a pregnant girl who dropped out of school). Thanks to these contributions, the other group members encouraged her to run for the leadership position.

"I would not have done this if not for the support and encouragement from my peers in the group. [My husband] asked me if I was sure of what it means to compete with a man who has been in leadership for seven years, but I told him I want to show the world that a woman can bring better changes. I had told myself that I even if I get two votes, they will be enough. In the evening the results came out with my main opponent having only 26 votes, I was very grateful and proud of women and people around me. Now that I have huge responsibility ahead of me, I feel obliged to return their trust by working diligently to fulfil all promises I made during the campaign."

Joyce is one of only five women out of 46 elected Village Chairpersons in the twelve targeted wards in four districts, but 14 per cent of elected women members of local councils were part of the programme's support groups (70 out of 507). Also, 34 per cent of the women elected for the first time had been supported by KWIECO. Given the high number of elected women, the grantee has tailored specific workshops to help them become more effective leaders.



Courtesy of Kilimanjaro Women
Information Exchange and
Consultancy Organization (KWIECO)

Mama Joyce Eliabu Munuo in her new office as elected Chairperson of Messe village, Tanzania.



ENGAGING MEN & BOYS

While all FGE-supported programmes aim at empowering women and girls, most grantees also involve men and/or boys in programme activities and 13 per cent of them do it as a key strategy.

Almost 100,000 men and boys have been involved in FGE-supported programmes as key allies to reinforce the impact of activities by creating an enabling environment in households and communities. Their engagement can neutralize potential negative effects caused by shifts in gender roles resulting from women's empowerment - especially when this requires men to give up some of their privileges and power.

Grantee partners are involving beneficiaries' husbands, formal and informal decision-makers and opinion leaders, and general community members who can support attitudinal and behavioural transformation towards more gender-equitable social norms. While patriarchal values still generate resistance, there are success stories of male gender equality champions.

KENYA GROOTS has established mixed-gender task forces at the local level to promote women's leadership. A cohort of 650 men, including women leaders' spouses and equality advocates, mobilized to publicly support the constitutional provision for a mandatory gender quota in all appointed and electoral bodies. Men champions have engaged with the council of elders, religious leaders, the judiciary and other opinion leaders to change community perceptions. They have also managed to mobilize other men, including by mentoring adolescents.

VIET NAM The husbands of migrant women who have stayed in their hometowns while their wives work in a bigger city often feel ashamed their wives are migrants and of receiving money from them and tend to exclude their wives from family decisions as a reaction. FGE grantee LIGHT has managed to strengthen husband's supportiveness towards their wives after providing them with information about the conditions of their migrant family members.

CASE STUDY: PROMUNDO INSTITUTE IN BRAZIL CHALLENGING GENDER STEREOTYPES FOR A MORE EQUAL SOCIETY

The main objective of Promundo's programme is to transform the attitudes and behaviours of men into more egalitarian, non-violent ones and to increase understanding and acceptance of the Government's conditional cash transfer programme benefiting women, thus preventing gender-based violence. The programme is built on a 'gender transformative' approach that challenges women's and men's stereotypical roles. A key strategy is the creation of men-only groups and also mixed-groups to discuss sensitive issues about sexuality and personal notions of masculinity and deconstruct cultural and social notions of 'machismo'. The improvement of football fields was the entry point to build trust and capture the interest and commitment of young men and adults, allowing the programme to organize educational groups around a football championship.



Courtesy of Instituto Promundo

Beneficiaries after participating in a football championship supported by grantee Promundo in Brazil.



ICT FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

FGE grantees are proposing innovative solutions to complex gender inequality issues, and 13 per cent of programmes are using information and communication technologies (ICTs) as a tool for learning or for action and social change.



Young woman participating in the first female hackathon in Santa Clara, Costa Rica.

Courtesy of Cooperativa Sulá Batsú

Modern technologies such as computers with Internet access, audio-visual equipment and in particular mobile devices are being used by many grantees, who are distributing phone units among the most impoverished beneficiaries and providing IT trainings. Mobiles allow for the exchange of experiences among peers as well as between leaders and grass-roots communities. ICTs are used as a learning tool to access information about rights, available services and important community meetings.

Women and girls are also learning how to use, design and maintain technological devices and software, breaching gender stereotypes and opening new professional opportunities.

CASE STUDY: SULÁ BATSÚ IN COSTA RICA INTEGRATING WOMEN IN THE ICT SECTOR

Sulá Batsú cooperative is generating opportunities in the ICT sector for young women from impoverished rural areas. It uses a four-fold strategy: conducting technology-based school projects to reduce gender stereotypes about science and technology; working with education professionals to promote ICT careers for women; encouraging ICT companies to create equal job opportunities; and supporting girl students and graduates in technology to become ICT entrepreneurs. To date, the project has reached over 2,600 direct beneficiaries, including students, teachers, parents, ICT professionals and academics. Sulá Batsú organized the first female Hackathon in Central America, while a newly created network of young beneficiaries is promoting rural women's involvement in the ICT sector through participation in conferences and IT-related policy debates.

CASE STUDY: IT FOR CHANGE & KMVS IN INDIA ICTS TO ENGAGE RURAL WOMEN IN POLITICS

IT for Change and its partner organizations Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS) and ANANDI are helping rural and socially excluded women participate effectively in political processes through the use of techno-social innovations. This includes an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platform for telephone information exchange among elected women and women's collectives; media-based learning for elected women; a Geographic Information System (GIS) to map issues of community concern; and a network of women-owned digitally enabled centres where marginalized women can access information and claim entitlements. More than 800 elected women have also been connected to their constituencies, making them more effective leaders. Over 100 local government resolutions benefiting women have been passed - facilitating better access to land, health centres, schools, water and sanitation - and 7,000 entitlement claims have been processed.



THE ROLE OF YOUTH

Many FGE grantees recognize the importance of involving young women and men in designing and implementing activities, not only as future leaders but also due to their untapped potential as changemakers.

Among the FGE-supported programmes, 37 per cent engage with youth – young women, young men or both – as the main beneficiaries. Young women are participating in public and policy debates in their communities and beyond, paving the way for their future emergence as leaders. The creation of spaces for inter-generational dialogue between youth and adults – decision makers, parents and/or teachers – is giving young people the chance to express their visions and specific needs, with a view to increasing understanding of their challenges and obtaining support. The programmes often engage youth through strategies such as sports, media and social media, TV spots and cultural events, including theatre performances and music. 13 per cent of them are using mentorship initiatives, primarily addressed to young women. Grantees have recounted the positive effects that new generations bring in terms of providing creativity and innovative ideas, offering a different set of skills linked to new technologies or simply having the motivation to act.

JAMAICA The Women's Media Watch has strengthened the leadership skills of over 300 young women advocates in Jamaica, where women's political participation is low. Trainings on advocacy and media have allowed youth to raise their voice and propel discussions about issues such as LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) rights, or the review of the Sexual Offences Act.

CASE STUDY: PCPD & JCW IN PALESTINE

DRAFTING A GENDER-SENSITIVE SHADOW CONSTITUTION

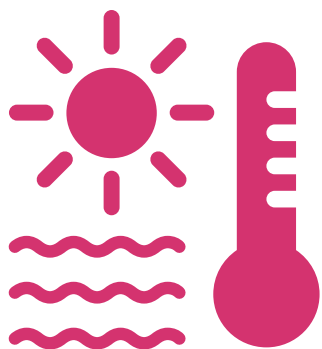
A group of 26 young women and men representing 25 community-based organizations from across Palestine formed a coalition called the Constitutional Shadow Committee. Following training by the Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy (PCPD) in political analysis, advocacy and constitution-building, they drafted an alternative constitution that challenges the lack of gender equality in the current third draft prepared by the official Constitutional Committee, which is comprised only of men.

To reach as many people as possible, the Shadow Committee spearheaded an advocacy campaign, reaching a critical mass of public and political support – including the signature of a formal petition by 364 ministers and other high-level government representatives and political actors in favour of the gender-equitable revised Constitution. “The young women and men who have written this better version are an example for society,” says Abdallah Kamil, Governor of Tulkarem, in the West Bank. “This Shadow Constitution treats women as equal citizens, the way it should be. (...) Distribute it widely, everyone should read this Shadow Constitution!”. Many young women who played a leading role in drafting the Shadow Constitution have been at the forefront of the campaign, placing them in leadership roles they had never imagined.



Courtesy of Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy (PCPD)

Young women participating in the campaign for a gender-sensitive Constitution in Palestine.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Five programmes used climate change mitigation, conservation of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources as strategies to economically empower women, putting them at the forefront of sustainable development.

Grantees are prioritizing income-generating activities that are not only feasible and relevant to beneficiaries but also resilient to the effects of climate change. They are promoting the use of renewable energies and protecting biodiversity and sustainability by farming local products such as moringa, baobab and manioc with cultural, environmental and health value. In those processes, grantees are reviving traditional approaches to natural resource management that allow for more equitable participation of women, who are taking the lead in sustainable development.

GUATEMALA & PERU

Indigenous women have strengthened their productive capacities to manage seeds and biodiversity while promoting the ancestral indigenous techniques for agriculture based on equitable participation of women and men. Indigenous women are promoting the local genetic diversity of vegetal species (or germplasm), bringing back different varieties of quinoa, beans, corn and manioc and positioning these products in the local markets.

LEBANON

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon is reviving the concept of Hima, a 1,500-year-old approach to the management of natural resources that depends on the active involvement of local communities, particularly women, in decision-making. SPNL has obtained public support from three mayors, and the Ministry of Environment has drafted a Decree that endorses Hima as a nation-wide approach for the management and conservation of natural resources and recognizes the prominent role of women.

CASE STUDY: PREM IN GUINEA

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

In Guinea's Tristao Islands, Partenariat Recherche Environnement Média is providing innovative ways for women to become economically empowered while protecting the environment. Beneficiaries have learned to use solar energy to dry local marine and agricultural products with a focus on revitalizing moringa plant farming. Moringa, known for its medicinal and nutrient qualities, works against soil erosion and produces a crop every two months in both dry and rainy seasons. Local advisers with context-specific agricultural and environmental knowledge have helped more than 300 women develop and maintain moringa plantations. Thanks to the media strategy to disseminate the programme's work, the demand for training on growing moringa and the product's market value have both increased.



Courtesy of Partenariat Recherches Environnement Médias, Guinea

Women beneficiaries supervise Moringa plants in the solar drying tunnels in Tristao Islands, Guinea.

THE IMPACT OF FGE GRANTS

INTERVIEWS WITH FORMER GRANTEES



FGE GRANTEE 2010-2012

**KUMUDINI SAMUEL,
DIRECTOR OF THE WOMEN
AND MEDIA COLLECTIVE**

SRI LANKA

Tell us about the programme funded by the FGE. What were the key results?

The programme “Changing Minds, Nominations and Votes for Women” focused on local government because Sri Lanka has as little as 2 per cent representation of women at that level. One of the reasons for this is that political parties are reluctant to nominate women to contest elections. With the FGE grant we were able to work closely with political party leadership and women at the local level, and we managed to increase female nominations for the 2011 local elections from 2 per cent to 20 per cent in the five districts we worked in, which for us was a great achievement.

What has been the impact of the programme in the long run?

First, we mobilized local women who were leaders in their community to contest elections and strategize their election campaigns, so that they were also publicly recognized as people who could contribute to political life. Many of them came from marginalized communities who had not previously received female nominations, and for those women it was a very empowering experience.

Second, we were able to get to know political party leaders and gain national exposure. After the project, we capitalized on these linkages and continued to advocate for legally binding changes. So when on 10 March [2015] the Prime Minister committed to ensure 25% nominations for women in local government, it made it easier for us to go back to the leaders of all political parties and the women in parties at local level to support this campaign. For us the success story is that many women can now be part of leadership if these reforms come into play. And then four years later we find that really it was a truly catalytic grant with a measurable result.

What do you consider to be the key strategy to support women’s political empowerment?

For us the strategy was to work within political parties. It was not sufficient to find women and put them up for nominations, promote their campaign and have them win if the political party structure was not democratic. We believe that this is the strategy that works.

What was your experience of working with the FGE?

The Women and Media Collective has been funded since 1998 so we have worked with many donors. I found it was very easy to work with the Fund because UN Women sat with us to try and help us define exactly what our outcomes would be, what the outputs would be and how our activities related to that. They really helped us think through what we wanted to do. It was very useful.



UN Women / Ryan Brown

FGE GRANTEE 2010-2012

**PATRICIA MUNABI-BABIIHA,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE FORUM FOR WOMEN IN
DEMOCRACY (FOWODE)**

UGANDA

Tell us about the programme funded by the FGE. What were the key results and the impact?

As a result of the grant that FOWODE received from the FGE to implement the “Gender Budget Programme”, we were able to build communities of activists in the five districts in which we were working who have been able to demand accountable leadership and equitable service delivery thanks to the knowledge and skills they gained.

We have also seen an impact at the national level through the integration of gender responsiveness within budgets and laws, and one of the most recent examples is the inclusion of a Certificate for Gender Equity in the Public Finance and Management Act. This is work that we began with the Fund, and we have seen the fruits many years down the road. This shows that because the work that we do is about changing mindsets and getting new players on board, we need to be patient. We need to continue to build capacity, to do advocacy, and five years, ten years along the way, results will come.

What innovative strategy would you highlight from the FGE programme?

During the FGE-funded project, we were able for the first time to test the Village Budget Club Model, a community structure that spearheads the demand for accountable leadership and service delivery within the communities. This club is comprised mainly of women because it is a platform for them to advance their leadership and acquire more knowledge and skills. As a result, women are taking part in community groups, and some of them have begun to prepare for the 2016 local government elections. We also work with ‘model men’ who self-identify as gender advocates and who are reaching out to other men and preaching the ‘gospel of gender equality’. Because the model is community-led and we developed close partnerships with local leadership, it has sustained itself even beyond the lifetime of the project.

What was your experience of working with the FGE?

I think the Fund was different. We perceived them more as a partner than a donor and it was really more an equal relationship, it was horizontal rather than vertical. Right at the onset of the project we worked very closely in refining the indicators and this was really helpful because once you do that at the beginning of the project it then sets the ball rolling.

We also really appreciated them bringing us together as grantees to learn best practices from the various projects, to see what we could do differently in our own project. It was the first development partner that actually brought us together as grantees.

FGE DONORS

Launched through a visionary contribution of \$65 million by the Government of Spain in 2009, the Fund for Gender Equality has now consolidated itself as a multi-donor mechanism and is grateful to its donors:

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The Fund welcomes contributions to support its 2015 third global grant-making cycle to support, sustain and strengthen women-led civil society organizations to implement women's empowerment and gender equality commitments in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals. For further information on how to donate, please contact: elisa.fernandez@unwomen.org or nancy.khweiss@unwomen.org.

FGE GRANTEES

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Africa

\$200,000

Burundi: UNIPROBA - Promotion of gender equality of peoples Batwa from Burundi to the participation of women in decision making on a local level

\$235,000

Ghana: Women Peace and Security Network-Africa (WIPSEN) - Enhancing the leadership skills of adolescent girls and young women in Nkwanta North and South Districts

\$302,000

Kenya: GROOTS Kenya Association - Strengthen governance and accountability of leadership in Kenya through quality and quantity of women's political participation

\$400,000

Nigeria: Community Life Project - Empowering Grassroots Women Leaders for Participation in Local Governance in 2 States in South West, Nigeria

\$460,000

Zambia: Women and Law in Southern Africa Research and Educational Trust, Zambia Office - Bridging the Gap in Political Participation between Men and Women : A sure way to improve women's development sustainability

\$1,680,939

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRCN) - Gender Budgeting and Women's Empowerment Project

Arab States

\$545,000

Egypt: Egyptian Center for Women's Rights - A Wave of Women's Voices- 1,000 and Counting

\$565,000

Egypt, Libya and Yemen: Karama - Inclusive Democracy: Ensuring Women's Political Rights in Libya, Yemen and Egypt throughout the Arab Spring

\$265,000

Egypt, Jordan, Palestine: Stars of Hope Society - Our Voice Counts

\$200,000

Egypt: Women and Memory Forum - Documentation & Empowerment: The Creation of an Archive of Women's Voices in Egypt

\$215,000

Iraq: Women's Empowerment Organization - Gender Training for Iraqi Academics and Researchers

\$200,000

Palestine: Anabta Women Welfare Society - Enhancing Women's Rights through the Establishment of the "House of Women"

\$450,000

Palestine: Association of Women Committees for Social Work - Enhancing Palestinian Women's Participation in Public and Political Life

\$200,000

Palestine: Dalia Association - Women Supporting Women

\$200,000

Palestine: Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy and Jerusalem Centre for Women (JCW) - Towards a Democratic Constitution that Grants Equal Rights to Women

Asia and the Pacific

\$210,000

Afghanistan: Afghanistan Watch - Women's Participation and Mobilization in Afghanistan's Political Transition

\$345,000

Cambodia: Silaka - Empowerment of Cambodian Women Leader at Sub-National Level

\$2,456,934

China: All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) - Equal Political Participation for Chinese Women

\$280,000

India: IT for Change and Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS) - Making women's voices and votes count - An ICT-based intervention in India

\$2,549,974

India: PRADAN with Jagori - Facilitating Women in Four Endemic Poverty States of India to Access, Actualize and Sustain Provisions on Women's Empowerment

\$200,000

Mongolia: LEOS - Women's Political Leadership in National Development of Mongolia

\$220,000

Pakistan: Pak Women & Women Association Struggle for Development - Women Empowerment and Political Participation Project (WE3P) Pakistan

\$250,000

Philippines, Nepal: Tebtebba - Global Leadership School for Indigenous Women in Nepal and the Philippines

\$550,000

Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia: AWARE: Association of Women for Action and Research & Solidaritas Perempuan - Enabling CEDAW through gender-equitable interpretations and expressions of culture in Singapore, Indonesia and beyond

\$545,000

Southeast Asia: IRAW - Strengthening the voices of young women as gender equality advocates in Southeast Asia

Europe and Central Asia

\$305,000

Georgia: Sukhumi Fund - Gender Advisory Councils - Increasing Women's Role in Social Change of Regions

\$225,000

Kyrgyzstan: Central Asian Alliance for Water - Empower women's and girls' political and economical access and control in drinking water management

\$1,290,991

Kyrgyzstan: Women Support Center (WSC) and Women Entrepreneur's Support Association (WESA) - Promotion of Political and Economic Rights of Women in New Context of Kyrgyzstan

Americas and the Caribbean

\$2,474,134

Bolivia: Asociación Coordinadora de la Mujer - Bolivian Women in the Process of Change: a Policy Framework with Gender Equality

\$3,000,000

Brazil: SOS CORPO and Secretaria Políticas da Mulher - More Rights and More Power for Brazilian Women

\$200,000

Colombia: OPIAC - Towards the political empowerment of the Amazonian Woman

\$375,000

Guatemala: Asociación de Mujeres JUNAJIL & ASOPROGAL - Women's Political empowerment in the Izabal department

\$1,729,537

Jamaica: The Bureau of Women's Affairs (BWA) & Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) - Jamaican Women Economic and Political Empowerment: The Way Out

\$200,000

Jamaica: Women's Media Watch, Jamaica - PowHERhouse!: Harnessing the power of media for women's political empowerment

\$3,048,086

Mexico: Equidad de Género - Strengthening Women's Political Participation and Promoting an Economic Empowerment Agenda

\$330,000

Trinidad and Tobago: Network of NGOs Trinidad and Tobago - Women's transformational political leadership at local and national levels in Trinidad and Tobago

\$355,000

Uruguay: Cotidiano Mujer - More women, better politics

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Africa

\$550,000

Ethiopia: Union of Ethiopian Women Charitable Associations (UEWCA) - Empowering of marginalized women and girls in Ethiopia to create equal access to decent work, markets, information, knowledge, skills

\$200,000

Guinea: Partenariat Recherches Environnement Médias (PREM) - Training in ecological economics in rural areas: Women's introduction to solar drying of agricultural products and sea in the Marine Protected Area of Tristao Islands in Guinea

\$420,000

Cote d'Ivoire: Organisation Nationale pour l'Enfant, la Femme et la Famille - Contribution to the economic empowerment of 100 rural women's groups in three west departments in Ivory Coast

\$3,000,000

Liberia: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Market Women's Fund (SMWF/US) - Women's Economic Empowerment and Development: Market Women Take the Lead

\$2,000,000

Rwanda: RCN Justice & Democratie and Haguruka - Beyond Raising Awareness: Shifting the Social Power Balance to Enable Women to Access Land

\$535,000

South Africa: Gender Links - At the Coalface: Gender and Local Economic Development in South Africa

\$220,000**South Africa:** Rural Women's Movement - Sisonke Rural Women's Empowerment Programme**\$200,000****Sudan:** Badya Centre for Integrated Development Services - Improving Women's Social and Economic Status in the Nuba Mountains Region of Sudan**\$450,000****Tanzania:** Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Consultancy Organization (KWIECO) - Women Economic Empowerment for Justice in Tanzania**\$200,000****Uganda:** Shelters and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network - Promoting Urban Poor Women's Housing and Property Rights in Uganda**\$200,000****Uganda:** Uganda Women Concern Ministry - Women Economic Empowerment in Uganda**\$200,000****Zimbabwe:** Basilwizi Trust - Binga Women Economic Empowerment Project (BWEPP)**\$410,000****Zimbabwe:** Ntengwe for Community Development - Promoting a Critical Mass and Light Houses for Women's Economic Empowerment in Binga District Matabeleland North Province in Zimbabwe

Arab States

\$200,000**Algeria:** Association of Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty and Exclusion, El Ghaith - Promoting Equality between Men and Women in the Rural Area of "Bourdj Bou Arreridj" for Human Social and Economic Development**\$2,400,000****Egypt:** Ministry of Manpower and Emigration and American University of Cairo- Social Research Centre - Salheya Initiative for Women's Economic Empowerment**\$325,000****Lebanon:** Amel Association - Promoting Access of Rural and Refugee Women to the Labor Market and Livelihood Opportunities**\$280,000****Lebanon:** Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon - Promoting Hima Women Empowerment for Conservation and Livelihood**\$260,000****Morocco:** Akhiam Association - Capacity Building of Women in the Eastern High Atlas, for Its Economic and Social Empowerment**\$545,000****Morocco:** National Institution for Solidarity with Women, INSAF - Training, Personal Development and Socio-Professional Integration of Single Mothers

Asia and the Pacific

\$200,000**Bangladesh:** Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity - Promote an Enabling Environment for Ethnic Hilly Women of Bangladesh to Access and Control Over Economic Resources**\$220,000****India:** Jan Sahas - Dignity Campaign - Action for Liberation of Dalit Manual Scavenger Women in India**\$405,000****Pakistan:** Thardeep - Economic Empowerment of Home Based Women Artisans in Tharparkar**\$200,000****Sri Lanka:** Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) - Economic empowerment of women in low income groups and the realization of their economic rights and gender equality**\$200,000****Viet Nam:** LIGHT - WE ARE WOMEN: A Rights-based Approach to Empowering Migrant Women in Viet Nam

Americas and the Caribbean

\$415,000**Argentina, Chile, Paraguay & Uruguay:** Fondo Mujeres del Sur and Fondo Alquimia - Constructing a Labor Rights Agenda for Women Working in Homes and Sewing Workshops in the Southern Cone**\$600,000****Brazil:** Angela Borba Fundo Elas & Themis - Domestic workers: building equality in Brazil**\$445,000****Brazil:** Instituto Promundo - Engaging women and men with gender transformative conditional cash transfer (CCT) programming**\$355,000****Costa Rica:** Sulá Batsú R.L. - TIC-as: Creating employment opportunities for women in the sector of information and communication technologies in Costa Rica**\$535,000****Peru, Guatemala, Argentina, Brazil:** CHIRAPAQ, Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú - Indigenous Women defend Mother Earth: Economic Rights and empowerment in Latin America**\$410,000****Peru:** Movimiento Manuela Ramos - Unpaid Work of Peruvian Women: Visualizing the gaps, compensating historical inequalities



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