



awid women's rights | **30** Years **2011**
Annual Report
Association for Women's Rights in Development


The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) is an international feminist, membership organization committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development, and women's human rights. AWID's mission is to strengthen the voice, impact, and influence of women's rights advocates, organizations, and movements internationally to effectively advance the rights of women.

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List of Acronyms

ADITAL	Fray Tito Information Agency for Latin America (<i>Agencia de Información Fray Tito para América Latina</i>)
ALAI	Latin American Information Agency (<i>Agencia Latinoamericana de Información</i>)
AWID	Association for Women's Rights in Development
BFEMO	Building Feminist Movements and Organizations
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CF	Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms
CFP	Call for Proposals
CREA	Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CWGL	Center for Women's Global Leadership
FF	Friday Files
HLEF-3	3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
HLEF-4	4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
IDeA	Influencing Development Actors and Practices for Women's Rights
IPC	International Planning Committee
IPS	Inter Press Service
JASS	Just Associates
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MI WHRD	Mesoamerican Initiative for Women Human Rights Defenders
NGO	Non Government Organization
NIS	New Independent States (12 countries of former Soviet Union except new Baltic States)
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RF	Religious Fundamentalisms
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SI	Strategic Initiative
SID	Society for International Development
UK DFID	UK Aid from the Department for International Development
UN	United Nations
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
WHRD IC	Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition
WITM	Where is the Money for Women's Rights?
WRI	Women's Rights Information
YFA	Young Feminist Activism
YFF	Young Feminist Fund



Message from the Board President

Dear colleagues,

Throughout 2011, as global citizens we were witness to tectonic shifts. All around us, women's rights are under threat from rising levels of violence and repression, increasing fundamentalisms, interlocked crises of a systemic nature and growing economic and livelihood insecurities and inequality. Amidst these crises were the dramatic events unfolding across the Middle East and North Africa with hundreds of thousands of people mobilizing to bring down autocratic regimes and demanding freedom and a better life. Women were often at the forefront of these struggles. While these revolutions presented tremendous opportunities and hope for women's rights advocates in many contexts, the "revolution" has been usurped by traditional and religious power holders who not only do not represent progress but are poised to abrogate existing women's rights. Compounded by the deepening public debt and economic crises in Europe and the USA that have been inadequately addressed by governments and multilateral institutions, these events have left untouched some of the structural causes of the crisis themselves, and as a result have seen thousands of people mobilize in close to 1,000 cities around the world to become a global movement of the 99%.

Within this changing global context, women's rights activists continue to be key in creating openings to press for and demand change, sustaining their communities, opposing violence and militarization and holding the line on key achievements. Over 2011, AWID stood in solidarity with women's movements and other socially progressive movements, in part by ensuring that these global trends would be centrally featured in the program of the 2012 AWID Forum "Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice". In 2011 we worked to ensure that the Forum in 2012 would be a unique opportunity to engage with a wide array of women's rights activists and organizations from the MENA region as well as other regions and key allies, and create space to strategize and build solidarity to chart a way forward.

In addition to the pre-Forum process, AWID's daily work is constantly framed within this shifting global context and its implication for women's rights and women's rights struggles. As you will read in this report, through our Strategic Initiatives (SIs) AWID convened meetings to engage in critical and strategic thinking on these pressing issues, strengthened our advocacy efforts, and sharpened our internal systems to best support our programmatic work.

Behind this hard work are the staff of AWID and Board of Directors as well as AWID's growing and increasingly diverse membership. As a member of AWID, you are part of one of the only international feminist membership organizations with members in all regions of the world so please spread the word and encourage your colleagues and networks to join AWID too.

Warmly,

Lina Abou-Habib,
President, Board of Directors

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Message from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues,

2011 was a unique year in AWID's organizational life cycle defined by being both a pre-Forum year as well as the second to last year in our current strategic plan. Looking back, one of the things we are most proud of is the alliance building undertaken to ensure key stakeholder groups participate and were meaningfully included at the 2012 AWID Forum. This outreach was crucial in ensuring the Forum was part of a collective effort to better understand, debate, and strategize around systemic economic and political issues that are hindering the advancement of women's rights worldwide, including the ongoing economic recession and public debt crisis, increased inequality, violence, conflict, militarism and cultural and religious fundamentalisms.

While programmatic and logistical Forum preparations advanced, the AWID team carried out an ambitious work plan that responded to the challenges posed to women's rights as a result of the global interlinked crises. Whether through promoting innovative monitoring and evaluation tools from a feminist perspective, broadly disseminating multilingual information to growing base of subscribers and information users; producing participatory research and resources to catalyze action to combat religious fundamentalisms and protect Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), or documenting alternative frameworks to aid and development "global blueprints", the feedback we received revealed that our work is appreciated and valued by actors both within and outside women's rights movements.

The following pages provide just a few key highlights of the work carried out by our Strategic Initiatives in 2011. You can learn more by following the links to our publications in the text or by visiting www.awid.org.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of AWID's staff and Board of Directors and express my solidarity with all of you, members, partners, and allies, who every day work to build world in which women's rights have been achieved and where all people enjoy their human rights.

In solidarity,

Lydia Alpízar Durán,
Executive Director



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About AWID

The Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) is an international, feminist, membership organization committed to achieving gender equality, sustainable development and women’s human rights. A dynamic network of women and men around the world, AWID members are researchers, academics, students, educators, activists, business people, policy-makers, development practitioners, funders, and more.

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Our mission: what we do

AWID's mission is to strengthen the voice, impact, and influence of women's rights advocates, organizations and movements internationally to effectively advance the rights of women.

Our vision: why we do it

AWID works to build a world where women's rights have been achieved and where all people enjoy their human rights.

Our values: what guides our work

- Our work is built upon feminist values toward the full equality of women and human rights of all people. This includes work towards the eradication of all discriminations based on gender, sexuality, religion, age, ability, ethnicity, language, nationality, class or other factors.
- We are committed to work as part of a movement to build our collective voice, power, and influence.
- We are committed to diversity and inclusion by bringing marginalized voices and perspectives to the table in the pursuit of human rights for all.
- In all our interactions we strive for transparency, responsible use of financial resources, fairness, accountability, and integrity.
- We will work independently from any political party, government, or religious institution.
- We will strive for excellence, while being creative, bold, and courageous.

Our outcomes: what we hope to achieve

In working with diverse partners, allies and our broader constituency, AWID seeks to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Stronger, better-resourced and more effective women's organizations and movements advancing women's rights and gender equality worldwide.
- Renewal and expansion of the agendas of women's movements internationally through infusion of ambitious, creative and future oriented ideas and issues, and stronger inter-connections, alliances, and partnerships among diverse expressions of women's organizing across regions and sectors.
- Stronger alliances between women's rights movements and other social movements to advance agendas in pursuit of human rights for all.
- Shifts in donor and development policy and practices for a greater financial and political commitment to gender equality and women's rights, including women's organizations.
- Greater inclusion of women's rights activists and organizations in key development policy spaces internationally (both in terms of presence and effective voice in influencing these spaces to advance gender equality).
- More visible, vocal and engaged young women in women's organizations and movements with young women's work clearly supported and highlighted, including across all AWID Strategic Initiatives (SIs).
- A more politically engaged and expanded AWID membership that includes increased representation from underrepresented regions or sectors.



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2011 Programmatic Achievements

In order to achieve our mission, AWID works through multi-year interconnected programs known as Strategic Initiatives (SIs). Each SI encompasses a variety of strategies including knowledge production and dissemination, action-research, advocacy, alliance building, and convening strategic dialogues.

AWID's Strategic Initiatives are:

- Where is the Money for Women's Rights? (WITM)
- Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms (CF)
- Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD)
- Building Feminist Movements and Organizations (BFEMO)
- Young Feminist Activism (YFA)
- Women's Rights Information (WRI)
- Influencing Development Actors and Practices for Women's Rights (IDeA)
- The AWID International Forum

On the following pages you will find highlights of some of the major accomplishments of each of AWID's SIs during 2011.

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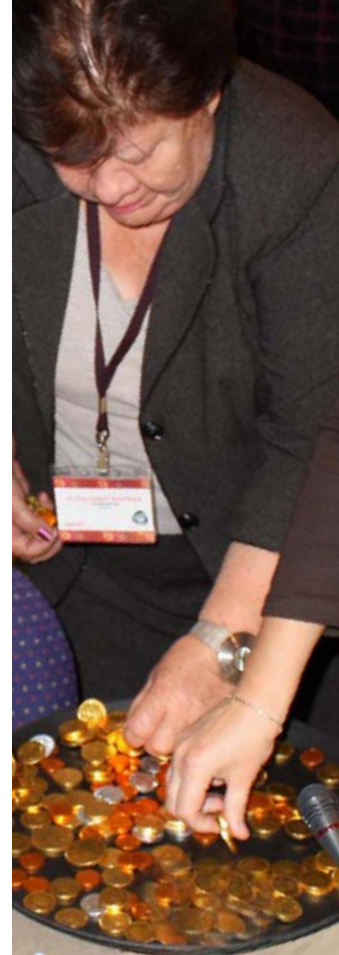
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2.1 Where is the Money for Women's Rights? (WITM)

Recognizing that financial resources are often necessary to make change happen and that many women's rights organizations are significantly underfunded, AWID launched the WITM SI in 2005. This initiative unites research with advocacy to respond to the urgent need to increase the amount and quality of funding for women's rights work.



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Global Research on Funding Trends for Women's Rights Organizing

In 2011, AWID carried out the fourth global survey “2011 AWID Global Survey: ‘Where is the Money for Women’s Rights?’” of women’s organizations around the world to gain further insight into their understandings and practices of resource mobilization. The survey was available in five languages (Arabic, English, French, Russian, and Spanish) and received the highest number of responses to date: a total of 1,119 organizations from over 140 countries. The preliminary research results present a diverse picture of the incomes of women’s organizations and their financial sustainability. The final research report, based on the survey and additional research on funding trends towards women’s organizations, will be released in 2013.

Strengthening Young Feminist Organizing: FRIDA – The Young Feminist Fund

The FRIDA Fund is an initiative that emerged from the 2008 AWID Forum to respond to the gap in funding available for organizations led by young feminists. Launched by AWID and the Central American Women’s Fund, FRIDA is a multigenerational collaboration and the only global women’s fund fully specialized in supporting young feminist organizations in all regions of the world, with a unique grant-making model based on collective decision-making.

The first round of FRIDA grant-making, launched with a multi-lingual call for proposals in December 2011, was met with an overwhelming response of almost 1,000 proposals, from 120 countries. FRIDA’s advisory committee narrowed down the proposals to the top 125 submissions and these were then voted on by the 125 finalists themselves to select 16 dynamic young feminist groups from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Caucuses and Central Asia. You can learn more about the inspiring work of the FRIDA grantees, in their own words [here](#).

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Visit [Where is the Money for Women’s Rights? web page](#) for the latest publications and information on this area of AWID’s work.

2.2 Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms (CF)

Religious fundamentalisms continue to be on the rise across regions and across religions with negative consequences for women's rights. AWID launched the CF SI in 2007 to strengthen the responses of women's rights activists, organizations and movements to this growing global threat.



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Research and Dissemination on the Impact of Religious Fundamentalisms on Women's Rights

Towards a Future without Fundamentalisms: Analyzing religious fundamentalist strategies and feminist responses

Launched in February 2011 and written by Cassandra Balchin, this publication represents four-years of research action work and is a key contribution to knowledge on the strategies religious fundamentalists use to influence society and politics, and feminist strategies to resist and challenge them.

Key Learning from Feminists on the Frontline: Summaries of case studies on resisting and challenging fundamentalisms

Published in 2011, this anthology contains the key learnings and eighteen case study summaries which draw from a range of religious and geographical contexts, and cover various fields of activism. This inspiring collection is a testament to the women and men all over the world who have the courage and determination to defy discriminatory norms and values imposed in the name of religion. The full case studies, published in 2010, are available [here](#).

International Strategy Meeting on Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms

Held in Istanbul, Turkey in September 2011 this three-day meeting brought together 29 women's rights, human rights and youth activists from 20 countries from diverse regions of the world. The meeting encouraged a highly participatory format with participants shaping the meeting and contributing to the content. They worked collaboratively to map out key trends and challenges across regions and sectors, further the context analysis on religious fundamentalisms, share learnings and future plans, and develop joint strategies to resist the negative impacts of religious fundamentalisms for women's rights.

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Visit [Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms web page](#) for the latest publications and information on this area of AWID's work.

2.3 Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD)

Violence against Women Human Rights Defenders is increasing around the world. Since 2010, AWID has responded to the context of increasing violence against activists through our WHRD SI by raising awareness of violations of the rights of WHRDs; strengthening mechanisms for their protection; and contributing to more gender-responsive and effective responses to WHRDs at risk.



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Taking Action to Support WHRDs at Risk

In 2011 AWID wrote 66 letters condemning governments' inaction or appealing to international human rights bodies to support particular WHRDs. AWID also advocated on specific cases of WHRDs being persecuted, such as an Iranian women's rights activist who was arrested shortly after participating in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2011. AWID collaborated with the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD IC), Nobel Women's Initiative, Amnesty International, Front Line Defenders, and AIDOS to demand her immediate and unconditional release. She was released on bail in September 2011 but unfortunately still faces charges.

Advocacy at the United Nations Human Rights Council

In an effort to raise the visibility of the worsening situation for WHRDs in Mesoamerica, AWID accompanied a small delegation of WHRDs from Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala to the 17th session of the UN Human Rights Council meetings to present information about the serious deterioration of respect for rights in the region. As part of this, AWID organized a side event that included the participation of the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders, and worked with the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD IC) to present statements during the UNHRC meetings as well as organizing a series of meetings between the WHRD delegation with Special Procedures and relevant national desks of the office of the High Commission for Human Rights.

Mesoamerican Initiative of WHRDs

The Mesoamerican Initiative for WHRDs (MI WHRD) is a network of solidarity and urgent response to deal with cases of violence against WHRDs in Mexico and Central America. This collaborative network inspired the creation of three subsequent national networks of WHRDs in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras—all are using the model of regional networking, national coordination, and responses to confront and protect themselves from violence and thus strengthen their security, protection and networks. An important component of the initiative is to promote reflection and practices in collective self-care and integrated security, to address fear and reduce the impact of situations of violence and violations of WHRDs' rights. In May 2011, a Steering Group for the MI WHRD was formally created, including the conveners of the WHRD meeting held in 2010 in Oaxaca, Mexico, and three new organizations. AWID is one of the members of the Steering Group, along with JASS, Consorcio Oaxaca (Mexico), UDEFEGUA (Guatemala), the Central American Women's Fund, and Colectiva Feminista (El Salvador).

Building knowledge on WHRDs

List of Materials and Resources for Women Human Rights Defenders

Launched in January 2011, this compilation lists research materials dealing with the security and protection of women human rights defenders, resources that women activists can consult concerning their wellbeing and self-care, manuals dealing with how to document and monitor violations of women's rights, as well as manuals on the rights and mechanisms available to women human rights defenders at risk.

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Urgent Responses For Women Human Rights Defenders At Risk: Mapping and preliminary assessment

Launched in June 2011, this publication was produced in conjunction with the WHRD IC and has been translated into Spanish, French, Russian, and Arabic and presents responses for WHRDs at risk from a broad range of human rights organizations operating at the international, regional, and national level and groups with varying thematic priorities, including those working on women's rights, human rights, and sexual orientation.

Assessment of Violence against WHRDs in Mesoamerica: 2010-2011 Update

AWID also contributed substantively to the *Assessment of Violence against WHRDs in Mesoamerica: 2010-2011 Update*, published in May 2011. This is an update to the first assessment conducted in 2010, which analyzed the trends in the region affecting WHRDs and typified the types of violence, perpetrators, and vulnerable groups of WHRDs in the region. As part of the Steering Committee of the MI WHRDs, AWID contributed to the drafting of the assessment and was responsible for its translation to English. The 2010 *Assessment*, to which AWID also contributed, was taken up by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders for her 2010 Annual Report focusing on WHRDs.

URGENT RESPONSES
HUMAN RIGHTS

MAPPING and
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

By Inmaculada Barcia, AWID Consultant
Women Human Rights Defenders International
June 2011

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Visit [Women Human Right Defenders web page](#) for the latest publications and information on this area of AWID's work.



2.4 Building Feminist Movements and Organizations (BFEMO)

BFEMO works to produce research and resources to support women's organizations and movements to be more sustainable and effective. A strong organizational core is crucial to advance feminist agendas and build resilience in the face of external threats and to challenge patriarchal norms and power relations. BFEMO synthesizes the rich experiences of women's rights activists and organizations from the global South and North and integrates cutting edge research in the production of our resources and tools, largely through participatory methodologies.

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Building Knowledge on M&E

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation for Women's Rights: Twelve insights for donors

Launched in February 2011, this publication presents insights into the importance of developing more effective monitoring and evaluation systems for those engaged in women's rights and empowerment work at the grassroots, national, regional, and global levels. These insights are intended to be of use to the larger community of donors who support gender equality work.

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation for Women's Rights: Thirteen insights for women's organizations

This publication presents key insights into how women's rights organizations and movements can strengthen their capacity to track and assess the contribution of their organizations and interventions. These thirteen insights stem from AWID's intensive research into the challenges faced by women's organizations in effectively monitoring and evaluating women's rights work, and the ways to enhance the collective capacity to assess the influence and impact of such work. Recognizing that many organizations fighting for women's rights are working within significant resource, staffing and capacity constraints, we offer these insights as ideas, possibilities and approaches from which organizations can choose, adapting those that seem most relevant, useful, and above all, feasible, given their particular contexts.

M&E Compendium

The compendium analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of a wide range of assessment frameworks in a wiki. The M&E Wiki is a central site where knowledge and learning on M&E is shared between women's organizations, donors, and practitioners working on gender equality and women's rights. The wiki is being widely used in many universities and development organizations, such as UK DFID which has distributed it to all its offices.

Visit [Building Feminist Movements and Organizations web page](#) for the latest publications and information on this area of AWID's work.

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation for Women's Rights: Thirteen Insights for Women's Organizations

By Srilatha Batliwala

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2.5 Young Feminist Activism (YFA)

AWID's YFA work aims to ensure the voices of young women are heard and reflected in feminist activism and discourse, that young feminists have better access to funding, capacity-building opportunities and networks, and that they play a role in decision-making affecting their rights. In addition to supporting young women directly, AWID works with women's rights activists of all ages on practical models and strategies for multi-generational organizing.

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The Young Feminist Wire

Through its online platform, *The Young Feminist Wire*, YFA disseminates the latest news and resources by, about, and for young women. It offers capacity-building opportunities, as well as fostering networking and debate among young feminist activists. The Wire also seeks to promote effective multigenerational feminist activism with a special section for allies who want to learn more about young women's organizing and stay connected to the work of young women. Blogging through The Wire has allowed a diversity of young feminist to reflect on news and events impacting on young women such as the story of 'Amina Arraf' — a hoax identity of a young woman lesbian blogger living in Syria. The blogging and coverage of this story allowed a large number of young women to contribute to and engage with a prominent debate on the pros and cons of social media and their impact on socio-political debates and realities. The Wire received 10,000 views during this time.

E-Learning Sessions

The e-learning sessions is an initiative started by the YFA SI using the Young Feminist Wire. The series of e-learning sessions hosted over the course of the year covered themes such as resource mobilization, movement building and feminist leadership, and religious fundamentalisms. The series provided access to resources and capacity building opportunities and were well attended by participants who work in women's rights or human rights organizations from diverse regions including, South-East Asia and the Middle East, Western Europe and North America, as well as Sub-Saharan Africa.

Visit [Young Feminist Activism web page](#) for the latest publications and information on this area of AWID's work.



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2.6 Women’s Rights Information (WRI)

AWID believes that providing information is fundamental to building understanding of the trends affecting women’s rights, setting agendas, and amplifying the voices and perspectives of diverse forms of organizing of women from around the world. AWID’s WRI SI produces and sources a wide range of women’s rights information in English, Spanish, and French. News, interviews, analysis, job announcements, new resources, events, and urgent appeals are disseminated through the AWID website, social media, and e-newsletters.

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AWID's Friday Files (FFs)

AWID provides a feminist lens and analysis on current global events through our weekly Friday Files (FFs). During 2011, the FFs covered a range of issues including women's rights and armed conflict in Colombia, indigenous women's organizing in Latin America, the political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, what the secession of South Sudan means for women in the newly formed country, elections, electoral laws and the family code in Nigeria, Tunisia and Mali, the popular uprisings in the MENA region, and the changes the Maputo Protocol has brought for women in Africa. FFs were produced on women's rights in SEE/CEE/CIS, with the aim of increasing knowledge on women's rights in this under-represented region, including women's rights in Chechnya, media advocacy and the arts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, LGBT rights in Moldova, women with disabilities in Uzbekistan and pro-natalism in Eastern Europe.

Information Sharing and Dissemination

The WRI SI shares the latest women's rights announcements, new resources, events, urgent actions, calls for participation and jobs through www.awid.org and our weekly e-newsletters in English (Resource-Net Jobs, Resource-Net Announcements), French (*Carrefour*) and Spanish (*Enlaces*), as well as through Facebook and Twitter.



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Visit [Women's Rights Information web page](#) for the latest information on this area of AWID's work.



2.7 Influencing Development Actors and Practices for Women's Rights (IDeA)

The IDeA SI aims to contribute to advancing feminist understandings and action on the relationship between development and women's rights issues. The initiative has been working to produce and disseminate knowledge on development issues, with special emphasis on women's perspectives; to support advocacy actions and alliance building to influence development policy and practices; and to contribute to the mobilization of women's organizations and groups on development discussions and key policy processes.

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Feminist Perspectives Towards Transforming Economic Power

In preparation for the 2012 AWID International Forum, IDeA produced a series of publications entitled: *Feminist Perspectives Towards Transforming Economic Power*. The series shares experiences from the ground, testimonies from diverse groups of women, and provides analysis on alternative and transformative visions and practices of development. Written by Pamela Caro from CEDEM-Chile, with contributions from Via Campesina's women's groups in Latin America (CLOC) and ANAMURI-Chile, the first brief in this series explores the peasants' movement vision of food sovereignty and peasant's rights. This innovative work was shared broadly by other organizations including the International Land Coalition, ALAI, ADITAL, and the SDC Gendernetwork. The second, *Agroecology: Exploring opportunities for women's empowerment* based on experiences from Brazil focuses on lessons learned from rural women in Brazil from projects led by ActionAid-Brazil partners dealing with sustainable ecological production for women's economic empowerment.

Exploring Feminist Analyses and Proposals towards Economic Justice Meeting

As a follow-up to the work on the impact of the crisis on women that started in 2009 and in preparation for a special issue of the *SID Journal* on Development Alternatives (to be launched in mid-2012), in collaboration with the Society for International Development (SID), the IDeA team organized a meeting on "Exploring Feminist Analyses and Proposals towards Economic Justice" at Rutgers University (hosted by the Center for Women's Global Leadership) October 5-7, 2011. The meeting gathered close to ten well known feminist economists and activists from different regions and backgrounds to analyze the post-2008 global scenario and implications for advancing economic justice and to explore feminist proposals to transform economic power for gender justice. Meeting participants reflected on a two year work process on the analysis on the crisis with AWID and as a follow up of this relationship they will be contributing authors to the special edition of the *SID Development* journal, presenting draft articles at the 2012 AWID Forum and finalizing them based on forum debates and inputs.

Mapping on Economic Literacy

Also in preparation for the 2012 AWID Forum, and with the aim of building knowledge on the connections between the economy and women's rights, AWID carried out a mapping of economic education/literacy opportunities in order to identify organizations involved in capacity building and economic literacy. The mapping was developed with inputs from the International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN LAC); Red de Educación Popular entre Mujeres (REPEM); Karat Coalition; WIDE; Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP); Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA); Centre for Women's Global Leadership and United Methodist Women. It provided the basis with which to establish the necessary alliances to advance the goals of the Forum. AWID conducted a thorough investigation in which 300 web pages were visited and analyzed and 62 projects were selected, from civil society organizations (38), academic and training institutions (11) and intergovernmental organizations (13). The results showed that economic education geared toward women's rights actors have disappeared or reduced in size.



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4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan

As part of our work to influence the aid and development effectiveness process from a women's rights perspective, AWID was engaged in the preparations for the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) taking place in Busan, South Korea and the civil society mobilizations led by BetterAid. AWID participated in the BetterAid Coordinating Group as co-chair and built on the experiences from the Accra HLF-3 (2008) by contributing to the mobilization of women's organizations on the road to Busan. Together with key allies including Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Coordinadora de la Mujer-Bolivia, the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) and WIDE Network, and supported by UN Women and our core donors, AWID worked to articulate a feminist vision of development cooperation and to influence the Busan process and its outcome from that perspective. GenderNet has also been an important ally in the work of AWID and other women's organizations on the development effectiveness agenda. As part of this collective effort, AWID also made substantial contributions to the overall CSO preparation process towards HLF4 and this culminated in the publication of *Key Demands from Women's Rights Organizations and Gender Equality Advocates*. This document became the key advocacy paper used by women's rights advocates in the process. In collaboration with the other women's organizations active in the Better Aid platform, AWID succeeded in convening and mobilizing a broad array of women's organizations that followed and engaged in a process, to develop clear demands from a gender perspective with regard to the aid and development effectiveness agenda.

AWID participated in the Busan Global CSO Forum, Global Busan Women's Forum and the official HLF-4. AWID co-convened the Global Busan Women's Forum and contributed to the resulting Global Women's Forum political statement. The statement stresses the necessity to move beyond aid effectiveness towards human rights-based development cooperation as a new framework for international solidarity. AWID also played a role in the drafting of the Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development. These efforts resulted in the inclusion of specific language in the official Draft Outcome document with regards to gender equality and empowerment.

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Visit [Influencing Development Actors and Practices for Women's Rights web page](#) for the latest publications and information on this area of AWID's work.

2.8 The AWID International Forum

The AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development is the largest recurring event of its kind, bringing together women's rights leaders, donors, development practitioners, and grassroots activists from around the world every three to four years to debate, strategize, network, celebrate, and learn. For AWID, the Forum responds to the urgent need to promote stronger and improved participation and action by women's rights advocates, organizations, and movements.



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Call for Proposals

During 2011, we advanced plans for the most ambitious and diverse AWID Forum to date. The Call for Proposals (CFP) closed in June 2011 with just over 800 diverse submissions in five languages from 98 countries including from advocates and organizations from other social movements as well as women's rights movements. The sessions were reviewed by a team of AWID staff and through a dual grading process a shortlist of 350 proposals were selected and further narrowed down to 158 proposals by the International Planning Committee (IPC), Program Sub-Committee and again by the entire IPC to 96 sessions. A final list of 112 sessions was selected, including six from groups in Turkey.

Meeting of the Forum International Planning Committee

The second meeting of the IPC (July 2011) was convened with great success and enthusiasm with 38 of the total 41 IPC members attending the meeting in Istanbul. There was a high level of integration and engagement by the IPC members along with substantive contributions to the framing of the Forum program. The IPC reviewed session proposals selected by the Program Sub-Committee and also flagged session proposals for consideration as other 2012 AWID Forum sessions and identified key themes needed as 'gap filler' sessions. It provided the team with useful suggestions for 2012 AWID Forum plenaries, strategizing sessions, the economic education tent, and priority themes for economic skills building.

2012 AWID Forum Website

The 2012 AWID Forum website was launched in April 2011 in English, French, Spanish, Turkish, and Arabic. In addition to logistics information, the website provided thematic background resources to help participants and other interested groups to explore the links between the 2012 AWID Forum theme of economic power and a range of women's rights issues such as violence against women.

Outreach and Alliance Building

Throughout the year, AWID staff also reached out to diverse social movements to encourage them to participate in the 2012 AWID Forum and to identify strategic links between their work and the AWID Forum theme. By the end of 2011, a diverse array of activists from sex workers, migrant women's groups and labour rights groups to economic justice groups, environmental justice activists and women with disabilities, were preparing for the 2012 AWID Forum and we were on track to reach the highest-ever levels of registration.

Visit the [2012 AWID Forum website](#) for the latest information on this area of AWID's work.

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3. Membership

AWID believes that change to advance women’s rights and gender equality takes place by building collective power, when women organize and mobilize together to push for changes at local, national and international levels. This belief and commitment to building collective power drives our programmatic strategies and is tied to our identity as a membership organization.

3.1 Who Are Our Members?

AWID members come from 130 countries and are researchers, academics, students, educators, activists, business people, policy-makers, development practitioners, funders, and more. They are not only a large network of feminist activists and organizations around the globe, but also a part of the global women’s movement.

Browse our [interactive map](#) for more information on the location of our membership.

Visit [AWID Membership web page](#) for more information.



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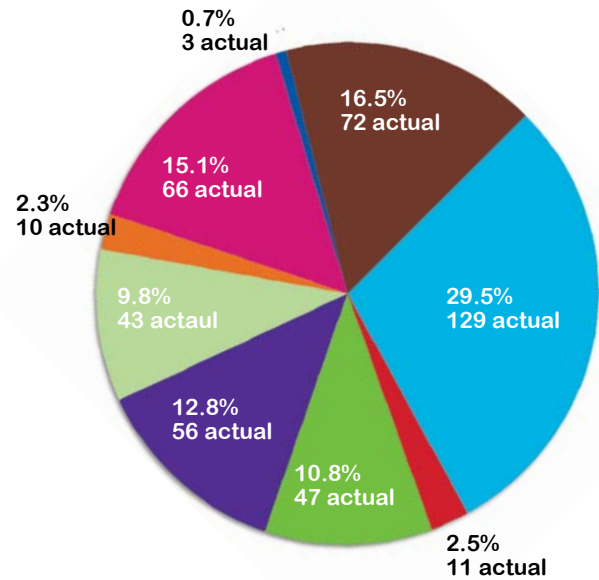
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2011 Membership Breakdown per region

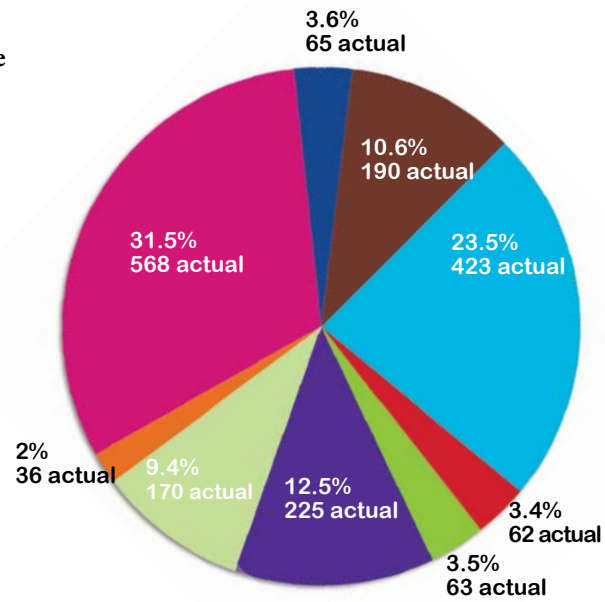
AWID's Institutional Membership, 2011

Region	Actual Numbers	Percentage
Africa (incl. North Africa)	129	29.5%
East Asia	11	2.5%
Central and Eastern Europe and NIS...	47	10.8%
Western Europe	56	12.8%
Latin America and the Caribbean	43	9.8%
Middle East	10	2.3%
North America	66	15.1%
Pacific	3	0.7%
South Asia	72	16.5%
TOTAL	437	



AWID's Individual Membership, 2011

Region	Actual Numbers	Percentage
Africa (incl. North Africa)	423	23.5%
East Asia	62	3.4%
Central and Eastern Europe and NIS...	63	3.5%
Western Europe	225	12.5%
Latin America and the Caribbean	170	9.4%
Middle East	36	2%
North America	568	31.5%
Pacific	65	3.6%
South Asia	190	10.6%
TOTAL	1,802	



3.2 Membership Feedback

AWID members value the support, resources, and solidarity provided by being part of a global membership community.

“We are so happy feel the power, having Institutional membership with AWID. The regular updates of AWID’s newsletter, is really a great use to all of us working at grassroots level and regional level- to understand various issues that are coming up time to time in the women’s movement. Hence it’s becoming easy to us to understand and assess our own region’s specific challenges while working on the issues of women and girls.”—Sumitra Makkapati, Ankuram, Institutional Member, India

“Thank you so much for the updates and newsletter. I will read through them. I also know that I will learn a lot from the information that you have given thank you.”—Lucia Mbofana, Zimbabwe

“I’m so pleased to be a part of your organization. I’m as proud as you are proud of your members. Thank you for the gratitude letter you sent to me from Canada. ...I’m so touched to have your badge (or emblem).”—Ruhyye Mahmudova, Azerbaijan

“Many thanks indeed. It is an honor for me to become member of such a valuable forum.”—Tahira Noor, Pakistan

“Thank you for the warm welcome, I really appreciate. I am happy to be a member of such a great women’s organization. I look forward to learning a lot and sharing information.”—Hannah Ondiek, Kenya.

“I would like to seize this opportunity to deeply thank you and thank the amazing AWID team for sharing the CD that compiled AWID resources 2006-2010. The CD will constitute a wonderful added value to ABAAD library!”
—ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality, Institutional Member, Lebanon

“Dear AWID sisters, Thank you for accepting our membership to the AWID community. We look forward to the meaningful exchanges.”—Marjo Busto, Secretariat, Asian Rural Women’s Coalition

“Congratulations on your website! It is very clear and welcoming!”—Laure-Hélène Laissue, Switzerland

“Thank you very much for the AWID Encounters bulletin we congratulate you on this initiative to keep your Spanish speaking members informed.”—Centro de Mujeres Aymaras Candelaria, Institutional Member, Bolivia.



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AWID gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of our funding partners who believe in building strong women's movements to advance women's rights and gender equality worldwide.

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Funder	Amount in USD
Swedish International Development Agency	1,364,425
MDG3 Fund	1,033,073
Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos)	475,000
Foundation Stichting Oxfam Novib	241,951
Anonymous Contributor	225,000
The Ford Foundation	175,000
CORDAID	160,000
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	150,000
UN Women	120,000
Contributed Services	64,062
Global Fund for Women	60,000
Interest	30,932
Levi Strauss Foundation	30,000
Open Society Institute	25,000
Sales and Donations	25,000
Memberships	14,845
Total Contributions	4,194,288

Expenses 2011	Amount in USD
Influencing Development Actors and Practice for Women's Rights (IDeA)	737,078
AWID Forum	722,927
Women's Rights Information	549,428
Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms	442,186
Where is the Money for Women's Rights?	427,087
Building Feminist Movements and Organizations/ Young Feminist Activism	364,654
Women's Human Rights Defenders	171,620
Management and General	555,868
Fundraising	142,326
Foreign Exchange Loss	35,338
Total Expenses	4,148,511

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5. Board of Directors and Staff

Board of Directors

Lina Abou-Habib—Board President 2011-2012
(Collective for Research and Training-Action, Lebanon)

Lydia Alpízar—Executive Director of AWID, Costa Rica and Mexico

Marilyn Waring—Treasurer, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Natasha L. Primo—Secretary, City of Cape Town, South Africa

Saida Ali—Young Women's Leadership Institute, Kenya

Fatima Burnad—Society for Rural Education and Development (SRED)

Sindi Médar-Gould—Women's Learning Partnership, Nigeria

Tarcila Rivera Zea—Chirapaq, Peru

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz—Tebtebba Foundation – Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research & Education, Philippines

Sarah Costa—Women's Refugee Commission, USA

Undarya Tumursukh—MONFEMNET, Mongolia

Monika Ladmanova—International Gender Policy Network, Czech Republic

To Tjoelker—Netherlands Embassy, Mali

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Staff

Lydia Alpizar—Executive Director, Sao Paulo

Diana Aguiar—Advocacy Associate, IDEa, Rio de Janeiro

Cecilia Alemany—Senior Advocacy Associate, IDEa, Montevideo

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Angelika Arutyunova—Manager, WITM, San Francisco

Meghan Babin—Assistant, IT, Toronto

Srilatha Batliwala—Associate Scholar, BFEMO, Bangalore

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Natalia Cardona—Constituency Engagement Manager, Philadelphia

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Ani Colekessian—Executive Assistant, Toronto

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Gabriela de Cicco—Coordinator (Spanish), WRI, Rosario

Verónica Delgado—Office Administrator, Mexico City

Rona Donefer—Resource Development Coordinator, Toronto

Sandra Dughman Manzur—Program Associate, CF, Toronto

Valentín Ermita Figueroa—Administrative Assistant, Mexico City

Shareen Gokal—Manager, CF, Toronto

Lina Gomez—Manager, Forum and Events, Toronto

Melanie Gorka—Program Assistant, Forum and Events, Toronto

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Lejla Medanhodzic—Program Associate, Membership and Constituency Engagement, Berlin

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