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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFF</td>
<td>African Feminist Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>APC</td>
<td>Association for Progressive Communications</td>
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<td>ANAMURI</td>
<td>Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas (National Association of Rural and Indigenous Women)</td>
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<td>AWID</td>
<td>Association for Women’s Rights in Development</td>
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<td>BACG</td>
<td>BetterAid Coordinating Group</td>
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<td>BFEMO</td>
<td>Building Feminist Movements and Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAWF</td>
<td>Central American Women's Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDD</td>
<td>Catolicas por el Derecho a Decidir (Catholics for the Right to Choose)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDEM</td>
<td>Centro de Estudios para el desarrollo de la mujer (Study Center for Women's Development)</td>
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<td>CF</td>
<td>Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms</td>
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<td>CSW</td>
<td>Commission on the Status of Women</td>
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<td>CREA</td>
<td>Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action</td>
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<td>CTW</td>
<td>Changing their World</td>
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<td>DCF</td>
<td>Development Cooperation Forum</td>
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<td>DFM</td>
<td>Dutch Foreign Ministry</td>
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<td>FLOW</td>
<td>Fund for Leadership Opportunities for Women</td>
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<td>GEAR</td>
<td>Gender Equality Architecture Reform</td>
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<td>IAMAMC</td>
<td>Instituto de Apoyo al Movimiento Autónomo de Mujeres Campesinas (Institute to Support the Autonomous Peasant Women's Movement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDeA</td>
<td>Influencing Development Actors and Practices for Women's Rights</td>
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<td>IAFFE</td>
<td>International Association for Feminist Economics</td>
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<td>IFOR-WPP</td>
<td>International Fellowship of Reconciliation—Women Peacemakers Program</td>
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<td>IGLHRC</td>
<td>International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>International Lesbian and Gay Association</td>
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<td>INWF</td>
<td>International Network of Women's Funds</td>
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<td>IPC</td>
<td>International Planning Committee</td>
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<td>ISHR</td>
<td>International Service for Human Rights</td>
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<td>JASS</td>
<td>Just Associates</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBTQI</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>MENA</td>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
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<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
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<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<td>SI</td>
<td>Strategic Initiatives</td>
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<td>SEE/CEE/CIS</td>
<td>South Eastern Europe, Central Eastern Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNIFEM</td>
<td>United Nations Development Fund for Women</td>
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<td>WIEGO</td>
<td>Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing</td>
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<td>WITM</td>
<td>Where is the Money for Women's Rights?</td>
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<td>WHRD</td>
<td>Women Human Rights Defenders</td>
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<td>WHRDIC</td>
<td>Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition</td>
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<td>Women's Human Rights Education Institute</td>
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<td>WWG on FfD</td>
<td>Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development</td>
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<td>YFA</td>
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Message from the President

Dear colleagues,

As a long time feminist and member of AWID, I am honoured to serve as AWID’s Board President at this exciting moment for the organization.

As we near the end of AWID’s current strategic plan, our members, donors, partners, and allies continue to affirm the value of the role that we play as an international feminist membership organization. AWID is privileged to be uniquely positioned to strengthen the voice, impact, and influence of women’s rights advocates, organizations, and movements and therefore, make valuable contributions towards the advancement of women’s rights around the world.

Throughout 2010, AWID continued to produce information, convene important meetings, strengthen our advocacy efforts, and sharpen our internal systems to best support our programmatic work. We made significant progress in setting the ground for all the intense 2012 AWID Forum preparatory work and increased our staff capacity for the coming year.

At the same time, we were challenged to respond to changes in the external context. Faced with the disaster in Haiti, the ongoing negative impact of the global systemic crisis on women and women’s rights, and increasing violence against women’s human rights defenders in diverse settings, AWID has sought to strengthen women’s organizing and contribute to movement building through the production of cutting edge feminist analysis, convening diverse actors, and advocating in key policy making spaces.

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.

On behalf of AWID’s Board and staff I would also like to acknowledge the important contribution of outgoing Board President Brigid Inder, who provided strong leadership and tireless commitment towards the advancement of women’s rights and gender equality as AWID’s president from 2008-2010 and continues to do so within her ongoing work as Executive Director of the Women’s Initiative for Gender Justice.

Warmly,

Lina Abou-Habib,
President, Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to share with you AWID’s 2010 Annual Report with highlights of another important and busy year for AWID. In the following pages, I invite you to read about how we are translating our vision and mission into strategies and activities, undertaken in collaboration with our members, partners, and allies, to advance women’s rights and gender equality worldwide.

In 2010, our work continued to grow in visibility both within and outside of women’s rights movements. Whether on resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation systems, producing and disseminating multilingual information, building knowledge on religious fundamentalisms, aid and development effectiveness, or convening key strategy meetings, we are heartened to learn that the work we do is trusted and appreciated, and our contributions are valued.

As 2010 progressed, we witnessed a number of deeply concerning events with major impacts on human rights and women’s rights in particular. Israel’s violent attack on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla on May 31, 2010, the increasing violence in Mexico and Central America, which has left diverse women human rights defenders constantly under threat, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti as a result of the earthquake (now out of the media spotlight), the floods in Pakistan, and the violence being waged against ethnic Uzbeks in southern Kyrgyzstan were a painful reminder that in times of crisis, it is women and children’s rights that are most commonly violated.

In response to these crises, feminist and women’s organizations around the world mobilized in powerful ways to support each other, build solidarity to bring an end to violence and contribute to rebuilding their communities and countries. As AWID, we worked with our members and sister organizations to share information, create spaces for dialogue, advocate with key institutions, and mobilize resources as part of these solidarity efforts.

2010 also saw some important positive developments including the creation of the new, long-awaited United Nations gender equality entity—UN Women—and the appointment of Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, as Under-Secretary General to lead the agency, creating much hope for the potential of this new UN agency as a champion of our agendas.

Within this changing global context, AWID carried out a number of important activities to advance our mission, including the launch of the Young Feminist Wire, the organizing of a strategy meeting on Resource Mobilization for Women’s Rights Organizations and Movements in the SEE/CEE/CIS Regions, held in Tbilisi, Georgia, and the creation of new resources on the impact of the crisis on women, monitoring and evaluation, women human rights defenders, and religious fundamentalisms.
2010 was also marked by important preparations for the next AWID International Forum to be held from April 19–22, 2010 in Istanbul Turkey on “Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice.” You can learn more about the 2012 Forum in this report and by visiting the 2012 Forum website.

It is very important to acknowledge the dedication of AWID’s staff and Board of Directors, as they take on the responsibility to advance AWID’s mission. I would also like to share my solidarity and respect for all of you, members, partners, and allies, who every day work hard towards a world in which women’s rights have been achieved and where all people enjoy their human rights.

In solidarity,
Lydia Alpízar Durán,
Executive Director

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, policymakers, development practitioners, funders, and more.
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 believes that women’s rights are not only necessary in and of themselves, but that they are central to ending the challenges the world faces today. Eradicating poverty, building peace, effectively tackling the HIV and AIDS pandemics, to name just a few—no lasting solutions to these issues are possible without a strategy that puts women’s rights at the centre. AWID works to build a world where women’s rights have been achieved and where all people enjoy their human rights.

Our values: the principles that guide 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 achieve the following outcomes by the end of our 2006–2012 Strategic Plan:

- 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 initiatives.
- A more politically engaged and expanded AWID membership that includes increased representation from underrepresented regions or sectors.
2010 Programmatic Achievements

In order to achieve our mission and goals, AWID works through multi-year interconnected programs known as Strategic Initiatives (SI). 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 summaries of the major accomplishments of each of AWID’s SIs during 2010. Along with activity highlights, we include a brief analysis of the impact of our initiatives as well as reflections from our members and partners that further illustrate the relevance of AWID’s work and its connection to broader women’s rights movements. We include the links to our recent publications on www.awid.org so you can access more in-depth information on the issues we address.

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

AWID recognizes that movements without resources cannot be sustained and that there is an urgent need for women’s rights organizations and movements to access more resources on better terms and to transform their relationship to funding. To respond to this need, the WITM initiative undertakes innovative research, produces and disseminates information on funding trends, works towards strengthening alliances among women’s rights organizations and with donors, and convenes regional resource mobilization strategy meetings.
Research and Dissemination on Funding Trends for Women’s Rights Work

Since 2004, the WITM SI has been producing groundbreaking research on funding trends for gender equality and women’s organizing as well as monitoring the funding landscape for women’s organizations worldwide. Our FundHer Reports constitute a strong advocacy tool for obtaining more and better resources for women’s rights organizations around the world and have also been used by some donors to internally advocate for increased resource allocations to gender equality and women’s rights.

In 2010, we updated our analysis of the current global context and its impact on funding for women’s organizations and identified key trends influencing the funding landscape for women’s organizing. You can access the results of our research in the following two publications in English, French, and Spanish:

- **Context and Trends Influencing the Funding Landscape for Gender Equality and Women’s Organizations & Movements**
- **Trends in Bilateral and Multilateral Funding**

This publication draws some preliminary conclusions as to how women’s organizations are faring in the context of the inter-connected financial, economic, and environmental crises and highlights key challenges and opportunities for resource mobilization for women’s organizing. A situation of systemic crisis increases the pressures on civil society organizations and donors alike to respond, to alleviate negative impacts on their constituencies, and to propose real development alternatives for the medium and longer term.

**FundHer Reports**

This brief presents some major trends in gender equality funding for civil society organizations from bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as a more detailed look at some of the donors and specific funds that are providing significant support for women’s organizing.

It also explores how the current financial crisis and economic recession are impacting Official Development Assistance (ODA) levels and donor priorities, and what this context means in terms of available resources for women’s organizations.

Feedback from partners and allies has been overwhelmingly positive, stressing how useful our research publications have been in raising awareness of the challenges and opportunities that women’s organizations face when looking for resources for the work they do. Many women’s rights advocates mention our FundHer Reports as a tool that has helped them to think more strategically when fundraising for their organizations.

“...The idea for The Rita Fund grew out of the report “Where is the Money for Women’s Rights?” by the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID). The report analyzes the funding landscape and the challenges facing women’s rights organizations. The Rita Fund strives to respond to the “funding gap” detailed in AWID’s report, by creating a reliable, non-restrictive funding source for women’s funds operating worldwide.” (Source: http://theritafund.org/about/background/)

**WIT at 54th CSW**

AWID collaborated with the Dutch government, Hivos and Mama Cash to co-host a side event at the 54th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in March 2010. The panel discussion entitled: “Do you see the opportunity? How governments can successfully invest in women’s empowerment and gender equality,” featured a variety of speakers, with AWID presenting our latest research on the funding landscape, trends, challenges, and opportunities for women’s rights work. Over 100 attendees shared appreciation of the MDG3 Fund and the Spanish-funded UNIFEM Fund for Gender Equality and recognized the pressing need for other donors to support similar funding mechanisms.

**Regional Strategy Meeting: Resource Mobilization for Women’s Rights Organizations and Movements in the SEE/CEE/CIS Regions**

Held in Tbilisi, Georgia in October 2010, this three-day meeting marked an important step forward in AWID’s engagement with the regions of South Eastern Europe, Central Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (SEE/CEE/CIS). AWID co-convened this meeting in collaboration with Mama Cash, Global Fund for Women, and several women’s funds from the region (all members of the International Network of Women’s Funds). Participants came together to analyze the link between the status of women’s rights organizing and resources available in the region, explore opportunities and challenges, and define common strategies for the future. The first of its kind in the region, the meeting gathered 69 women’s rights activists and donor representatives from 30 countries.

The WITM team prepared an extensive background research report, which was shared with participants. The research included a short survey with responses from almost 130 women’s organizations from the region, interviews with more than ten representatives from donor institutions and women’s movements, and a broad literature review. The report analyzed general funding trends across the regions, and provided a brief historical and political contextual analysis. The final version of the report includes the meeting outcomes and will be available in English and Russian on www.awid.org in mid-2011.
Feedback

Many participants expressed that this regional strategy meeting was an important opportunity for establishing new contacts, networking, strategizing, meeting with donors, and sharing experiences. It helped them to understand the context in which women’s organizing happens in the region. The meeting also gave participants time to reflect on their work and served as a source of inspiration.

“It was valuable to meet so many women’s rights activists from the region and to gain a better understanding of common and individual challenges. Very valuable. It offered data that we did not have before and possible new strategies in the future.” (Anonymous participant)

“The regional strategy meeting offered me more information about different strategies for approaching the donors. I met many new potential partners and some donors.” (Anonymous participant)

“It’s great to have these regional meetings even though there are some differences between sub-regions, this mixture gives a great stimulus for all of us to think globally but act locally.” (Anonymous participant)

Visit Where is the Money for Women’s Rights for the latest information from this initiative.

2.2 Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms (CF)

Religious fundamentalisms are on the rise around the world and across religions, with negative consequences for women’s rights. AWID launched the CF initiative in 2007 to strengthen the responses of women’s rights activists to this growing global threat. The CF team conducts ground-breaking research to contribute to greater strategic thinking, dialogue, and advocacy on religious fundamentalisms by women’s rights groups. Since the initiative began, AWID has played an important role in building knowledge, casting a critical lens on the issue at international, cross-religious and cross-regional levels, building strategic alliances, and creating venues for dialogue among different constituencies.
Research and Dissemination on the Impact of Religious Fundamentalisms on Women’s Rights

In 2010, the CF initiative produced a number of key publications that capture four years of extensive research with women’s organizations involved in resisting religious fundamentalisms throughout the world. The research has explored cross-regional and cross-religion perspectives, identified characteristics of religious fundamentalisms, examined the factors that help them grow, and detailed how they impact women’s rights across regions and religions. The CF publications also share how women’s rights activists can and are resisting and challenging religious fundamentalisms around the world.

Feminists on the Frontline: Case Studies of Resisting and Challenging Fundamentalisms
This publication documents 18 case studies of strategies to challenge religious fundamentalisms by women’s rights advocates drawn from a wide range of religious and geographical contexts as well as diverse fields of activism. It aims to share key learnings from the frontlines and to inspire, inform, and encourage discussion and debate. The case studies are also a testament to the women and men around the world who have stood up to reject the imposition of oppressive norms and values in the name of religion as well as to expose and challenge the privileged position given to religion in public policies. The collection is available in English, French, and Spanish on www.awid.org.

Towards a Future without Fundamentalisms: Analyzing Religious Fundamentalist Strategies and Feminist Responses
This ground-breaking publication presents feminist strategies for resisting and challenging religious fundamentalisms, based on data gathered from hundreds of women’s rights activists from a diverse range of contexts. The report examines the factors that help religious fundamentalisms grow and the strategies fundamentalists use to promote their vision and strengthen their social and political power. It unmasks those strategies through feminist analysis and provides proposals and examples of how women’s rights activists and their allies in other movements can work effectively towards a future without fundamentalisms.

Feedback

“I think that the serious effort made to highlight RF across religions and regions is a very significant contribution to building a movement to address this issue as the global concern that it is, beyond the (also much needed) efforts focusing in a particular location or religion. The case studies make it very difficult to deny that RF actually kill, sometimes women’s soul, and some other times their bodies.”
(Alejandra Sardá-Chandiramani, Mama Cash)

“What I found particularly interesting was to have an overview or sense of the increasing influence of fundamentalisms as felt by the various respondents/organisations in different parts of the world. I especially liked the research focusing on both strategies by and against fundamentalism, and the exploration of definition, on what constitutes fundamentalisms, as it’s an important term to unpack to understand exactly what this means.”
(Jac sm Kee, Women’s Networking Support Program, APC)

Spreading the Word

Increased interest in the work of the CF initiative is apparent from an appreciable increase in site traffic to the site’s landing page since the beginning of 2010. There is also a growing number of re-posts disseminating CF publications by allies in women’s rights and some other social justice sectors. For example, 27 different blogs and websites posted links or featured the anthology or case studies on their websites, newsletters, or via e-lists. The CF research has also been cited in other publications and articles and used as a resource in training materials.

As part of bringing AWID’s research and analysis to a larger audience, throughout 2010 AWID published 10 articles on the openDemocracy 50/50: Religion Gender Politics Platform. This independent global current affairs website has a regular readership of 200,000 with 1.9 million repeat visitors.

The CF team is also cultivating this interest in challenging religious fundamentalisms through our engagement in a broad range of spaces, including convenings of people working in women’s human rights, international development, LGBTQI and sexuality rights, and peace-building sectors. This outreach work reflects our shifting emphasis from research and advocacy with broader audiences, and corresponds to a growing demand for greater engagement in human rights and development sectors from CF’s core constituents and allies.

CF at strategic venues

Throughout 2010, the CF team presented the research results and case study anthologies at various key international venues. These sessions contributed to our goal of building understanding of religious fundamentalisms and women’s rights and to facilitate dialogue among key actors, as well as to encourage strategizing across religions, regions, and sectors to strengthen responses to religious fundamentalisms.

At the 54th CSW in March 2010, AWID organized a side event entitled: “Feminists on the Frontline: Resisting and Challenging Fundamentalisms,” featuring highlights of research results and presentations from case study authors. About 50 people attended this well received presentation, including those working in international, regional or issue-based organizations, funders, and local level organizations.
Other strategic venues where CF delivered presentations include: The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) and Catolicas por el Derecho a Decidir (CDD) Institute (Peru, Apr 2010), Women's Human Rights Education Institute (WHREI) (Canada, July 2010), Oxfam GB Country Directors' Meeting (UK, Aug. 2010), International Fellowship of Reconciliation—Women Peacemakers Program (IFOR-WPP) conference (Cyprus, Sept 2010), International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) (Geneva, Oct 2010), African Feminist Forum (AFF) (Senegal, Oct 2010), and The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) XXV Conference (Brazil, Dec 2010).

Feedback

“My inference is that AWID's research is on the cusp of where people who work on peace, justice and feminist efforts need to head—that is, having a hard analysis of where religion and politics are intersecting and how religion is often being used as a smokescreen for political agendas”

(Haven Herrin, Soulforce)

“This term is useful in identifying forces working against my main areas of work (indigenous women’s rights, HIV and AIDS, sexual and reproductive justice, youth rights). Having a term helps create a common language around the issue. ... I am glad that AWID has decided that it is of concern enough to do some thorough research around this area. This issue needs to be better understood for women's human rights.”

(Erin Konsmo, Métis, Native Youth Sexual Health Network, Participant at WHREI workshop)

Visit Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms for the latest information from this initiative.

2.3 Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD)

Since 2005, when we became a coalition member, AWID has worked in close collaboration with the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD IC) to strengthen its overall effectiveness, especially with regards to WRHDs at risk. This is an emerging area of work for AWID, which has grown in response to the increasing levels of violence faced by women human rights defenders around the world.
Strengthening Responses to WHRD at Risk

The recent overall increase of cases of WHRDs at risk, as well as amongst activists working closely with AWID, has heightened our awareness of the need to develop more effective systems of responding, tracking, and following up on these cases.

As part of our collaboration with the (WHRD IC) AWID has been leading the Working Group on Mechanisms for Urgent Responses for WHRDs at Risk since 2009.

In 2010, our work focused on assessing the needs within the WHRD IC and developing an action plan aimed at improving the quality of responses and advocacy for WHRDs at risk, including improved documentation, coordination, and analysis of lessons learned from our shared experiences. As part of this process, AWID put together several draft documents that were presented for discussion at the October 2010 Geneva meeting of the WHRD IC:

- A draft research report that maps and assess existing response models for WHRDs at risk.
- A draft paper on “Characteristics and Key Principles of Effective Responses to WHRDs at Risk.”
- A draft paper presenting ideas to strengthen coordination and collaboration amongst WHRD IC members

List of Materials and Resources for Women Human Rights Defenders

This reference tool for WHRDs lists research materials dealing with the security and protection of defenders, resources that defenders 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 WHRDs at risk. The list also references materials that address specific themes particularly relevant to WHRDs, such as sexual orientation, religious fundamentalisms, and conflict. It is available in English, French, and Spanish on www.awid.org. As a testament to the demand for such a resource, AWID received 2,433 page views in the five weeks following the web publication in November 2010.

Feedback

“Women human rights defenders are doubly discriminated against. They are targeted because of who they are as well as what they do. These resources help women human rights defenders at risk take practical steps to minimise risk, increase their security and continue their vital and courageous work without the constant threat of attack.” (Tara Madden, Front Line)

Mesoamerican Meeting for Women Human Rights Defenders

Violence against women is a stark reality in Mesoamerica (Mexico and Central America) and has reached epidemic proportions. It includes rape, abuse, harassment, forced prostitution, and murder. Feminicide – the systematic killing of women based on their gender is on the rise in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. WHRDs who stand up against feminicide and impunity—as well as women who are active in social movements that defend the rights of peasants, indigenous communities, women, and others—find themselves increasingly at risk of violence and murder. In 2010, 15 murders of WHRDs were registered in the region. Among them were environmental defenders from Guatemala and El Salvador, women’s rights defenders fighting impunity in Mexico, and LGBQTI defenders from Honduras.

To address this critical situation, in April 2010, AWID along with key regional and local women’s organizations brought together WHRDs at risk from Mesoamerica to advance strategies of protection and response for WHRDs in this region. Held in Oaxaca, Mexico, the meeting was co-organized with Just Associates (JASS), the Consorcio Oaxaca, the Unidad de Defensoras Indígenas (Guatemala) and the Alianza de Mujeres Feministas Centroamericanas, with support from Mama Cash, Global Fund for Women and the Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres.

The statement and assessment of the situation of WHRDs in Mesoamerica produced as a collaborative result of this meeting, coordinated by Just Associates, was presented to the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders, and was used as input into her report on the situation of human rights defenders released in December 2010.

As a result of the meeting, a loose network of solidarity and urgent response has been created, dealing with several cases of violence against WHRDs in Mexico and Central America which occurred during the remainder of 2010. This network includes national level WHRDs networks in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras, and has been a meaningful way to respond to the increasing violence against WHRDs in the region, for example at the time of the killing of Mexican defender Marisela Escobedo. Participating organizations have shared the assessment and statement, along with strategies that came out of the meeting with their national networks.

“Despite progress in acknowledging and identifying violence perpetrated against human rights defenders in Mesoamerica, there is still relatively little gender specific information available about the situation of women human rights defenders (WHRDs). In addition, violence against WHRDs is overlooked by human rights and social justice organizations and by movements themselves. As a result, there has been a lack of detailed, up to date information and analysis of the gendered violence faced by WHRDs in the region.” (Source: Introduction to Violence against Women Human Rights Defenders in Mesoamerica: Regional Assessment Report)
“Our commitment to defending human rights is a fundamental pillar of democracy, social justice, gender equality and the eradication of all forms of regional violence. Nevertheless, the threats, attacks and defamation campaigns, executions and feminicides, sexual attacks and violence committed against our families, as well as the diverse forms of harassment to which we are subjected for being women human rights defenders and activists, undermines democracy building, weakens social movements and decreases our active political participation as full citizens. In view of the above, it is a fundamental necessity to guarantee that conditions exist in which all women activists and human rights defenders can safely continue our work in a climate of respect for our right to defend and protect human rights.” (Source: Excerpt from “Final Statement of Mesoamerican meeting of Women Human Rights Defenders, April 25, 2010”)

Visit Women Human Rights Defenders for the latest publications from this emerging initiative.

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. We work with diverse allies, organizing events on a wide range of topics to deepen feminist monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices, to strengthen movements, and to facilitate strategic exchanges and learning between donors and women’s rights organizations.
Contributing to Movement-Building Approaches across the Globe

Throughout 2010, work progressed towards the launch of the second version of our Changing their World collection with the addition of four new cases on the transnational disabled women’s rights movement, the sex workers movement in India, Sudanese women’s peace efforts, and the young lesbian movement in the Philippines. The revised introduction and new case studies from Changing their World will be available in mid-2011. First published in 2008, this publication has lasting relevance as shown by the over two thousand visits to the Changing their World case study pages on the AWID website in 2010.

More broadly, BFEMO information is actively being used by women’s rights groups around the world. Recent examples include women’s rights activists and organizations at Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA)’s South Asia Movement Building and Human Rights Institute for young South Asian women activists working in development NGOs. They have used the conceptual framing in Changing their World and case studies to deepen their understanding of movement building and women’s organizing. Concurrently a group of young Kenyan feminist activists were inspired from the AMwa/CREA institute they attended to use the lessons learnt from AWID’s movement building framework to start their own national advocacy initiative. While at the WITM meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, the Young Women’s Dialogue included a plenary discussion on movement building, drawing from concepts in Changing their World to guide the discussion, which was led by AWID’s YFA initiative.

Feedback

“CREA uses (the movement building framework) in our Hindi Human Rights Institute almost every year and people learn a lot from it. We’ve also referred to it this year’s IWHC meetings with young women from Indonesia and the Philippines, who joined in with examples from their countries and some hard debates they had had. So it was a very fruitful discussion and many people apparently wrote in their evaluation that the presentation was very useful for them understand what a movement is and about feminism.” (S Vinita, CREA)

“Although I’ve been doing movement building work for as long as I can remember, when Srilatha broke down AWID’s movement building framework to us at the FLAMBI hosted by CREA and AMwA, the links between the theory and practice became very clear… I now understand the different stages of movement building better, and have been able to put what I learnt into practice within the movements I am a part of.”

Advancing Monitoring and Evaluating from a Feminist Perspective and the MDG3 Fund

As part of AWID’s ongoing commitment to developing useful resources and tools for feminist movement building and organizational strengthening, in 2010, BFEMO began to focus more closely on the realm of M&E. Women’s rights organizations and movements face many common challenges with M&E and there is a need to explore feminist practices for engaging in M&E to strengthen organizational learning and more readily capture the complex changes that women’s empowerment and gender equality work seek.

Capturing Change in Women’s Realities: A Critical Overview of Current Monitoring & Evaluation Frameworks and Approaches

This publication provides a critique of current M&E frameworks and approaches as experienced by women’s organizations and movements worldwide, along with an analysis of a large number of M&E frameworks and tools. A revised edition integrating key feedback gained from the MDG3 Fund grantees was web-published at the end of 2010. To contribute to expanding discussion on M&E from a feminist perspective, we shared this paper with AWID members, key allies, and international networks. It is also being used and referenced by a wide range of women’s organizations, women’s funds, and international NGOs.

Feedback

“We find the AWID report really excellent and that it addresses many of the concerns we have had in trying to respond to all the different M&E requirements and expectations of different donors.” (Joan Winship, Executive Director of the International Association of Women Judges)

“Your perspectives on measuring social change have excited us, and I was wondering whether we could …explore possibilities of what might be meaningful ways of nurturing institutional capacity to change/develop different practices of measuring change/impact of [the] initiatives (we support).” (Lester Coutinho, David and Lucile Packard Foundation)
MDG3 Fund: Analyzing the Impact of Investing in Women's Rights and Gender Equality through Women's Organizations

The MDG3 Fund was set up by the Dutch government in 2008 to support attainment of the third Millennium Development Goal on gender equality and women's empowerment. It is the largest existing fund targeting civil society organizations and supports their role in advancing gender equality. With a budget of EUR 70 million it has provided substantial support over three years to 45 organizations to significantly improve women's daily lives and to increase women's participation in decision-making processes, from the local to the global levels. The Fund is a historic model of targeted resource mobilization to women's rights organizations and so it has been crucial for AWID to contribute research and analysis on the significant impact of this fund.

In June 2010, AWID convened a subset of the Dutch MDG3 Fund grantees in a meeting on Monitoring & Evaluating MDG3 Fund-sponsored Programs: a Dialogue between Fund Officials and Grantees in Amsterdam. Over 20 participants discussed strategies for harvesting the collective learning and insights of the MDG3 Fund projects, considered the challenges and opportunities of monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and made concrete commitments for continuing the work after the meeting. The follow-up work by participants was dedicated towards the replenishment of the fund, which supported the amazing work done by WO-MEN, the Dutch gender lobby platform and positively influenced the Dutch government's decision to approve 12 million EUR for the renewal of the Fund for 2011 and also set the basis for the later decision by the Dutch Foreign Ministry (DFM) to create a follow-up funding mechanism to the MDG3 in its recently launched Fund for Leadership Opportunities for Women (FLOW).

Feedback

“Congratulations!!! This is great news and it also shows the perseverant and amazing work you made with the Dutch Allies to achieve this important goal. The decision to replenish the MDG3 funds is fundamental to continue with the amazing work that women's organizations are doing. Thanks for your commitment not only now but from many years ago with the clear intention to bring more money to support feminist movements and women's rights.” (Emilienne de Leon, Executive Director, International Network of Women's Funds (INWF))

“Our Dutch feminist friends. AWID, and every single one of you have set an example to be followed: never take no as an answer. Well done with your kind of determination, this feminist platform will only grow...” (Yanar Mohammed, President, Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq)

“Wonderful news! It is truly a feather in the collective cap of the women's movements that the Dutch government was persuaded to see the value of this investment in women's rights—and kudos to the excellent work of AWID and the lobbying of our Dutch sister organizations in making this happen.” (Shalini Nataraj, Vice President of Programs, Global Fund for Women)

In preparation for the dialogue meeting, BFEMO produced an innovative research report, Learning More from the MDG3 Fund Experience, drawing from MDG3 Fund grantee experiences with M&E. In response to requests from the meeting participants to create short summary documents with specific M&E recommendations tailored to donors and women's organizations, BFEMO has also produced the brief Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation for Women's Rights: Twelve Insights for Donors. The related brief Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation for Women's Rights: Thirteen Insights for Women's Organizations will be published in mid-2011.

An important outcome of the MDG3 Dialogue was the establishment of a wiki on M&E designed by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) in August 2010 and supported by AWID. The aim of this wiki is to share resources, innovative models, and papers on M&E across organizations and movements.

In addition to this collaborative space, BFEMO worked on an M&E Compendium throughout 2010, which involved an in-depth review of over 50 M&E models. The compendium provides an overview of some of the main M&E frameworks, approaches, and tools used to track social change and justice. The aim is to gain deeper insight into the different M&E frameworks that can be used and adapted to capture the complexity of changes in women's rights and gender equality work. It analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of select evaluation and assessment frameworks, including logframes, result-based management, outcome mapping, theory of change, feminist models, etc. from a feminist perspective. The M&E compendium was one of the foundations from which to develop a M&E Wiki launched in 2011.

Visit Building Feminist Movements and Organizations for the latest information from this initiative.
2.5 Young Feminist Activism (YFA)

Many young women activists from all over the world face similar challenges that hamper their organizing and limit their ability to contribute to the advancement of women’s rights agendas. Key challenges include isolation from established women’s rights organizing in their context; lack of funding and unwillingness of donors to invest in new initiatives and ideas; lack of access to knowledge and information resources and to agenda-setting spaces. 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 also works with women’s rights activists of all ages on practical models and strategies for effective feminist multigenerational organizing.

Connecting Young Feminists Around the World

Young Feminist Wire

Recognizing the importance of online spaces for the work of young feminists, AWID launched the Young Feminist Wire (the Wire) in May 2010. Through the Wire, AWID disseminates the latest news and resources by, about, and for young women. It offers capacity-building opportunities, as well as fostering networking and debate amongst 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. Response to the Wire, available in English, French, and Spanish, has been very positive, with over 450 young women joining the Wire community and over 55,000 visits since its launch in May 2010. The Wire community is also increasingly engaging with each other by posting to the community blog on topics such as body image, use of women in pop culture, and analysis on feminist values and discourse, as well as commenting on information posted to the Wire.

Feedback

“The Wire is an important virtual space because people like me can log on and find feminists and young women from all over the world and be educated on the issues that they are facing.” (Academic researcher, South Africa)

“The Wire makes me feel like there is a space for me, for my work, for my writing.” (Independent activist and writer, Kenya)

“The Wire is a unique space because it is international – I can count on receiving news and calls for jobs, conferences and meetings that focus on youth from around the world” (Young feminist activist, Turkey)

“I believe that young women need focused attention due to the increasingly complex global world that we live in. More young people are feeling overwhelmed. It is nice to see that there is a focus on them online.” (Young woman participant, Kyrgyzstan)

“I enjoy reading recent news about young women from around the world that you would not usually hear in western mainstream media. (It) helps me gain new perspectives that I otherwise would not be exposed to” (Young woman, USA)

Support to Zolah, the Arab Network of Young Feminists

AWID supported the launch meeting of Zolah, which took place in Cairo, Egypt on April 28–May 2, 2010. Nineteen participants from ten countries joined the meeting, which laid out the structure and goals of the network. Zolah works to bring together and support young women working on gender justice in the Arab world. The idea for the network came from young women who participated in a YFA/WTM meeting in Morocco in 2008 and YFA then played an active role in supporting the preparations for the network launch. In mid-2011, the network hopes to organize the first ever Arab Feminist Forum or Moltaqa.

Feedback

“We are in desperate need of as many young progressive networks in our region to advance and popularize feminist discourses.” (Mozn Hassan, Founder of Nazra, Egypt)

“I came to the meeting having no background in what feminism is. Now I have basics on this topic and I would love to learn more about it. The meeting in Cairo surely enriched my personal and professional skills, and it left an impact on my perspective on such Human Rights issues, and opened my eyes on the importance of political discourse when discussing women...” (Rasha Abdel Latif, Jordan)
“Understanding gender and sexuality underlies how you see yourself as a woman in society in general. This network is going to break the taboos associated to these topics so that we are more free in discussing women’s rights.” (Milla Eidmouni, Journalist, Syria)

Resource Mobilization for Young Women’s Organizing

Young Women’s Dialogue in Tbilisi, Georgia

In October 2010, YFA organized a Young Women’s Dialogue prior to the WITM SEE/CEE/CIS Resource Mobilization Strategy Meeting. Thirty-six young women participants from 18 different countries and organizations participated in the meeting which contributed to strengthening young women’s organizing and collective power in the region, as well as building understanding of the links between movement building and resource mobilization.

Feedback

“Thank you for such a possibility; I have never had the opportunity to meet so many young feminists from the region. This is a unique experience that helped me a lot.” (Anonymous participant)

“The conference was a brilliant idea and very unique of its kind, not held before in the region so it is very important. I’ve learned about new resources, met people with similar ideas. I am very happy that I was here.” (Anonymous participant)

“I realize that we badly need to organize ourselves and engage in collaborative initiatives because only collective power will bring us visibility and help us make impact. I feel the power and need of feminist solidarity.” (Anonymous participant)

The Young Feminist Fund

Lack of access to resources is one of the key challenges facing young feminist organizing. In response, the Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM) and AWID are working to set up a Young Feminist Fund. Following an initial feasibility study for the creation of the fund, in November 2010, AWID and CAWF convened a meeting of the Youth Advisory Board of the Fund to share outcomes of the feasibility study and to develop the vision, purpose, and strategies to launch the fund. We will be launching the Fund in 2011, with the first round of grant making opening by the end of this year.

Visit Young Feminist Activism for the latest information from this initiative

2.6 Women’s Rights Information (WRI)

The Women’s Rights Information (WRI) SI has consistently provided a wide range of women’s rights information from jobs to announcements and analysis in English, French, and Spanish, disseminated weekly to AWID’s subscribers and on www.awid.org, Facebook, and Twitter. AWID believes that providing information is fundamental to building understanding of the trends affecting women’s rights, setting agendas, and amplifying the voices, perspectives, and diverse forms of organizing of women from around the world.
Information Provision and Dissemination

Throughout 2010, AWID continued to source, disseminate, and produce weekly jobs, announcements, news, and analysis in English, French, and Spanish on www.awid.org and through our e-newsletters. Our subscribership has steadily grown by 400 per month, reaching a total of 29,400 e-newsletter subscribers at the end of December 2010, a testament to the value of the information WRI produces. The number of people receiving this information is potentially much higher as 91% of respondents to the 2009 subscriber survey said that they share AWID sourced information within their organizations and 88% said that they share it outside of their organizations.

2010 also marked AWID’s first engagement with social media with the launch in March of our own Facebook page and Twitter accounts. At the end of 2010 we had 866 followers on Twitter and 2,097 fans on Facebook, with steady growth expected into 2011.

AWID’s Friday Files

In order for women’s rights advocates, organizations, and movements to stay relevant, respond effectively to global, regional, and national changes in the context, and contribute to setting agendas, it is vital to have access to high quality analysis on current and emerging trends which impact women’s rights and can inform the focus areas and strategies of their work.

AWID’s weekly Friday Files aim to contribute this analysis. In 2010, Friday File topics ranged from whether the reconstruction efforts in Haiti are gender-sensitive, how women are being impacted by the violence in southern Kyrgyzstan, why women are being assaulted in southern Algeria and how women are faring one year after the coup in Honduras. Additionally, WRI has examined the state of women’s rights in Cyprus, Japan and Tunisia and investigated gender (mis)representation in media in the global South, the workings of SMS activism in Africa and the impact of an online beauty pageant for women with disabilities in Cambodia.

Feedback

“I find your website and newsletter very helpful to learn about international women’s issues. Keep up the great work!” (Tenley Peterson, UK)

“Thanks a lot for your very informative news resource.” (Doo Aphen, Swaziland)

Special Sections on www.awid.org

In response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, AWID created a special portal: Crisis in Haiti and Women’s Rights providing a wide range of information on this crisis. This included the latest analysis on the aftermath of the earthquake, its impact on women and women’s rights, how to ensure women’s rights are at the centre of responses to disasters, and how to act in solidarity with the women, men, and children of Haiti. Pages on our Haiti portal have been viewed 12,518 times since its launch in January 2010.

On March 8th, 2010, we launched a special section on our website profiling the diverse forms of organizing and celebration by women around the world on the centenary of International Women’s Day, which received over 5,000 web visits on March 8th alone.

Visit Women’s Rights Information for the latest information from this initiative
2.7 Influencing Development Actors and Practices for Women’s Rights (IDeA)

The IDeA initiative (which is made up of both the IDeA and Advocacy teams) aims to advance feminist understandings of the relationship between development and women’s rights and supports collective organizing with a particular focus on the aid effectiveness agenda at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Financing for Development process at the United Nations (UN). The initiative produces and disseminates knowledge on development issues, most recently on the impact of the crisis on women across different regions; undertakes advocacy and alliance building to influence development policy and practice; and mobilizes women’s organizations and groups on development discussions and key policy processes.

Briefs on the Impact of the Crisis on Women: Main Trends across Regions

The IDeA initiative continued to contribute to deepening understanding of women’s rights perspectives on the impact of and solutions to the systemic crisis through the production of a wide range of research including the launch of a cross regional analysis on the impact of the crisis on women’s rights. Both commonalities and differences are depicted in this brief, as it analyzes how decent work, the care economy, trade, rural development, migration, remittances, and violent change in time of crisis.

In 2010, we completed ten updates of regional briefs on the crisis including on the USA, Latin America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Developing Asia, the Pacific, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Arab region, and Greece.

“The process of carrying out this brief strengthened the search in Greece for new types of political actions and alliances. It was key that AWID decided to highlight our case with a solidarity perspective; it helped foster emergent feminist analysis and action as the first wave of structural adjustment was hitting ... ” (Lois Woestman, author of The Global Economic Crisis and Gender Relations: Greek Case)

AWID’s portal on the crisis Global Crisis: Feminist Analysis and Information, developed in close collaboration with WRI, continued to provide updated resources in English, French, and Spanish on a weekly basis throughout 2010. The portal was the first result for a Google search on ‘impacts + crisis + women’ and the only one at the international level that presents a broad range of information on the impact of the crisis on women, with information from all continents. The portal included over 500 articles, reports, statements, and other types of information gathered from about 100 different sources.

Action Research on Alternatives to Development

As part of the ongoing knowledge production on alternatives to development from a feminist perspective, throughout 2010, AWID continued to build alliances with a wide range of groups in Latin America and the Caribbean and to collaborate on research action processes. Through this collaboration, AWID is working with popular movements to explore key issues in the context of the current systemic crisis including the living well paradigm with indigenous women from Bolivia, agro-ecology and feminism with women’s organizations in Brazil, and food sovereignty with Via Campesina in Chile. The information produced from these processes aims to highlight how these frameworks can advance women’s rights.

The systematization on food sovereignty and women’s rights has been included in the resources selected by the women’s caucus of Via Campesina for their Regional Congress in Ecuador in October 2010. The peasant indigenous leader of the National Association of Rural and Indigenous Women (ANAMURI) told AWID that the synthesis was used as the main source for their debates at the Congress.
Feedback

“The document I prepared was welcomed by all members of the Congress of Via Campesina. I am thrilled to learn that they published the synthesis and made 1,500 copies and included it in a newsletter that contained all the official political documents of the congress. Men and women participating in this congress can read this document. The interview I did of José Bengoa, for the systematization was published in the newsletter América en Movimiento. They made 2000 copies and the newsletter is also being distributed in the congress.” (Pamela Caro, CEDEM, Chile, Oct 2010)

The systematization on the living well paradigm and women’s rights, completed by Fundacion Cabildeo from Bolivia, is the result of three debates that this group had with different stakeholders: UNIFEM, Ministry of De-patriarcalitzation of Bolivia, youth, and indigenous women’s groups. IDeA started conversations with the Fundacion while they were planning the third debate and suggested working together on a systematization of the whole process.

Feedback

“The living well paradigm is for us an alternative to capitalism, socialism and modern society, but we have to still to learn about the multiple inter-linkages and opportunities for it to advance women’s rights. We believe this systematization has created a more advanced and mature process to reflect on our plans forward. We are glad AWID decided to join us in this initiative.” (Raquel Romero, Fundacion Cabildeo, Bolivia)

Advocacy at the OECD and UN

Throughout 2010, our advocacy work focused on promoting the centrality of the UN Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) as the main space for multilateral coordination on development cooperation, within a human rights and women’s rights approach. We sought to strengthen civil society participation in this space, through our involvement in the Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG). AWID also continued its engagement with the aid effectiveness process, lobbying the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as part of our work with the Better Aid Coordinating Group (BACG), which we continue to co-chair.

AWID’s engagement in policy making spaces and processes occurred through a number of important meetings including:

- The second UN High-level Symposium in Helsinki, Finland that took place in preparation for the 2010 DCF and the biennial DCF as part of the Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD) and the BetterAid platform where we contributed to statements (WWG on FfD statement and BetterAid statement) and launched a preliminary discussion paper on “Development Cooperation Beyond the Aid Effectiveness Paradigm: A Women’s Rights Perspective”.

- The EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace where AWID gave a presentation on the global trends in aid and development in the context of the upcoming 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea which illustrated the need for women’s groups and other civil society organizations to continue to engage with and challenge the aid agenda so as to move towards a broader, more holistic development agenda, grounded in human rights.

- International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) in Buenos Aires, Argentina where AWID shared our “Cross Regional Analysis on the Impact of the Crisis on Women’s Rights” which was acknowledged as an important contribution to current discussions on the crisis.

AWID has also been one of the key global focal points of the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign—a CSO initiative led by women’s groups which was instrumental in the groundbreaking creation of the new UN Women—last July. Our work as part of the campaign supported development of some advocacy papers, the translation of key information to French and Spanish, and resource mobilization to support the campaign’s efforts.

Visit Influencing Development Actors and Practices for Women’s Rights for the latest information from this initiative
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, donor agencies, development practitioners, grassroots leaders, and activists from around the world every three to four years. Here we debate, strategize, network, celebrate, and learn in a highly charged atmosphere that fosters deep discussions and sustained personal and professional growth. For AWID, the Forum responds to the urgency to promote stronger and more coordinated engagement and action by women’s rights advocates, organizations, and movements. It is a key space to contribute to setting agendas for women’s rights globally.

2008 AWID Forum: Ongoing Impact of the Power of Movements

Two years after the 2008 AWID Forum on The Power of Movements, people continue to show interest in accessing session and plenary transcripts as well as in reading our analysis on the Forum’s impact and evaluation. This is clearly demonstrated by over 2,100 visits to the 2008 Forum in Review landing page on www.awid.org throughout 2010.

We also continue to disseminate the post Forum publication CD. This compilation examines the 2008 Forum’s approach, impact, and achievements as well as areas for improvement to build an even stronger, bolder Forum in 2012. It presents a snapshot of some of the discussions and activities that took place over the four days of the 2008 Forum and includes transcripts from each of the daily plenaries, as well as excerpts and reports from some of the most popular breakout sessions. We also included personal testimonials as well as other reflections and writings on the Forum.

In 2010, the majority of the AWID Innovation Seed Grant projects granted after the AWID 2008 Forum were implemented. Our seed grant support has reached a very diverse group of women’s rights organizations from 20 countries representing most regions of the world including Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, North America, the Pacific, South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, West Africa, and the Middle East.

The combined impact of the 25 AWID Innovation Seed Grants has been to vitalize and strengthen women’s rights and feminist movements in various regions and contexts throughout the world, many of which are facing fragmentation, repression, lack of resources, and burn-out. The various projects offer innovative solutions and proposals to address these issues that resonate with women’s rights groups in different situations but with similar challenges. Many of the projects have built alliances, intergenerational collaboration, and action plans that they will continue to pursue, confirming the long-lasting impact of planting these seeds.

The AWID Innovation Seed Grant projects are one of the ways in which AWID ensures that key ideas and initiatives that emerge at the AWID Forums can actually become a reality in different parts of the world. Many participants expressed a desire to share their experiences among the broader women’s movement and AWID will facilitate such exchanges and a session at the AWID 2012 Forum to deepen the discussion on experiences in movement-building.

Feedback from AWID Innovation Seed Grant Projects

“We learnt that movement building requires people to network, share knowledge and ideas. We realised that working directly with women at grassroots level and giving them back their voices is the first step to building a strong movement.” (Sian Maseka, Bringing the Voices Back from the Margins, Sexual Rights Centre, Zimbabwe)
"In essence, we learned that the power of movements is not about telling people what should move them or what should move them to protest, but it is about respecting and valuing where people are and creating a myriad of spaces where they can insert their lived experiences in order to build a "sustained" social movement against gender-based violence demonstrating that the power of movements is about what moves people." (Fallon Wilson, Adele Nieves, The Cyberquilting Experiment, Network of Women of Color, USA)

Preparations for the 12th AWID International Forum, 2012

The 12th AWID International Forum (AWID 2012 Forum) will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from April 19-22, 2012 and will explore the theme of Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice.

Preparations for the AWID 2012 Forum are well underway, with the International Planning Committee (IPC) holding its first meeting in Istanbul in July 2010. The IPC is made up of close to 35 individuals including AWID staff, Board members, and a diverse array of activists, policy-makers, and scholars from every region of the world. At the July meeting, the IPC conceptualized the AWID 2012 Forum theme and developed a range of innovative ideas for the preparatory process.

Throughout 2010, we also carried out several of the processes that are typical of any Forum planning process including developing the AWID 2012 Forum website, site inspections, planning for registration and funding databases, and initial framing of the call for proposals which was launched in early 2011.

We have selected Istanbul as the site for the next AWID 2012 Forum in order to bring the event closer to Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Middle East and North Africa—regions that have been under-represented in past AWID Forums. Turkey has a strong, vibrant women's movement and an adequately stable, if complex, political context. In addition, Istanbul is logistically convenient as it is easily accessible to international flights from various regions and reasonably priced, with excellent infrastructure for an event of this size and with relatively easy visa access for citizens from all but a few countries.

Visit AWID International Forum for the latest information on this exciting event.

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. As reflected in our 2006-2012 Strategic Plan, “a membership base is the core component in AWID’s strategy for affecting change, as it is the basis for the building of knowledgeable constituencies leading to a strengthened global feminist movement.”

Throughout 2010, AWID improved our communication with current and former members to encourage their engagement with AWID and clearly identify the benefits of AWID membership as part of a political commitment to building a strong global women's rights movement. We also conducted outreach to under-represented groups within AWID membership, particularly women with disabilities, young women, and women from the CEE/SEE/CIS region. This led to an increase in both institutional and individual members from the second quarter of the year with a total of 953 new members by the end of 2010. Sign-up of institutional members has increased since November 2010 when AWID introduced free institutional memberships for organizations with budgets under USD 50,000 and three year membership, in addition to the existing one and two year memberships.
### 2010 Membership Breakdown per region

#### Individual Members

- North America: 36%
- Africa*: 21%
- Western Europe: 14%
- South Asia: 10%
- Latin America & the Caribbean: 8%
- Eastern Europe*: 4%
- East Asia: 3%
- Pacific: 3%
- Middle East: 1%

#### Institutional Members

- Africa*: 26%
- North America: 26%
- Eastern Europe*: 14%
- Western Europe: 14%
- South Asia: 8%
- Latin America & the Caribbean: 6%
- East Asia: 14%
- Pacific: 3%
- Middle East: 2%

*Note: All regions 100%. Note: * Africa also includes North Africa. ** Eastern Europe also includes Central Eastern Europe and South Eastern Europe.

### Membership Feedback

- “I always look forward to hearing from you and you keep me going even when things are difficult. Thanks.” (Hope Chigudu, Zimbabwe)
- “Thank you very much. I have just registered myself and Queer Leaders Forum. Pretty exciting!” (Romana Schlesinger, Slovakia)
- “It is an honour to be an AWID member, I am personally a women activist and currently working on women development programme for Somalia—both a fulfilling and challenging experience. I have enjoyed reading through the web pages and feel I can contribute, participate and share on empowering women. Thanks for your urgent response and I will stay in touch.” (Linda Nzioki, Kenya)
- “Thank you for accepting my membership to AWID. I look forward to working with you.” (Anonymous member, Norway)
- “I feel very strongly against the discrimination between the sexes. World over the sufferings are unimaginable. I am happy to be with AWID. Thanks for the support.” (Anita Ashok, India)
- “Thank you for all the good things you all do.” (Anonymous member, USA)
- “Thank you for accepting me as a member and together we will work towards a world where men and women enjoy their rights without discrimination” (Anonymous member, DRC)
- “Many thanks for this wonderful offer. I look forward to “life as an AWID member” which I am sure will enrich our organisation and those with whom we cooperate. And at the same time I am sure that in turn we will also be able to offer something new to the network.” (Carolyn Boyd Tomasovic, Croatia)
- “Thank you for the change to allow latecomers to renew their membership with AWID, a movement very important for achieving gender equality, sustainable development for all. I am pleased to renew my membership.” (Fatoumata Yebbe Bah, Guinea)
- “Thank you very much for your response and great news! We are really proud of being the members of AWID.” (Medea Khmelidze, Georgia)
- “I have registered at the AWID membership and found a lot of supports and opportunities there. Thank you very much for inviting me.” (Ida Putri, Indonesia)

Visit AWID Membership for more information.
2010 Finances

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Amount in USD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Swedish International Development Agency</td>
<td>1,124,080</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG3 Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Stichting Oxfam Novib</td>
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<td>Anonymous Contributor</td>
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<td>Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation</td>
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<td>CORDAID</td>
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<td>Mama Cash</td>
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<td>Contributed Services</td>
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<td>The Ford Foundation</td>
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<td>Sigrid Rausing Trust</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Levi Strauss Foundation</td>
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<td>Sales and Donations</td>
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<tr>
<th>Expenses 2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Influencing Development Actors and Practice for Women’s Rights (IDeA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where is the Money for Women’s Rights?</td>
<td>596,690</td>
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<td>Building Feminist Movements and Organizations/Young Feminist Activism</td>
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<td>Forum</td>
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<td>Women’s Rights Information</td>
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<td>Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms</td>
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<td>Women’s Human Rights Defenders</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Foreign Exchange Loss</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>3,690,607</td>
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2011 Highlights

Preparations for the AWID 2012 Forum

Through the AWID 2012 Forum, we aim to explore how economic power is impacting on women and the planet, and to facilitate connections among the very diverse groups working on these issues from both human rights and justice approaches so that together we contribute to stronger, more effective strategies to advance women’s rights and justice.

AWID envisions the 2012 Forum not only as an event, but also as a process to foster more substantive and strategic engagement within the global women’s movement and with other social movements on the theme of “Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women’s Rights and Justice.” This process involves interconnected strategies of outreach and alliance building among women’s rights and other social justice movements; knowledge building on key issues relating to the 2012 Forum theme; and economic education to facilitate the engagement of participants and the broader women’s rights movement in discussions around economic power.

The AWID 2012 Forum website, available in English, French, Spanish, and Turkish, provides information on the 2012 Forum preparations and program and will be regularly updated with new content on the theme throughout 2011.

Research and Knowledge Building

- Global research on funding trends for women’s rights organizing: The WITM initiative is conducting a new multilingual global survey to contribute to the case for expanding the quality and quantity of resources for women’s rights.
- M&E resource for women’s organizations: The BFEMO team will pursue feminist approaches to M&E in different activist, development, and policy spaces, with publication of research, case study analogies, and links to resources.
- In addition, we will advance impact analysis on the MDG3 Fund and produce a case study on replenishment of the MDG3 Fund to draw insights for making the case for supporting women’s organizing, which can serve as a compelling argument for others to make similar investments.
- Publication of systematizations on experiences of alternative development models practiced in Latin America: The IDEa team will produce factsheets on the ‘living well’ paradigm with indigenous women from Bolivia, agro-ecology and feminism with women’s organizations in Brazil, and food sovereignty with women from Via Campesina.

- ‘What’s Next for Women’s Rights?: The WRI team will be producing a series of information products exploring emerging topics affecting women’s rights throughout the world, such as China’s involvement, influence and impact on global geopolitics; the energy crisis; and the relationship between women’s rights and transnational organized crime.
- Publication on ‘Urgent Responses for Women Human Rights Defenders at Risk: Mapping and preliminary assessment: As continued support to the WHRD IC, AWID will publish a paper on the challenges and limitations of existing responses for WHRDs at risk along with Mechanisms for Women Human Rights Defenders at Risk, a compilation with detailed descriptions of diverse mechanisms of rapid and intermediate responses for WHRDs.
- Mesoamerican Registry of Incidents of Violence against WHRD: AWID is hosting this web database that will track incidents of violence against WHRDs for use by women’s and human rights organizations in Mexico and Central America to better inform their responses.

Resource Mobilization: Launch of the Young Feminist Fund

- The Young Feminist Fund FRIDA: This Fund is a multi-generational initiative that aims to provide funding and support to young feminist activist initiatives. AWID and the Central American Women’s Fund will act as ‘surrogate mothers’ to this initiative, with the aim that in two years it will become fully independent. FRIDA will be making its first grant-making round in the second half of 2011 and will present the initial grantees at the AWID 2012 Forum.

Participation in key strategic global spaces

- Influencing UN High Level Forum 4 (HLF4) on Aid Effectiveness: AWID will contribute to the participation of women’s rights advocates at the HLF4 to be held in Busan, Korea in November, 2011 through preparation of two background primers: Primer 8: The Accra Agenda for Action: A brief review from a women’s rights perspective, Primer 9: The Road to Korea 2011: Key official and civil society actors and publication of a new discussion paper, and Development Cooperation Beyond the Aid Effectiveness Paradigm: A women’s rights perspective. Our participation in the BetterAid Coordinating Group (BACG) will help develop a civil society position in the lead-up to Busan, and advocacy initiatives to influence the Busan agenda.

Strategic Thematic Meetings

- Strategy meeting on “Resisting and Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms”: The CF team will convene partners from women’s rights, development, and human rights sectors to discuss strategies and advance plans for a joint global initiative focused on the impact of religious fundamentalists on the international human rights system.
- Meeting on feminist analysis of impact of the crisis and alternative economic frameworks: AWID will convene a three-day meeting among key feminist scholars and women’s rights activists to explore connections between an analysis of the global crisis, alternative economic frameworks, and development alternatives as they relate to women’s rights and wellbeing.
Board of Directors

Lina Abou-Habib – Board President 2011-2012 (Collective for Research and Training-Action, Lebanon)
Brigid Inder – Outgoing President 2008-2010 (Women’s Initiative for Gender Justice, The Hague)
Lydia Alpízar – Executive Director of AWID, Costa Rica and Mexico
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Natasha L. Primo – (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)
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Sridhara Batliwala – Associate Scholar, BFEMO, Bangalore
Tarcila Rivera Zea – (Chirapaq, Peru)
Sarah Costa – (Women’s Refugee Commission, USA)
Undarya Tumursukh – (MONFEMNET, Mongolia)
Monika Ladmanova – (International Gender Policy Network, Czech Republic)
To Tjoelker – (Netherlands Embassy, Mali)

Staff in 2010

Diana Aguiar – Advocacy Associate, IDeA, Rio de Janeiro
Cecilia Alemay – Senior Advocacy Associate, IDeA, Montevideo
Lydia Alpízar Durán – Executive Director, San Paulo
Angelika Arutyunova – Manager, WTTM, San Francisco
Meghan Babin – Assistant, IT, Toronto
Rosanna Barbero – Director of Programs, Bahrain
Claudia Blume – Manager, Communications, Toronto
Sritha Batliwala – Associate Scholar, BFEMO, Bangalore
Jessica Bokhout – Coordinator, Forum/Events, Toronto
Lucía Carrasco Scherer – Program Assistant, WITM, Mexico City
Cindy Clark – Director of Operations & Programs, Washington D.C.
Ani Colekessian – Young Feminist Wire Moderator, YFA, Tokyo
Massan D’Almeida – Coordinator (French), WRI, Lomé
Gabriela de Cicco – Coordinator (Spanish), WRI, Rosario
Verónica Delgado – Office Administrator, Mexico City
Rona Donefer – Resource Development Coordinator, Toronto
Bailey Duller – Office Administrator / Program Assistant, CF, Toronto
Valentín Ermita Figueroa – Administrative Assistant, Mexico City
Shareen Gokal – Manager, CF, Toronto
Lina Gomez – Manager, Forum/Events, Toronto
Melanie Gorle – Program Assistant, Forum/Events, Toronto
Fernanda Hopenhaym – Research Associate, WITM, Mexico City
Andrea Imada – Director of Finance and Administration, Toronto
Allison Jack – Executive Assistant, Toronto
Kathambi Kinoti – Coordinator (English), WRI, Nairobi
Michele Knab – Program Assistant, IDeA, Mexico City
Ivahanna Larossa – Lead Advocacy Associate, IDeA, Montevideo
Mindy Lee – HR/Operations Coordinator, Toronto
Ghadeer Malek – Program Associate, YFA, Toronto
Kate Miller – Office Administrator, Toronto
Lejla Medanhodzic – Membership Associate, Berlin
Nadine Moawad – Program Coordinator, YFA, Beirut
Masum Momaya – Manager, WRI, Illinois
Sanushka Mudaliar – Manager, BFEMO/YFA, Singapore
Karen Murray – Program Assistant, Operations, Toronto
Lynn O’Rouke – Publications Coordinator, Toronto
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Natalie Raaber – Research Associate, IDeA, New York
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Alejandra Scampini – Manager, IDeA, Montevideo
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