Advancing Women’s Economic and Political Empowerment Through High-Impact Grants
Founded in 2009 by Spain with US$65 Million Dollars, followed by Norway, Netherlands and Mexico (corpus of the Fund is $71 Million) to:
advance women’s political and economic empowerment to address the gap of “implementation” of commitments to gender equality at national and regional levels =Role in the multilateral system
Fund is aligned to UN Women Strategic plan two thematic priorities: political and economic empowerment
Public policy: domain of both civil society and state
Through grantmaking, the Fund for Gender Equality has mobilized an additional $7.5 million from government grantee partners in alliance with civil society organizations towards their gender equality programmes at country level.
UN WOMEN’S FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY
Multi-Year Economic and Political Empowerment Grant Investments: US$43 Million in 40 Countries (2009-2011)
So far, we have invested in high-impact grants totaling USD $43 million in support of 55 grantee partners in 40 countries.

- $34 million directly to women’s organizations
- 56 out of 73 grantees are women’s organizations with significant results: investing in women pays off!
- Based on lessons learned, current Call for Proposals is focused on women’s organizations, includes regional networks, excludes INGOs, reduced maximum amounts to up to US$1 million
So far, on aggregate with grant support from the Fund for Gender Equality, our grantee partners are:

- Helping over 163,741 women secure decent work.
- Supporting over 114,433 women gains skills and access to resources and assets, including land, water, technology, and viable employment.
- Ensuring over 4 million women gain protection and security for themselves and their families.
- Introducing over 1,700 women into electoral politics around the world.
- Strengthening the leadership skills of over 13.6 million women.
- Catalyzing 24 legislative and policy changes that have benefited women and girls in 12 countries.
THANK YOU

For more information see Reconsidering Development ‘Multi-donor Trust Funds at the United Nations: Transforming development aid or business as usual?’

by Kellea Miller, 2012
# How we measure our global impact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Category</th>
<th>Secondary Focus Area(s)</th>
<th>Global Impact Indicators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainable Economic Empowerment</strong></td>
<td>Supporting Rural women</td>
<td>Number of rural women who gained access to and control of resources and assets, including extension services, land rights, property, economic assets, water, technology etc. Percentage increase in incomes and other assets</td>
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<td>Ensuring Decent work</td>
<td>Number of gender-responsive national laws, policies and regulations for protecting the rights of women workers reformed/adopted Number of women accessing special provisions of public programs conducive to decent work Number of private sector companies and industry associations that promote gender equality Number of gender-responsive services (transport, utilities, markets, water, energy) that enhance women’s livelihoods</td>
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<td>Promoting Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Number of women with access to skills enhancing opportunities/ mentoring programmes and enterprise development assistance</td>
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<td>Guaranteeing Social Protection</td>
<td>Number of social protections measures adopted/implemented (e.g. secure employment, child-care, health care provisions etc) Number of women benefiting from social protection services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Political Empowerment from the local to national to regional levels</strong></td>
<td>Catalyzing Legislative and Policy Change</td>
<td>Number of changes in constitutions, legal frameworks, policies and implementation plans (e.g. special measures, gender responsive budgeting, electoral reforms) Number of constitutions, legal frameworks and policies adopted (e.g. new gender equality laws, budgets etc)</td>
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<td>Engaging in Electoral Processes</td>
<td>Percentage increase in female candidates participating in local and national elections. Number of women in seats in national parliament and local councils.</td>
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<td>Expanding &amp; Strengthening Women’s Leadership</td>
<td>Number of women with strengthened leadership skills and capacities to influence institutions to promote gender equality in leadership and participation Number of women in leadership positions in institutions that affect their lives (e.g. on political parties, boards; law enforcement; national AIDS councils.)</td>
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<td>Expanding the voices of women’s rights advocates in various forums and increasing democratic space</td>
<td>Number of spaces/decision-making mechanisms influenced by women’s movements Number of civil society stakeholders reached through capacity development efforts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coordination and strategic partnerships</strong></td>
<td>Strengthening Interagency collaboration for gender equality</td>
<td>Number of technical resources provided by UN Women country counterparts to FGE grantees Number of collaborations with UN agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supporting National Alignment</td>
<td>Number of collaborations between national machineries, civil society and UN agencies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Market Women’s Fund
$3 million (for three years)
Liberia

- Many markets were destroyed during the war, severely constraining women’s livelihood opportunities.

- Nine thousand women and their families are now regaining their livelihoods through the rehabilitation of 8 markets.

- Holistic markets: literacy trainings, safe water, sanitation, daycare centers, and training and health facilities for the market vendors.)
• Since 2005, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act ensures some paid employment for each rural household, yet Dalit women and scheduled castes have not demanded their entitlements.

• Through increasing the knowledge and outreach to marginalized women and sensitizing local level authorities, marginalized women are claiming their entitlements.

• The program has secured employment for 14,000 Dalit women. 9,000 women also have also increased control and decision-making power over their earnings with Job Cards and bank accounts in their names.
• Women represent the majority in many parts of Mexico, yet they are minority in government.

• At the start of the programme, of the 113 municipalities in Michoacán, one of the 31 states, only 5 are governed by women. In the most recent election, women mayors increased from 5 to 12% and women in Congress increased from 13 to 38%.
Las Dignas & Las Melidas
El Salvador

- Gender disparity in El Salvador is extreme with a 14% wage gender gap, over 60% of the illiterate population is female and women representing 77% of the unemployed population.

- Through advocacy and strategies of the feminist movement in El Salvador, a gender equality law was passed in March 2011.
March 2012 Call

- Over the course of the two week application window, the Fund received 901 applications

- 60% applications focused on women’s economic empowerment and 40% focused on women’s political empowerment

- There is great need and demand!!!
2009-2010 Call for Proposals
Demand: US$3 Billion dollars requested by 1,239 applicants (MY request)

2011-2012 Demand: approx $700 Million* requested by 1,000+ applicants
There is great need and demand !!!
Evidence shows that women deliver best results !
FGE is the Fund in the UN system dedicated to women’s rights organizations
What brings us together?
www.unwomen.org/fge

Watch our video in English:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWPLNRL-2Ms

Video del Fondo en Español:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0R8wmc1KfPg&feature=related
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