Where is the Money for Indigenous Women’s Rights (WITM)
Research 2014

WITM for Indigenous Women’s Rights Action-Research Framing:
Derived from the AWID’s WITM methodology, this smaller research project will start in the summer of 2014 and finish before end of 2014. It will entail ‘light’ methodologies of data collection from existing sources in order to provide an overall picture of funding availability for indigenous women’s rights organizing. It will also involve consultations and focus group’s inputs into the qualitative analysis and recommendations for conclusions and advocacy next steps.

Action-Research goals are to contribute to:

• Influencing donor discourses and practices in funding indigenous women’s rights organizing;
• Increasing the quality and quantity of funding directed to diverse indigenous women’s rights organizing;
• Fostering deeper alliances with donors and indigenous women’s organizations in order to strengthen advocacy and amplify the call for greater resources for indigenous women’s rights organizing;
• Framing collective resource mobilization as part of the political agenda of indigenous women’s rights organizing.

This research project is part of the larger project on Mobilizing Resources for Indigenous Women’s Rights with another big component, being a Resource Mobilization Hub for Indigenous Women’s Rights to be held at the World Summit on Indigenous Philanthropy in September 2014 in NYC.

Research Objectives and Key Areas of Focus:

Objective 1: Generate hard data on the funding realities and trends for indigenous women’s rights organizing

Seek to answer the question: “Where is the Money for Indigenous Women’s Rights” by tracking the size and quality of indigenous women’s rights organizations’ resources as well as women’s funds’ and donor agencies’ budgets to indigenous women’s rights. This will be accomplished through data analysis of several funding agencies and affinity groups, desk research and interviews.
• Identify any key shifts in women’s rights organizations’, women’s funds’ and donors’ budgets, particularly related to resource sustainability.
• Identify key funding trends, their origins and logic/politics behind them at the national, regional and global levels.

Objective 2: Gain deeper insight into how indigenous women’s organizations and donors understand how change happens (theory of change) in relation to increasing women’s rights and gender equality.
• Understand the influence of the way that key donors structure funding for indigenous women’s rights work (e.g., effect of project-based funding, core support, long-term support, movement building).
• Contribute to “making the case” on why it is important to support indigenous women’s organizations, including understanding how different actors understand the social change process.

Objective 3: Deepen our understanding of key networking and collaboration approaches that enhance movement building and complementarity.
• Identify strong examples of feminist and collaborative resource mobilization strategies that enhance movement building and complementarity.
• Highlight new opportunities for collaborating with donors to create funding mechanisms (fund disbursement) and processes (M&E) that work for indigenous women’s organizations.

Tools / Methodology
• Review of FIMI grantmaking data
• Review of other women’s funds (available) data relevant to indigenous women’s organizations (if needed through short survey)
• Review of IFIP’s members (available) data relevant to indigenous women’s organizations (if needed through short survey)
• Review of Foundation Center’s relevant data on funding to indigenous communities
• Review of UN Trust Fund for Indigenous Peoples data and NORAD relevant and available data
• Desk research
• Interviews (~ 10 women’s organizations and 15+ donors including women’s funds)
• Input during RMH for Indigenous Women’s Rights for final product/report
• Focus group inputs at a meeting after RMH

Research Products
• An interactive presentation of the research findings presented at the RMH in September
• A 30-35 page ‘synthesis’ of findings and analysis with short online report
• Series of launch presentations and e-learnings on research findings post RMH in September