

The Global Fund for Women

“A powerful force for change”

Summary - Strategic Plan 2008 - 2013

July 2008



Executive summary

For twenty years, the Global Fund for Women has played a key role in advancing human rights worldwide. By mobilizing funds from a diversity of sources and making grants that have trusted women to set their own priorities and manage their own resources, we have seeded, supported, and linked thousands of women's rights groups whose efforts have contributed to strengthening a global women's movement and numerous other social justice movements across the world.

This strategic plan builds on past accomplishments and deepens the Global Fund's commitment to advancing women's rights by investing in sustainable local, national and transnational women's movements and linking them to allied social justice movements to be able to effect lasting change in relationships of socio-economic and political power.

To meet these bold objectives, the Global Fund has to adapt its own structures and processes. This strategic plan clarifies the vision, mission and guiding principles of the organization, defines new directions, partnerships and opportunities, and outlines key results areas, goals and the strategies we will use to achieve them.



Global Fund
for Women

Executive summary (cont.)

The guiding principle of this plan is to advance women's rights by strengthening women's organizations and movements and their efforts to work for transformative change in effective collaboration with other allied social justice movements. The following actions flow from this focus:

- Double our resources, while actively collaborating with allied organizations and philanthropic peers to double the financial resources available for women's rights globally;
- Substantially expand grant-making to effectively and strategically respond to specific gaps and needs prioritized by women's rights organizations and movements;
- Develop strategic partnerships and leverage our networks to promote and make visible women's contributions to social change, justice, peace, and equality worldwide;
- Build an organizational culture of learning that values creativity, critical analysis and reflection, and rewards risk taking in order to best serve the global women's movement.



Global Fund
for Women

Our vision

The Global Fund for Women envisions a just, compassionate and equitable world in which all people, regardless of their gender, class, age, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation or physical ability may live free of poverty, violence, and all forms of discrimination. Each person and all peoples are guaranteed their fundamental human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. Women everywhere have a voice, have choices, and are able to realize their full potential within their societies.



Global Fund
for Women

Our mission

The Global Fund for Women plays a leading role in advancing women's rights by making grants that support and strengthen women's groups around the world. We mobilize and redistribute resources that enable women to develop creative solutions to local, regional, and transnational challenges. We bring grantees and donors together in an international network that promotes women's action for social change, equality, peace, and justice worldwide.



Global Fund
for Women

Prevailing challenges

- A world marred by war and militarism and politically dominated by security agendas which undermine the interests and well-being of women and children
- Shifting balance of power between state, corporate and civil society in a world dominated by economic globalization
- Resurgence of social, cultural and religious extremism with strong focus on restricting women's freedom
- Persistent discrimination against women
- Limited awareness of the value of women's contribution to development and social change
- Urgent need to mitigate negative impact of financial recessions and economic crises on women and women's movements
- Limited availability of funding for women's rights work



Global Fund
for Women

Emerging opportunities

- New levels of local and transnational mobilization among women's rights organizations and movements
- Increasingly internationalized awareness of global disparities, women's oppression and gender inequalities
- Growing awareness of the need to protect and advance twentieth century gains in human rights and women's rights in particular
- Enhanced possibilities for transnational connections and solidarities as a result of globalization and technological development
- Increased availability of diverse financial, strategic and technical resources



Global Fund
for Women

We aim to achieve a more equal, peaceful and just world by strengthening women's organizations and movements that work to

- End wars and conflicts and eliminate rape and sexual abuse
- Ensure physical and emotional security for women and children in public and private life
- Ensure economic security and environmental justice
- Enhance wellness and respect for sexual and reproductive rights
- Advance and ensure more equal participation in public and political life
- Equal access to socially and intellectually inclusive education
- Build a pervasive culture of equality and participatory democracy



**Global Fund
for Women**

Guiding principles

- We adhere to basic feminist principles, the notion that women and men have an equal right to dignity, opportunity, and freedom from violence and discrimination
- We believe that independent women's initiatives and movements are key to bringing about social change and justice and that women's free and equal participation is essential for open and democratic societies
- We value local experience and trust women to determine their priorities and propose solutions to challenges
- We see philanthropy as a shared responsibility and opportunity to be generous and to make a difference in the world by creating equal and respectful connections between those who give and those who receive
- We believe that social change and justice result from the actions of multiple actors, collective contributions and effective collaboration
- We honor and welcome diversity in the wisdom and experiences of all members of our network
- We believe that the way in which we do our work is as important as what we do
- We are committed to working with all members of our community in ways that reflect respect, trust, and openness
- We strive to be flexible, accountable and fair in all aspects of our Work
- We use human rights principles and instruments as defining frames of reference, recognizing that human rights are both individual and collective
- We see philanthropy as a shared responsibility that offers individuals and institutions the opportunity to both give and receive, to be generous, and to build connections of equality and mutual respect



Five year Key Result Areas leading to long term achievements

1. Double the available financial resources for women's rights organizations and movement building globally
2. Make responsive, innovative and high impact grants that advance women's rights worldwide
3. Promote and raise public awareness of women's actions for social change
4. Create, strengthen and leverage key global networks and strategic partnerships
5. Sustain an organizational culture of learning and creativity that can best serve the global women's movement



Global Fund
for Women