WHERE IS THE MONEY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE PACIFIC?

MAPPING GAPS, OPPORTUNITIES AND TRENDS

This brief is based on a scoping study commissioned by the Fiji Women’s Fund (FWF) and the Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights Asia and Pacific (UAF A&P) to:

Gain deeper insights into perspectives of funders and women’s rights organisations.

Generate data on funding realities and trends so as to provide an overview of funding available for women’s human rights and gender equality work in Fiji and Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Explore collaborations between funders and women’s rights organisations on issues that emerge from the scoping study.

**WHAT THE STUDY FOUND?**

**Less than 1%** of this funding is reaching women’s organisations in the Pacific through direct funding from funders.

**Over 40** organisations including funders, financial and business intermediaries, women’s civil society organisations, and Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) were interviewed between February - May 2019 to seek insights into the funding of women’s organisations in Fiji, PNG and more broadly across the Pacific.

**Total funding directed to gender equality and women’s empowerment** as a principal or significant objective from OECD DAC members has increased in the last 5 years.

**Less than 5%** aid from OECD DAC members and the 26 private foundations targeted gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal objective.

**0.4% of aid** from OECD DAC members is directed to women’s organisations, of which a miniscule proportion funds Pacific women’s organisations to achieve their goals than the funder’s priorities.

Australia’s funding to gender equality and women’s empowerment activities in the Pacific reached a peak in 2011 at USD 569 million and has dropped to USD 416 million in 2017.

**LESSES FUND FLOWING TO PACIFIC**

USD 1.6 BILLION
GROSS DISBURSEMENTS TO THE PACIFIC

USD 13.3 MILLION
GROSS DISBURSEMENTS TO WOMEN’S ORGANISATIONS

USD 2.5 MILLION
GROSS DISBURSEMENTS TO PACIFIC WOMEN’S ORGANISATIONS
KEY REASONS WHY FUNDS ARE NOT FLOWING TO PACIFIC WOMEN’S ORGANISATIONS:

- Small
- Far Away
- Costly
- Fragmented
- Fragile
- Risky
- Difficult to Communicate
- Conflict-Affected

Funders don’t know how to reach the right Pacific women’s organisations and/or which initiative to support.

WHAT THE STUDY RECOMMENDS

- **Set up an independent Pacific feminist fund**
  that is a conduit for Pacific women’s organisations to secure funding; to broaden the range of funders available; to represent and direct discussions within and outside the region; to amplify voices of organisations, and women and feminist movements in the region; to lead impact investing in women’s rights and gender based work; and to engage with Pacific Leaders, role models, celebrities and philanthropic networks to support Pacific women and girls.

- **Improve transparency around funding data for more informed and inclusive dialogue** with a commitment from key funders to publish data annually on the funds directed to the Pacific region, funds directly provided to organisations in the Pacific and the funds reaching DPOs.

- **UAF A&P and FWF take the lead organising at least on three events annually that focus on emerging issues in funding.**

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AROUND DATA FUNDING

- There is little current gender equality disaggregated data available on funds disbursed to women’s organisations in the Pacific region in the previous reporting year.

- Due to the transparency gap, funders and women’s organisations do not have the same information when discussing modalities and funding for gender equality and women’s empowerment activities in the Pacific.

The full scoping study can be accessed at: https://fijiwomensfund.org/where_is_the_money/