

Strengthening feminist CSOs working for gender equality in and through education

Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF)

1. Presentation of the Call for proposals and intervention logic

Despite great progress, girls' access to education and skills development remains highly unequal

Yet :

- **Education is a key factor in reducing gender inequalities**
- **Empowerment of adolescent boys and girls is central to achieving the SDGs**
- **The challenges of this call for proposals :**
 - Barriers to girls' schooling are known, multiple, intersectional, and not exclusively the responsibility of educational actors
 - Social gender norms play a fundamental role in the constitution of these barriers
 - Important issues for adolescent girls in particular (transition from primary to secondary school, retention in secondary school)

FSOF key elements

- Intermediated funding mechanism to strengthen CSOs
- Minimum 50% of the total (i.e. 5M€) to community-based organisations, local initiatives, the most remote from funding
- Broad geographical focus: 65% Africa and 35% Latin America/Asia/Middle East, despite stated priorities

Objectives

- Strengthen CSO actions to address intersectional and cross-sectoral barriers to girls' and adolescent girls' skills development, particularly by explicitly targeting gender norms;
- Increase the mobilisation and participation of young people and girls in transformational actions for gender equality in and through education;
- broaden feminist CSO's scope of action and expertise on these issues.

► **aims to demonstrate and support sustainable community-based approaches to developing actions that promote gender equality in and through education.**

Leverage effects sought

- Removing barriers to girls' learning and acquiring essential skills to claim their rights;
- Increasing the voice and representation of women, girls and youth in their societies and in decision-making bodies on issues related to their education and empowerment;
- Involvement and change of perception of actors in favour of girls' education and their empowerment;
- Advocacy for laws, norms and policies that promote the empowerment of women and girls through education and gender equality through and in education;
- The production and valorisation of local knowledge to guide feminist action.

Attention points

- Open to all educational levels, but priority to secondary/adolescent level
- Increased expectations of knowledge production and collaboration with research
- Direct participation in the governance and activities of youth and young feminist NGOs
- Avoiding crowding-out effect

Components

- **Component 1: Provision of flexible funding at the CSO level for the enrolment and empowerment of girls and adolescents (minimum €5M or 50% of total AFD funding)**
 - Activities to support gender equality in and through education
 - Activities to support the functioning / development of CSOs
- **Component 2: Capacity building, networking, capitalisation and research-action**
 - Provision of technical support and training
 - Cross-cutting activities, at national, regional and international levels
 - Action research and capitalization

Component 3: Operation and international valorisation

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Due diligence, Audit
- Communication, visibility

Some features of this Call for proposals

- **Valuing the contribution of CSOs**
 - supporting social demand for education
 - relaying advocacy to improve educational provision
- **Ensure anchoring to existing policy support efforts**
- **Integrate an action research component, in addition to monitoring and evaluation**
- **Steering the project according to the theory of change and the logical framework**

Expected competences of the consortium

- Complementarity between the respective expertise in education, gender equality and youth of the different CSOs and capacity to work in partnership;
- Experience in feminist activism for the facilitation of schemes and in rights-based approach, in particular in education and youth mobilisation;
- Community and CSO capacity building;
- Capacity to network and identify good practices;
- Ability to deploy communication channels to reach out to local and community-based CSOs in various contexts;
- Experience in action research / capitalisation (intellectual production, south-south knowledge sharing);
- Detailed knowledge of the ecosystems of the proposed countries of intervention.
- Proven capacity for administrative and financial management in multiple and varied geographical areas;
- Operational capacity / management of multi-actor projects, including in remote areas.

2. Methods of implementation

Agenda

- Consultation meeting on 14 April with NGOs
- Launch end of April
- 9 weeks
- Announcement of results end of June/early July
- Award in September or October
- Start 3rd quarter

Modalities: key points

- **Submission by a consortium**
- **Countries considered as priorities :**
 - Africa: Benin, Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Senegal, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt
 - Latin America and the Caribbean: Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Dominican Republic
 - Middle East: Lebanon, Jordan, Palestinian Territories

4 to 8 countries maximum

- **3 to 4 years**
- **Audit: minimum 2%.**
- **Administrative and structural costs max 12%**
- **Screening doctrine toolkit available**