Accelerating progress and investing in gender equality – lessons learned

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In this presentation...

• Overview of funding trends for gender equality and women’s empowerment
  – The state of funding for women’s organizations
  – Opportunities & limitations of ‘new funding’ for women and girls

• Insights from the Dutch MDG3 Fund Experience

• Recommendations for CSW 58
Aid in support of gender equality and women’s empowerment: 2002-11, annual average commitments, USD billion, constant 2011 prices.
Aid in support of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (2010-11)

Total Gender Equality-Focused Aid: 20.5 Billion

- $17.3 Billion (84%)
- $3.2 Billion (16%)

Significant Objective
Principal Objective
Bilateral Aid Focused on Gender Equality by Sector (2010-2011)

- Agriculture & Rural Development: 8%
- Health: 9%
- Water Supply & Sanitation: 9%
- Other Multisector: 11%
- Education: 19%
- Government and Civil Society: 21%
$515 million

$406 million

$130 million

$263 million

All Women's Organizations and Institutions

Civil Society Women's Organizations

2008

2011
How are women’s organizations faring?

The combined income of 740 women’s organizations in 2010 was approximately $106 million USD. Their median annual income was $22,750.
Role of ‘New Actors’?

- Training & Technical Assistance: 44%
- In-kind services & contributions: 31%
- Resourcing & launching their own initiatives: 28%
- Microcredit / microfinance: 12%
- Direct funding to NGOs other than women’s organizations but for work with women/girls: 12%

170 Initiatives

$14.6 Billion Dollars
Lessons from the Dutch MDG3 Fund

82 million euros, awarded to 45 different organizations between 2008-2011
Some key grantee achievements, 2008 - 2011

- Almost 225 million people reached and inspired with new awareness of women’s rights
- Over 230,000 activists were provided tools and skills to support women’s assertion of their rights
- Over 105,000 women’s organizations had their capacity built and received new tools
- 38 Local governments and 45 national governments were influenced and to re-assess, strengthen, and improve their gender equality policies, programs and outcomes
- 13 international and regional human rights / women’s rights institutions and mechanisms were influenced to better advance women’s rights
How gender power was altered $(N=34)$

**Individual**
- Consciousness / Internalized attitudes, self-esteem
- Access to & control over resources / services

**Informal**
- Cultural / social norms, beliefs, practices

**Community**
- Laws, policies, resource allocations

**Systemic**
- 32 orgs (94%) created shifts here
- 29 orgs (85%) created shifts here
- 30 orgs (88%) created shifts here
- 26 orgs (76%) created shifts here

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Characteristics of the Dutch MDG3 Fund that contributed to its impact

- Significant size, duration of funding
- Provided flexible, core support
- Under the MDG3 umbrella, supported a range of work:
  - Reducing violence against women
  - Enhancing women’s economic independence
  - Increasing women’s political participation
- Focused support for women’s rights organizations and funds (re-granting reached multiple levels)
- Open to influence from, negotiation with grantees
- Facilitated cross-grantee (& other stakeholder) collaboration
Recommendations for CSW58

• Scale up the share of ODA for gender equality and women’s empowerment to 20% by 2015

• Advance clear mechanisms for assessing performance, results and accountability for gender equality and women’s empowerment objectives
For More Information...

- Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots: The Status of Financing for Women’s Rights Organizing and Gender Equality (Oct 2013)