

Fund for Gender Equality

Annual Report 2018-2019



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Contents

| | |
|----|--|
| 05 | Foreword |
| 06 | An Ever-Evolving Feminist Grantmaking Programme |
| 12 | Women's Civil Society Organizations of the Future |
| 18 | 2018 Key Results and Highlights |
| 22 | Africa |
| 24 | Americas and the Caribbean |
| 26 | Arab States |
| 28 | Asia and the Pacific |
| 30 | Europe and Central Asia |
| 32 | In Focus: "Re-think. Experiment." Where Social Innovation Meets Feminist Programming |
| 44 | In Focus: South-South Cooperation |
| 48 | Soaring to New Heights after the FGE |
| 50 | In My View: Op-eds from FGE partners |
| 54 | List of Grantees |

Foreword

Ten years ago, a bold vision became a lived reality.

The Government of Spain bravely told the world it was not doing enough for the most vulnerable women and girls. Spain made a commitment to do more, US\$ 65 million to be exact. The Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) was born.

A decade later, we at the FGE are proud of our work, our partnerships and our results.

Our feminist grantmaking, backed by the United Nations and centred on women's civil society organizations, has brought real change for women and girls. It has pushed forward lasting advances in political and economic empowerment around the globe.

To share just some of the victories:

In Mexico, the political landscape has shifted drastically in part due to FGE-assisted advocacy and training. Today, Mexico boasts the **second highest percentage of women representatives in Parliament, globally.**

In India, through an FGE grant, 8,000 Dalit women **broke out of a form of modern slavery** entailing the cleaning of human waste from dry latrines.

Domestic workers in Brazil have organized to claim their rights. FGE grantees drove national adoption of an ILO convention that stipulates decent terms for compensation, working conditions and other fundamentals, protecting the existing 7 million domestic workers, mostly indigenous and Afro-descendant women.

The FGE has been a courageous experiment with other similar initiatives of large magnitude following suit. The European Union and United Nations Spotlight initiative have made a €500 million commitment to end violence against women. Canada's newly announced Equality Fund will invest CAD\$ 300 million to leverage funds of more than CAD\$ 1 billion for women's organizations and movements in the Global South. The Government of the Netherlands has established a series of funds and injected over €200 million to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

We applaud these efforts, and urge more donors and United Nations Member States to follow suit and invest in the power of women.

We might not know the future, but we have the legacy of our past and the momentum of the present to carry forward and continue to find new and innovative ways to achieve gender equality by 2030, a central commitment of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In solidarity,

The FGE Team (listed alphabetically):

Elimane Bousso, Sara de la Peña Espin, Rana El Houjeiri, Caroline Horekens, Nancy Khweiss, Eugenia Lollini, Cynthia Sjamsu and Catherine Wolf.

An Ever-Evolving Feminist Grantmaking Programme



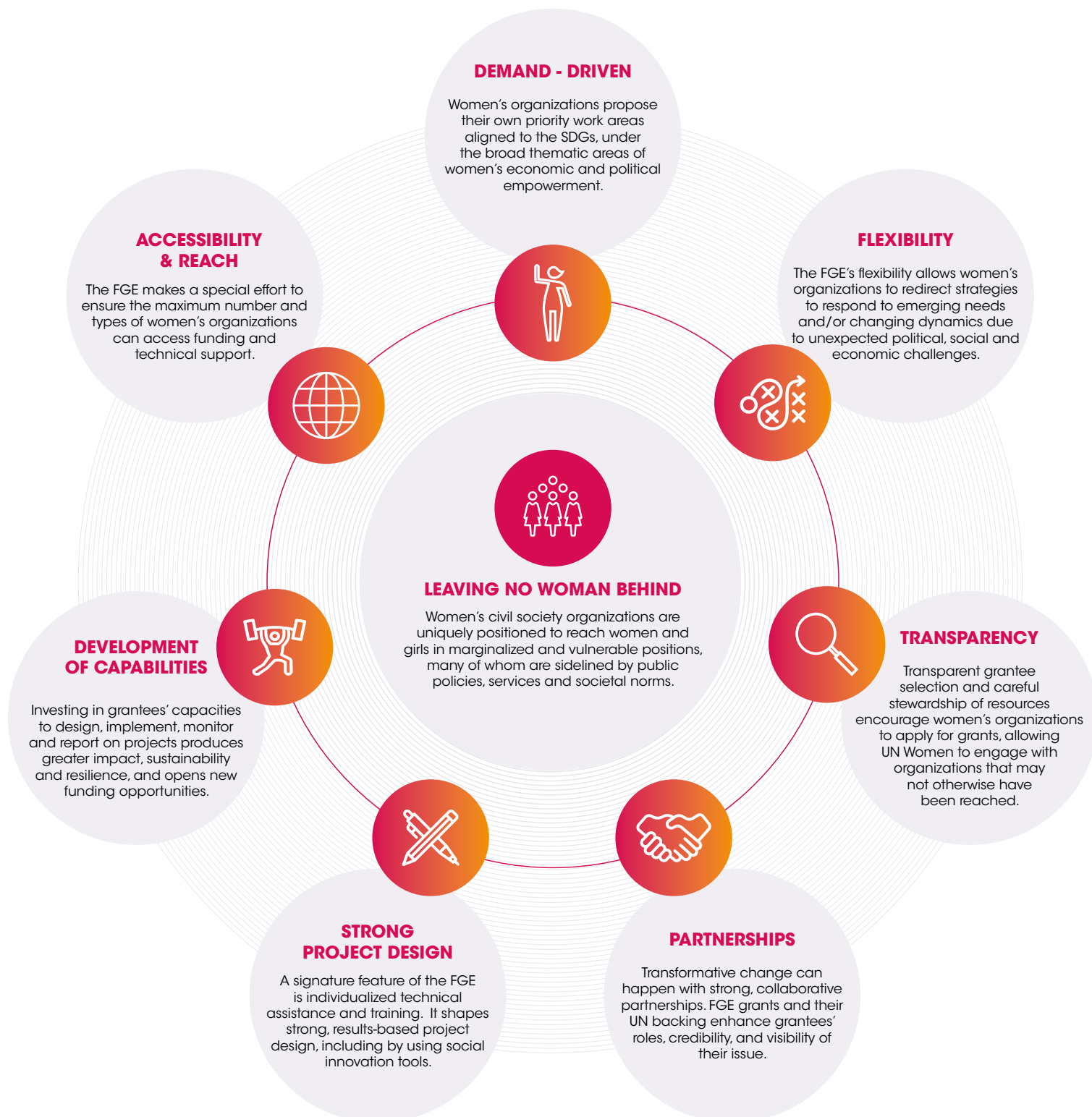
The FGE has one guiding purpose: to support national, women-led civil society organizations in achieving women's economic and political empowerment and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As UN Women's global grantmaking programme dedicated to working with civil society, the FGE transforms financing from diverse donors into high-impact initiatives led by women. We invest in their ideas and abilities to pursue interventions benefitting women and girls most at risk of being left behind. Almost 97 per cent of projects target at least one vulnerable group, and 70 per cent involve two or more groups.

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Our Grantmaking Principles

The FGE embraces an empowerment philosophy rooted in its feminist core values. It applies this approach to both its grantmaking model and the practices of its team. It does not simply award grants. Instead, using a validated methodology, it comprehensively engages with grantees to achieve greater and more lasting impacts that extend far beyond the lifecycle of the grant.



Looking forward

To maintain the highest standards of quality, transparency and impact, the FGE has regularly refined its grantmaking to better respond to grantees' needs.

In 2018 and 2019, the FGE embarked on several processes of research, self-reflection, analysis and experimentation. It drew lessons on how it can become a more effective catalyst for women's organizations of the future, such as through redefining donor-grantee relationships, fostering women-centred project design and prioritizing organizational strengthening for grantees.



The project funded by the FGE took us to new places we had never been before. The technical assistance, the exchanges with other grantees and the political support were extremely useful.

Valentina Zendejas,

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