

A Snapshot in Time: Data Highlights for the Feminist Funding Ecosystem

Overview

Providing a comprehensive picture of the financial support for women's rights organizations (WROs) and feminist movements remains a difficult task given the variety of sources the support comes from, the opacity of the way some funds move, and the incompleteness of existing databases.

This snapshot provides an overall estimate of the funding moving to WROs and feminist movements from official development assistance (ODA) and private philanthropy based on information from 2020 provided by the Advancing Human Rights Initiative, 2021 - 2022 provided by the OECD, and US-foundation giving in 2024. It does not track funding from individuals or from the autonomous resourcing efforts of WROs and feminist movements.

Ongoing Budget Cuts

The majority of the data comes from 2021 - 2022 averages meaning that the numbers represent a snapshot in time and one that is rapidly disintegrating following severe cuts to ODA budgets, most notably, but not only, the funding from USAID. The US has long been the largest ODA donor and provided \$64.69B in ODA in 2023.¹ Germany, the next largest donor, provided \$37.9B and Japan, the fourth largest, provided \$19.6B.

As of February 27, 2025, the US government (USG) has terminated nearly 10,000 grants and contracts. As of February 20, 2025, respondents to the [Global Aid Freeze Tracker](#) cited gender as the third most affected thematic area ahead of human rights, peace and security, and climate, and behind only health and governance.

In addition to the cuts at USAID, other governments have already announced their intentions to reduce their ODA budgets. ODI Global calculated that in 2024, eight countries announced ODA cuts of \$17.2B over the next five years.² On February 24, 2025, the United Kingdom announced that starting in 2027 it would reduce its ODA budget to 0.3% of gross national income (GNI) from 0.5% in order to increase defense spending.³ Most significantly

¹ <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/official-development-assistance-oda.html>. Accessed February 27, 2025.

² <https://odi.org/en/insights/donors-in-a-post-aid-world-january-2025-update/>. Accessed February 27, 2025.

³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clyrkv4qd70>. Accessed February 27, 2025.

for WROs, on February 20, 2025, the Dutch government announced that in order to reduce the ODA budget by €2.4 billion starting in 2027 funding for gender equality, civil society organizations, and UN organizations, among others, would be terminated.⁴

Accurately tracking the impact of these cuts on WROs in real-time is an ongoing and challenging task. By looking at previous data, however, we can begin to anticipate what these impacts may mean. The following paragraphs provide the latest available data on funding for WROs and feminist movements in order to help our members and allies better understand what is happening now and what lies ahead.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) on average 2022 - 2023

Overall ODA

- \$69B in aid provided by [OECD DAC members](#) had gender equality objectives while \$82B in ODA had no gender equality objectives. **Overall, 54% of ODA does not aim to have a positive impact on gender equality.**⁵
 - Of the non-DAC members that reported their funding to the OECD in 2021 - 2022 (the last years for which data are currently available), only \$12.5M out of \$9.4B included gender equality objectives representing only 0.13% of total funding provided by non-DAC members.⁶
- The share of aid with gender equality objectives returned to previous levels (46% of all ODA had gender equality objectives) following the first decrease in ten years. However, the **percentage of ODA with gender equality as the principal objective remains at 4%** where it has remained virtually unmoved since 2010.⁷
- Civil society organizations are receiving less of the gender equality focused ODA than they did previously. **In 2011-2012, CSOs received 27% of ODA with gender equality objectives while in 2021-2022 they received only 19%.** During this same period multilaterals increased their share from 21% in 2011-2012 to 29% in 2021-2022.⁸

⁴<https://www.government.nl/latest/news/2025/02/20/minister-reinette-klever-dutch-interests-at-the-heart-of-development-policy>. Accessed February 27, 2025.

⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/dashboards/development-finance-for-gender-equality.html>. Accessed March 10, 2025.

⁶ OECD (2024). Development Finance for Gender Equality 2024, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/e340afb-en>.

⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/dashboards/development-finance-for-gender-equality.html>. Accessed March 10, 2025.

⁸ OECD, 2024.

Support for women's rights organizations⁹

- Excluding support that went to public sector institutions, governments provided **\$481M to women's rights organizations per year on average in 2022-2023**.¹⁰
 - This represented 0.7% of ODA with a gender equality objective. This is the lowest percentage since tracking began in 2010. The percentage has never been higher than 1.4%.
- This support is highly concentrated among just a few donors. In 2022-2023, **five donors accounted for \$272.9M or 57% of the total funding**.¹¹
 - EU institutions: \$84.64M (18%)
 - Canada: \$57.2M (12%)
 - UK: \$45.15M (9%)
 - Sweden: \$44.45M (9%)
 - Spain: \$41.38M (9%)
- Of the \$432M that was given to WROs in 2021-2022 (the latest period for which these data are available), **only \$29M went to WROs based in a recipient country**. Over half of this funding goes through the UN system or CSOs based in a donor-country, specifically:¹²
 - \$160M to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (37% of funding)²
 - \$145M through donor-based CSOs (34% of funding)

Gender equality as the principal objective to / through CSOs¹³

- In 2021 - 2022, governments provided **\$11.3 billion in ODA with gender equality objectives to and through CSOs**. This funding is concentrated among organizations based in the Global North, specifically:¹⁴

⁹ According to the OECD's Creditor Reporting System, donors classify some of their funding as going to specifically support women's rights organizations. The precise definition for the 15170 purpose code is: Support for feminist, women-led and women's rights organisations and movements, and institutions (governmental and non-governmental) at all levels to enhance their effectiveness, influence and sustainability (activities and core-funding). These organisations exist to bring about transformative change for gender equality and/or the rights of women and girls in developing countries. Their activities include agenda-setting, advocacy, policy dialogue, capacity development, awareness raising and prevention, service provision, conflict-prevention and peacebuilding, research, organising, and alliance and network building.

¹⁰ <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/dashboards/development-finance-for-gender-equality.html>. Accessed March 10, 2025.

¹¹ Ibid. In previous years, France was one of the largest donors to WROs through the French Support Fund to Feminist Organizations (FSOF). They may have fallen this year because of large commitments made in a previous time.

¹² OECD, 2024.

¹³ Government donors also provide funding to and through civil society organizations with gender equality as a principal or significant objective. This funding may or may not be channeled through women's rights organizations or women's and feminist funds. For more information about the OECD DAC gender marker and principal and significant objectives, please see: <https://web.archive.org/temp/2024-02-06/369190-dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>.

¹⁴ OECD, 2024.

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- \$7.2 billion was channelled through CSOs based in donor countries (64% of funding)
- \$2.7 billion was channelled through international CSOs (24% of funding)
- \$1.2 billion was channelled through CSOs based in recipient countries (11% of funding)

Private Philanthropy

Unlike the OECD database, there is no singular comprehensive database tracking private philanthropy support to WROs and feminist movements. The following data points provide glimpses into the overall state of private philanthropic support to WROs and feminist movements.

OECD Estimates

For the 2021 - 2022 data, 40 private foundations reported their funding to the OECD using the gender equality policy marker. Though not representative of the full breadth of private philanthropic giving, the data provides a useful baseline and ways of comparing philanthropic funding to ODA.

- **Private foundations reporting to OECD provided \$12.3B** per year over 2021 - 2022.
 - **\$3.4B had a gender equality objective** (28% of funding)¹⁵
 - Nearly half of this funding went to either health (\$860M) or population policy / reproductive health (\$730M)¹⁶
 - 47% of this funding is channelled through civil society organizations¹⁷
 - Giving is highly concentrated among a few institutions with "ten international foundations providing 97% of total cross-border giving for gender equality in developing countries."¹⁸
 - **\$1.1B had gender equality as the principal objective** (9% of funding in comparison to DAC members for whom 4% of funding has gender equality as the principal objective).¹⁹
- Of the philanthropic giving tracked by the OECD, **\$223M went directly to WROs representing 1.8% of the total giving.**²⁰

¹⁵ OECD, 2024.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ OECD (2024), "How philanthropic foundations support gender equality and women's empowerment", OECD Development Policy Papers, No. 55, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/3fbec947-en>. (OECD, 2024, Policy Papers.)

¹⁹ OECD, 2024, Policy Papers.

²⁰ Ibid.

Gender Funders CoLab Members

Based on a combination of internal and publicly available records, the Alliance has prepared the following estimates.

- Total US-based foundation giving was \$105.2B in 2024.²¹ **The women's human rights grantmaking budgets in 2024 of eight of the US-based foundation members of Gender Funders CoLab was \$325.64M** representing 0.3% of total US-based foundation giving.

Advancing Human Rights Initiative Data

The Advancing Human Rights initiative is led by Human Rights Funders Network and Candid in partnership with Ariadne—European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights and Prospera—International Network of Women's Funds. It compiles and analyzes grants data to produce a range of reports and analysis based on issues, regions, populations, and strategies. The latest year for which data are available as of the time of writing is 2020.

- The initiative tracked **\$1.2B in funding for "women and girls"** out of \$4.9B of overall human rights foundation giving (25% of all funding).²²
 - **50.8% of this funding went to groups based in North America** or for work taking place in North America while 22.3% of this funding went to global programs.²³ Additional regional breakdowns include;
 - 6.2% to Asia and the Pacific
 - 0.2% to the Caribbean
 - 1.9% to Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia
 - 6% to Latin America and Mexico
 - 1.5% to the Middle East and North Africa
 - 14.8% to sub-Saharan Africa
 - 4.6% to Western Europe

²¹ https://thenonprofittimes.com/npt_articles/foundation-assets-jumped-estimated-170-billion/. Accessed February 26, 2025.

²² <https://humanrightsfunding.org/populations/women/>. Accessed February 26, 2025.

²³ Ibid.