

Watering the Leaves, Starving the Roots

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The Status of Financing for Women's Rights Organizing and Gender Equality

This new report from the Association for Women's Rights in Development provides the latest analysis on the funding trends impacting women's rights organizing and the financial status of women's organizations around the world.

Based on a survey of over 1,100 women's organizations in every region of the world, the report helps make sense of the rapidly changing funding landscape and makes recommendations for how to mobilize more and better resources for women's rights organizing through a feminist collective resource mobilization approach.

Key Funding Trends

- Women and girls are in the public eye, recognized as key agents in development, as never before.
- Vast resources are becoming available under the broad umbrella of 'development' and there is significant interest in 'investing' in women and girls.
- Mechanisms and sources of development financing and philanthropy are becoming increasingly diversified, but economic growth and return on investment are the priority, with human rights and wellbeing taking a backseat.
- Private sector interest in and approaches to development, philanthropy and women and girls is infiltrating traditional development and funding sectors, raising questions for how women's organizations can critically engage with this trend.

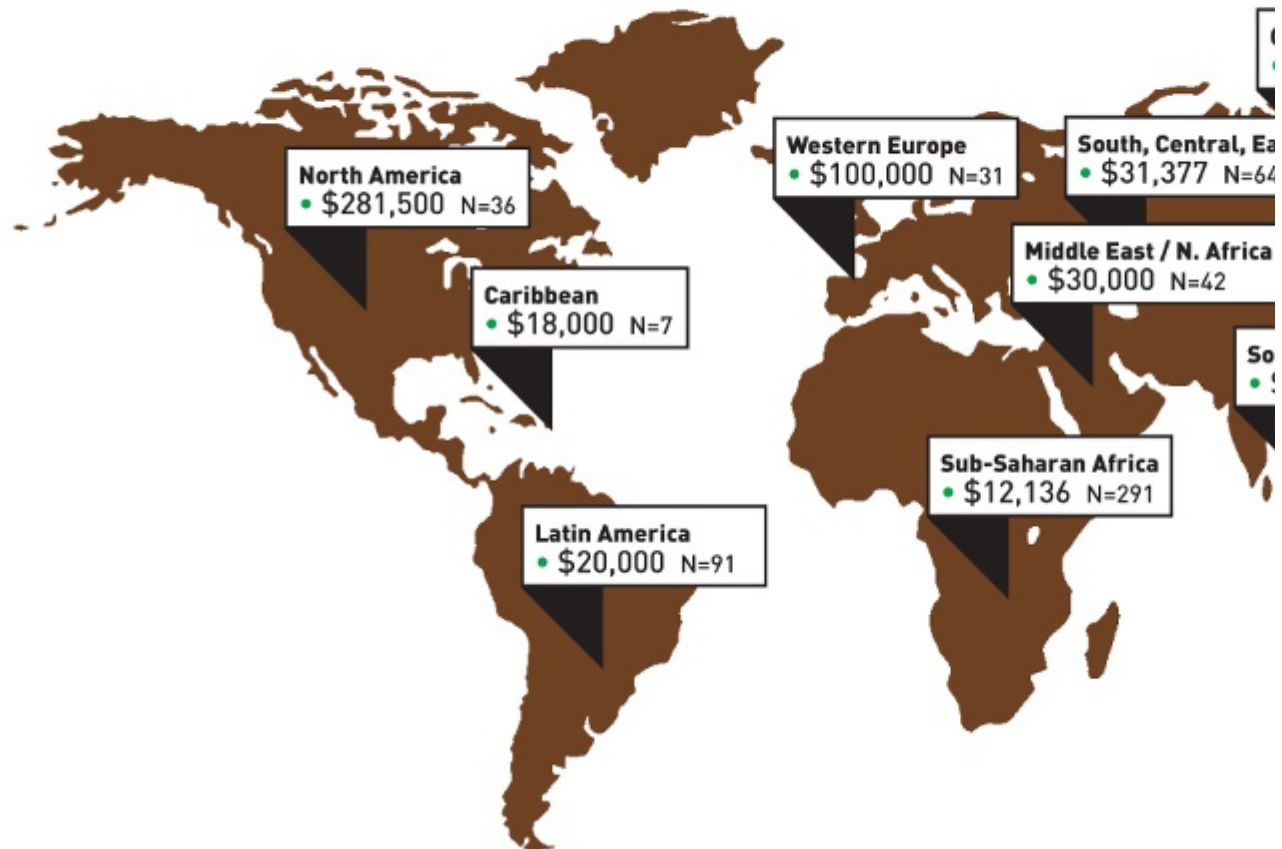
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- The current spotlight on women and girls has had relatively little impact on improving the funding situation for a large majority of women's organizations around the world. In 2010, the median annual income of over 740 women's organizations around the world was USD 20,000.
- The 'leaves'—individual women and girls—are receiving growing attention without support for 'the roots' - the sustained, collective action by feminists and women's rights activists and organizations that has been at the centre of women's rights advances throughout history.

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

Base: 740 women's organizations N = Number of Respondents \$ = Median Income in USD

- 140 countries
- 85% registered organizations



Now visualize these numbers in relation to some large international NGOs for the same year (2010)
\$ = USD

The median income of women's organisations in the sample

\$20,000

740 women's organisations – combined income

\$106 million

Greenpeace Worldwide

\$309 million

Save the Children International

\$1.442 billion

World Vision International

\$2.611 billion