
FLOW Additional Funding Report

Summary

16 April 2015

*Summary of the
Additional Funding
Report of the FLOW
programme*



1. In brief: The additional funding

This is the English summarised version of the Dutch report on the Additional Funding. Due to the passing of the Maij amendment by the Dutch House of Representatives in 2013, a sum of € 5 million was made available for an additional round of funding for Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW). Together, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the fund manager (a consortium of PwC and Femconsult) developed the policy rules for this additional grant round for the FLOW programme. The organisations that had already received the original grant of FLOW were able to apply for this additional funding that was available in the period between October 1st 2013 and September 30th 2014.

Of the 34 FLOW grantees, 33 grantees applied for additional funding. After assessment, 28 of these 33 were awarded an additional grant. We are pleased to report that almost all grantees that received additional funding were able to spend these means suitably and efficiently. Of the 28 subsidised organisations, nine did not utilise the entire endowment. In a few cases this was caused by dissatisfactory planning and activities, in other cases changing international tides, like the Ebola crisis, were impedimental. Nevertheless, the loss to the FLOW additional grant was no more than 1%: € 4,950,000 was disbursed as expected. The grantees sent in their reports concerning the activities financed with the additional funding and their results on November 30th 2014.

2. Background

The FLOW programme focuses on the improvement of the rights and chances of women and girls, by supporting organisations that concentrate on activities concerning these three themes:

1. Security, by ending violence against women (VAW) and active participation of women in processes of peace, security and reconstruction
2. Economic self-reliance, by giving women a say in food security, right to labour and property and access to safe drinking water
3. Participation of women in politics and governance.

FLOW grantees were given the opportunity to either deepen or broaden their existing project. The projects could be deepened by expanding the current project with additional activities under the original themes, thereby increasing the impact of the ongoing project. With the means that have become available due to the additional funding, grantees were also given the possibility to broaden their projects and target three additional policy themes. This strengthened FLOW's coherence to the current policy of Minister Ploumen, Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. The three themes are:

1. Child marriage
2. Sexual violence
3. Contributions to the Post-2015 debate.

3. Results

Table 1 shows the choice organisations made for deepening the impact or broadening the scope of their project. Most organisations chose to deepen the impact of their project, by expanding activities on the original FLOW policy themes, as is visible in the table:

Table 1: Additional funding orientation FLOW projects

Additional funding orientation FLOW projects		
Deepening impact	IWDA, ITUC, Nobel Women's Initiative, Gender at Work, V-day, Karama, EWI, Breakthrough, CREA, PAN AP, CAWF, Shirkat Gah, Kvinna till Kvinna, WiLDAF, FGHR, JASS, WIEGO, Vital Voices, Gender Links, CCR, APC	
Broadening scope	Sexual violence	EASSI, Urgent Action Fund
	Post-2015 debate	WECF, Womankind Worldwide, Global Fund for Women, ROFAF
Deepening and broadening	Sexual violence	PUNTOS
	Post-2015 debate	ACORD

3.1 Deepening impact

Projects that chose to deepen the impact of their project did so by constituting new activities that contributed to the original outputs and outcomes of the existing project. In some cases new outcomes with new outputs and activities were developed especially for the additional grant. The FLOW additional funding also offered a few projects the chance to revise their existing projects. A few grantees decided to deepen the impact of their project by way of extending to new countries (ITUC, NWI, Shirkat Gah, PAN AP). Other organisations chose to focus their activities on a new target group like EASSI, who incorporated men into their existing project.

Sixteen grantees focused the additional funding on the policy theme security. Several projects realised awareness and informative campaigns and cultural events which targeted Violence Against Women (Breakthrough, APC, JASS, NWI, Puntos, Shirkat GAH). Projects also created traineeships, workshops and (academic) courses for women and girls that focussed on peace, security and reconstruction. EWI for example, was innovative in her investment of the additional funding by training women in post-conflict communities in the Balkans on peace and security. By creating a fellowship programme, grassroots women's rights defenders and female academics were brought together to promote cooperation and discuss topics from different points of view.

Eight of the twenty grantees aimed their additional funding at increasing the impact of their strategies to improve the economic self-reliance of women. Activities include supporting women on the (informal) labour market, strengthening their position and lobbying for better labour rights and working conditions, enlarging women's land rights and food security and income generating activities like training female entrepreneurs. WIEGO for example added a Law and Informality component focused on improving legislation for workers in the informal sector. This component targeted labour rights, working conditions and social security, combined with building capacity of female informal workers.

Ten of the twenty grantees planned to increase the impact of their activities aimed at increasing women's political participation. For example IWDA who organised a four day *Asia Pacific Knowledge Exchange* workshop for ten women's rights activists from Fiji and Burma. This workshop was followed by a three day *Look and Learn* event organised by IWDA's Fiji partners. During the workshop the participants shared strategies and experiences concerning democratisation and peace building. The women then implemented the developed strategies and campaigns in their own communities upon their return.



Photo: IWDA FLOW Brochure as posted on the Community of Practice on April 23rd 2014 by Lee FitzRoy.

3.2 Broadening scope

Eight grantees chose to broaden the scope of their projects by working on one of the additional themes. The three organisations that worked on the theme of sexual violence (sometimes combined with deepening the impact of their existing project) are UAF, Puntos de Encuentro and EASSI. The other five organisations, Womankind Worldwide, Rofaf, ACORD, WECF and GFW, focussed on the Post-2015 debate (sometimes combined with deepening the impact of their existing project). None of the grantees chose to report on the child marriages theme. However, attention was paid to this theme in deepening the impact of some of the regular FLOW projects.

3.2.1 Sexual Violence

During several meetings concerning Sexual Gender Based Violence, EASSI reached 5,500 men. 180 men with important positions within their communities were trained on Sexual Gender Based Violence and their lobbying and influential skills, so that they could use this in practice in their communities and make these more gender sensitive. The additional funding created the possibility for the three associated organisations united under the Urgent Action Fund (UAF) to be able to research strategies that can be used by women's rights defenders when combatting Sexual Gender Based Violence in Latin America, Africa and Southern Asia. The findings of this research were used to sharpen the *grantmaking* programme to the needs of women's rights defenders.

Puntos has used the additional FLOW funding for organising cultural events and forums in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Examples of themes and events are: (i) "Celebration and recognition of the impact of feminism in the life of women in the 24 years of construction of feminisms by Las Dignas"; (ii) festival "For the life of Women" celebrating the day abortion was decriminalised in Latin America; (iii) "March against violence towards girls and women in Northern Usulután"; and (iv) festival on the *International Youth Day* in San Salvador, focussing on violence that women in those communities were facing. These events contributed to putting these topics (violence and sexual and reproductive rights) on the agenda of local governments and increased publicity concerning Violence Against Women. The last event resulted in local governments releasing funds to three communities for the creation of violence prevention-plans.



Photo: Puntos website.

3.2.2 Contributing to the Post-2015 debate

The five grantees that chose to dedicate their additional funding to the Post-2015 debate, carried out several contributory activities to the debate and the formulation of a new development-agenda in the area of gender equality. Activities ranged from capacity building of partner organisations and activists concerning "lobby & advocacy", influencing policy on a national and institutional level to (online) campaigns.

While the international negotiations about the succession of the millennium goals proceed, the international women's movement appeals for gender equality to be a strong component of the new Sustainable Development Goals. Several of the grantees focussed their policy influencing on the Post-2015 process during the CSW58 (march 2014). It was taken up in the conclusions of the CSW58, that the Commission will urge member states to take up gender equality, the empowerment of women and human rights of women and girls as a *standalone* goal and that this should be integrated in all goals of every new development framework. This call for *standalone* policy was passed by 189 countries. With the FLOW additional funding ACORD was able to make a major contribution to the *Common African Position* (CAP) –the collective African position of the African Union in regard to the post-2015 debate– ensuring the gender dimension is securely anchored in the CAP.

4. Common Indicators

The 'Common Indicators' (CI's) were designed by the consortium in 2013 and the goal is to collect quantitative data from grantees so as to be able to aggregate these on several common indicators. The CI's are formulated at outcome level and revolve around the three policy themes of FLOW, as well as the general female leadership theme. The total reach of the FLOW additional grant is defined as *the amount of women or girls that directly profited from additional activities of the FLOW programme*. The grantees reported to have directly impacted a total of 138,365 women in 79 different countries.

The main theme of the FLOW programme is female leadership: 26 of the 28 organisations that received additional funding reported on the theme leadership and capacity building. This was expected as the main theme covers nearly all projects. Under the security theme, organisations reported that 1,506 women have been included in peace processes or reconstruction activities as a result of the additional funding. Also 54 cases on Violence Against Women/Gender Based Violence were filed with local authorities and 2,646 female leaders are now active in addressing Violence Against Women/Gender Based Violence. For the theme political participation it was reported that three women candidates were trained for local/national elections and 21 women obtained decision-making positions within national and local governments.

The economic self-reliance theme gave the most tangible and numerous results that were measurable after the short term of one year. In total 122,594 women were able to increase their income or reduce the cost of living. Also 428 women leaders have increased their capacity and knowledge on the subject of food security and are now actively lobbying and demanding better living conditions and food security. Double this amount was measured for labour rights: a total of 1,004 women leaders are now active on that front. 500 women joined unions and five labour policy regulations/legislations that improve women's labour rights (for example pregnancy leave) or adopt equal chances have been passed. Also 2,639 cases of labour conflict, concerning women, were addressed.

5. Conclusion

The additional funding for FLOW seems to have been effective. However, it is difficult to finalise judgement on the impact the additional funding has had, at this moment. Most organisations were able to execute their planned activities within the term, thereby reaching their objectives at the output level. However, the one year term is too short to measure the impact of these results at this time. As the additional funding has only had a term of one year, potential results at an impact level may not have been realised and/or cannot yet be measured. Also a few organisations combined the additional funding with funding from other donors, making it hard to see results from the additional grant only.

Nonetheless, we can report that our grantees were capable of launching a one year project. The additional funding offered grantees the chance to either add a new dimension to their current FLOW project or to work on additional policy themes. Most grantees chose to deepen the impact of their projects and a minority of eight grantees chose to broaden the scope of the project by focussing on the additional themes of sexual violence or the Post-2015 debate. Especially sexual violence was already present in the regular FLOW projects but could now be emphasised. Also the projects could use the already existing infrastructure, project staff and contacts with local and implementing partners. As a result, nearly all planned activities have been implemented and the anticipated outputs have been achieved.

The one year term has been challenging for several grantees, as external factors like the 2014 Ebola crisis caused unanticipated and uncontrollable delays, yet activities could not be postponed. In a few cases this has resulted in a lower disbursement of the fund than planned. Nonetheless the grantees were able to cope with these constraints, which shows their growth over time and their flexibility: many projects were successful in implementing meaningful activities over the last year.