



WOMEN'S FUND ASIA

Grant Making FAQs

What do you mean by 'feminist interventions'?

We support interventions that are based on feminist principles; which address inequality, discrimination and power; and have elements of women and/or trans* people's agency, leadership, autonomy and decision-making. Feminist interventions challenge historical and institutional processes of discrimination and marginalisation that have led to disadvantages for and denial of rights of communities of women and trans* persons.

What does 'rights based programming' mean?

Rights based programming includes elements of existing human rights frameworks. It means that the organisation places the rights of women and trans* people at the centre of its programming and that their voices, leadership and decision-making are integral parts of the programming. A framework for a Rights based approach has the following elements: Recognition of the Rights; Exercising of the Rights; Claiming Rights and Redress of Violations; and Sustaining gains made and Evolution of Rights.

What is a General Operating grant?

General Operating grants or Core grants is a type of grant support that you can request to fill various funding gaps in your organisation. This support is not necessarily tied to 'projects'. This means that you can apply to us to cover institutional, administrative and operational costs of your organisation, such as salaries, rent, equipment¹, travel, office maintenance, audit, costs of other legal and financial compliance, organisational capacity building, strategy development etc – core costs that are required to run an organisation. At the same time, General Operating grants can also support your ongoing programmes, initiatives and collaborations.

While applying for a General Operating grant, you can request for part operational and part programme support; only operational support; or only programme support. General Operating grants give organisations the flexibility to decide where funding is required and obtain funding to fill these gaps.

While providing a General Operating grant, WFA will request you to provide us information about your overall work, strategies and results expected rather than particular programmes/projects of the organisation.

Who is included in 'Trans*' people?

Transgender is an umbrella term that covers a diversity of gender identities and forms of gender expressions. It is used frequently as an umbrella term to describe people whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth.² Women's Fund Asia endorses use of the term "Trans*" with an asterisk, denoting a placeholder for the entire range of possible gender identities that fall under the broad definition of transgender.

¹ Computer – desktop and laptop, Hard drives, printer, scanner, photocopier and cameras.

² Asia Pacific Transgender Network, Transgender Day of Remembrance 2015: <http://www.weareaptn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/transgender-day.pdf>

Would my organisation qualify for funding if my team is all women/trans*, but I do not meet the necessary criteria on my board?

WFA's mandate is to support women/trans*-led organisations and initiatives. This basically means that if your organisation aims to work on women/trans* rights, you need to have a 75% representation of women/trans* people on **both** your organisation's team and board. There might be some flexibility awarded to critical interventions which do not meet the organisational requirement, but these are very limited, and completely dependent on the nature of the intervention and the political context within which the intervention takes place.

Would my organisation qualify for funding if everyone on the board and team are women, but the executive director is a non-trans man?

Unfortunately, no. As explained above WFA supports groups with women and trans* people in its decision making positions. Some flexibility might be provided to some critical interventions, but this is done very rarely and on a case by case basis.

If we are a new organisation that has never received any funding, can we apply?

WFA welcomes new initiatives/groups to apply.

We applied to Women's Fund Asia for a grant before but did not receive funding, can we apply again?

Please make sure that you meet the eligibility criteria set out by WFA, and if yes, please do apply again!

Do we have to be registered to apply?

Please do write to us before you apply and we can explore your options.

What is the amount and duration of a typical Women's Fund Asia Grant?

The duration of a typical WFA grant is 6 months to 1 year. If you're a first time grantee you can expect the grant to be within the range of USD 5000-7000. Our longer term partners (more than 1 year) may be allocated a grant up to USD 10000. An individual grant cannot exceed USD 5000.

Can individuals apply?

Yes, individuals can apply. We provide these grants based on the application's merits and the work's relevance in/to the larger women and trans* rights movements. However, we do give priority to institutional and programmatic grants.

Can we apply outside this grant making cycle to Women's Fund Asia?

WFA opens its call for applications for the Strengthening Feminist Movements programme once a year. Depending on the availability of resources, a second call might be open in the third quarter of the year. Applications received outside of the call will not be considered. The only exception to this is WFA's Capacity Building grants which can be applied for all year round, and which cover travel, research, critical spaces and advocacy. This information is available on our website. Please note, WFA's next call for its Leading for the South programme will be open in October 2018.

Are we eligible if our annual budget is over USD 50,000?

WFA's Strengthening Feminist Movements programme exists to support grassroots groups which have limited access to funding. Groups with an annual budget of over USD 50,000 don't fit the eligibility under this programme.

Is my country eligible to apply in this grant cycle?

The current call is open to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Can we apply for more than one grant in one grant making cycle?

No, it is preferred that one group puts in only one application in a grant making cycle. However, a group may submit more than one application as part of a collaboration with other national or cross regional groups.

Does WFA provide emergency grants?

No, WFA does not provide emergency grants. However, please do not hesitate to reach out to us and we will do our best to connect you with other funding sources and/or necessary technical support.

What does WFA prioritise: old partners or new grants?

This is a challenge for WFA, as it is for other donor groups, largely due to limited resources. WFA does consciously work to include newer partners each year, while also supporting existing partners to ensure sustained support over a period of time. With the given resources we have for each grant making cycle, we make this tough decision allocating the money between new and existing partners. As an example, in WFA's last grant making cycle, 40% of the grants were to our existing partners and 60% to new grantees.

How long will I need to wait to hear about the decision on my application?

You should receive an acknowledgement of the receipt of the proposal within a week of submission. The groups that don't make it at the Technical criteria check stage will be notified of the decision three weeks after the close of the call. All other applicants should hear from the WFA team between 5-10 weeks, depending on the stage each application reaches in the selection process. In case 5 weeks have passed since the close of the application call and you have still not heard from WFA, please write to grants@wf-asia.org for an update.