



Feminist Solidarity & Resilience:



A LOOK BACK AT 2020



Feminist leadership that “grasps at the root of injustice.”

The Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) seeks to foster systems change that dismantles the root causes of oppression and manifests collective solutions based on care, community, solidarity and liberation. We create change through the confluence of intersectional advocacy, influence and convening power, capacity building and training, knowledge production and sharing, and resource redistribution.

2020 was a year marked by intersecting crises: the global COVID-19 pandemic, an ongoing reckoning with racial justice in the U.S. and globally, and worsening ecosystem destruction and climate crisis. As we turned to our movement allies around the globe—recognizing that our resilience has always come from feminist solidarity—WEDO analyzed and strategized how to combat the many potential and actual setbacks to gender and environmental justice, while also advocating tirelessly for the radical transformation we know we need.



Hope is a political act: Resilience and feminist solutions amid the COVID-19 pandemic

As the world grappled with the health, socioeconomic, physical and climate impacts of COVID-19, WEDO was quick to respond. Just weeks after the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in late March, WEDO played a key role in convening a vital international space—known as the Feminist COVID-19 Response Collective—for hundreds of organizations to support one another and strategize toward a feminist recovery from COVID-19.

The formation of the Collective was possible due to the trust WEDO has established over years of feminist organizing in three key spaces that it co-leads: the Women & Gender Constituency, which engages in the climate negotiations; the Women’s Rights Caucus on the Commission on the Status of Women; and the Women’s Major Group on Sustainable Development. Building on these relationships, members of the Collective collaborated to identify [six core principles](#) of a feminist COVID-19 response and set up a multilanguage virtual platform. The virtual platform enabled users to [track information](#) on gender and COVID-19, submit and view stories within a storytelling repository, and access an advocacy and monitoring [toolkit](#) harnessing insights from this work. Through this experience we established more inclusive and accessible ways of virtual working, which we codified in a comprehensive [digital advocacy toolkit](#) and three accompanying [trainings](#) for movement partners.

Our efforts made a difference. The space we created served as a critical platform for feminist collective reflection, care, imagination, and documentation of memories and experiences. The landmark toolkit created—highlighting feminist policy demands surrounding the pandemic’s impact on global economic, social and political structures—was utilized by feminists across the collective and served as an anchor for our advocacy. We also saw an uptake of our principles in international spaces and moments, such as in the growing calls and [plans for a “feminist” response](#) to the pandemic from policymakers around the world.

400

collective members from 74 countries

8000+

website users from 160 countries

1000+

pieces of data and news tracked

100+

people trained with the advocacy and monitoring toolkit

30

global community calls held for the Feminist COVID Collective

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PROGRAMMING

At the same time that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted deep, existing inequalities, it also opened opportunities to shift the very understanding of what is possible in work, policy, movements and solidarity. In this context, WEDO recommitted to and renewed our work to confronting interlocking crises with deepened virtual organizing, advocating for just recovery policy responses, and building collective feminist futures.

We remained steadfast in our pursuit of gender-responsive climate policy and women's leadership.

WEDO remained at the forefront of technical analysis and advocacy for gender equality to be operationalized in climate policy, plans and action. We updated our [Pocket Guide on Gender Equality](#) to reflect the latest developments and deeper historical knowledge of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). WEDO also examined [national processes for integrating gender](#) into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and assessed [gender integration in new and updated NDCs](#). This new data was added to WEDO's [Gender Climate Tracker](#)—a multi-language website and app that centralizes data on the intersection of gender and climate—which was also expanded to feature more news and resources. While the UNFCCC negotiations were postponed, WEDO ensured that leaders in our [Women Delegates Fund program](#) were able to stay up to date through a virtual training prior to the December Climate Ambition Summit, as well as a post-event debrief and review.

We found greater power in collectives.

WEDO continued to build the power and influence of global collective feminist constituencies—namely the Women's Major Group and Women and Gender Constituency (WGC)—while taking on new leadership within the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition under the Generation Equality Forum. As UN convenings planned for 2020 were canceled or postponed, WEDO strengthened the virtual organizing tools and capabilities of our coalitions, including through mutual capacity building webinars and an update of the [WGC website](#)—to ensure we stayed connected in our work and united in our demands. One stream of work aimed to support recipients of the WGC's Gender Just Climate Solutions Award. Working with other WGC member organizations, WEDO led work to design and present a series of training workshops on topics like women's entrepreneurship, advocacy and communications to address the capacity building needs raised by past honorees and their organizations.

We increased feminist activists' access to and influence over climate financing.

WEDO's work on climate finance continued through multi-level engagement—with advocates seeking to better understand and access climate finance, bodies and mechanisms governing climate finance, and governments evaluating how their commitments to gender equality should be reflected in their climate finance programs. Alongside the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), WEDO published a new assessment of women's engagement in the global climate finance system. With the Adaptation Fund, we built on work from 2019 to update our outline of specific [pathways for women's organizations to engage](#). Advocacy for gender-responsive climate finance within the Green Climate Fund (GCF)—the world's largest multilateral climate fund—was advanced through WEDO's role coordinating and participating in the broader observer network, and use of information requests to enable accountability and engagement. WEDO also highlighted how governments can prioritize systemic change through their investments—for example, by helping to shape [recommendations around Canada's next five-year climate finance pledge](#) and providing a [series of recommendations addressing the Finance in Common Summit](#).

We launched new feminist visions and solutions to the climate crisis at a national level.

In 2020, [the Feminist Green New Deal Coalition](#) contributed inputs into the national Green New Deal strategy and legislative development, held a teach in with the Women's March on feminist perspectives in addressing COVID and the climate crisis, and set the foundation for landmark work in 2021 on the intersection of care infrastructure and climate policy. And in May 2020, WEDO came together with partners globally and in the U.S. to launch a vision and blueprint for feminist foreign policy that addresses both the climate crisis and gender inequality. With accompanying legislation proposed in the U.S.—and endorsement by over 84 organizations representing thousands of people—advocates are poised to share our solutions and hold the new U.S. administration accountable to the ambitious action we need. As the year came to a close, WEDO set forth [clear recommendations](#) for how the incoming U.S. administration could effectively integrate gender equality into its climate change policymaking structure.



Impact by the numbers

500

people from 96 countries reached by WGC Advocacy and Communication Training Series

3000+

visits to the Gender Climate Tracker web platform

1

landmark legislation on a U.S. Feminist Foreign Policy

2

NYT articles lifting up our collective feminist work

11

interventions delivered by the Women's Major Group at the High Level Permanent Forum

22

publications produced

50

organizational endorsements of the U.S. Feminist Green New Deal Principles

18

events hosted

3

trainings for feminists during global lockdown on mobilizing online

1

new Collective for a Feminist COVID-19 Response

19

organizational endorsements of our recommendations to the incoming U.S. administration on gender and climate change

9

media articles featuring our work or authored by WEDO staff

2020 Financial Summary

INCOME

Grants and Contributions: \$2,029,103

Program service fees: \$68,565

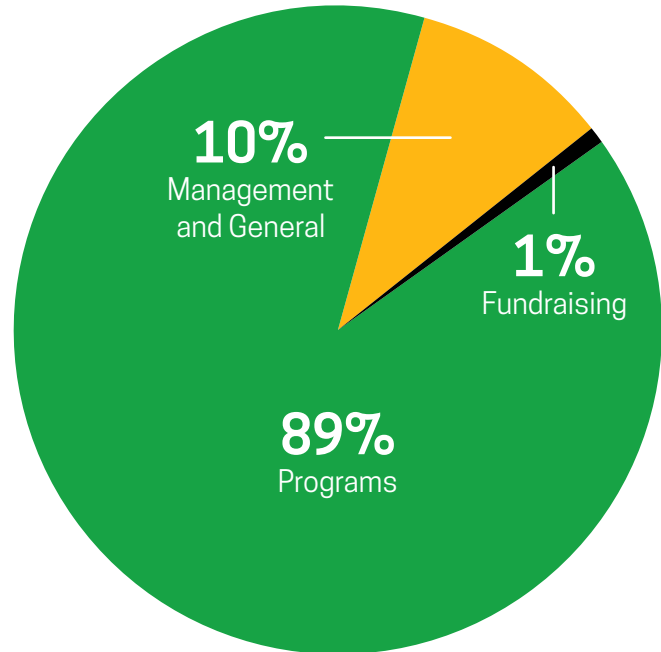
Other income: \$1579

Total public support and revenue: \$2,099,247

2020 DONOR LIST

- Energy and Climate Change Directorate, Scotland
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Foundation for a Just Society (FJS)
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands
- Oxfam U.S.
- Irish Aid
- Pinkerton Foundation
- Sierra Club
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Wallace Global Fund
- Wellspring
- Winky Foundation
- Woka Foundation

USE OF FUNDS



**Detailed financial information
is available at:**
wedo.org/legalfinancial.