

# Funding Transformation for Gender Just Climate Solutions





# The Challenge

Feminist solutions to the climate crisis exist across the world. These solutions have the potential to catalyze transformative change in our interactions with our environments and our communities—but they are under-recognized, under-valued, and under-supported.





# The Solution

Supporting and resourcing community-led, feminist approaches is a proven solution to our global climate crisis that is equitable and sustainable. This support is part of a larger vision of replicating and scaling gender just climate solutions that center human rights, and providing feminist climate finance that challenges top-down and market-based approaches.



# What are gender just climate solutions?

## Locally led or locally driven solutions that:

- ✓ promote equitable access to benefits and rights-based participation in decision-making
- ✓ alleviate women's disproportionate workload or do not add labor without compensation
- ✓ provide a multiplicity of benefits for individuals and communities, such as enhanced food security, improved health, and more sustainable livelihoods
- ✓ ensure self-sufficiency and a low input of resources to be safe, affordable, and sustainable
- ✓ contribute to climate change mitigation or adaptation, and/or address loss and damage
- ✓ have the capacity for replication or scaling in other communities
- ✓ demonstrate interlinkages to cross-cutting issues such as peace, food sovereignty, enhanced biodiversity, and/or health



# Why do we need to improve our current funding systems?

Climate finance is not flowing to the local level, and feminist organizations are drastically underfunded. Current funding mechanisms are often restrictive and inaccessible to community solutions that center human rights. Feminist funding mechanisms, by contrast, can improve:



## Simplicity

simple application and reporting processes



## Scope

multi-year, flexible, and/or unrestricted funding that supports interlinkages with health, biodiversity, etc.



## Size

increased overall funding amount at a diversity of grant sizes to support and scale organizations



## Speed

quicker access to funds



## What Works?

# Toward an Ecosystem of Feminist Funding: History of Gender Just Climate Solutions

The Gender Just Climate Solutions Program began when the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) launched the [Gender Just Climate Solutions \(GJCS\) Awards](#) in 2015, at COP21 when the Paris Agreement was adopted.

WGC member, Women Engage for a Common Future, coordinates this program and has helped to evolve the scope of this work to respond to the requests of grassroots organizations as well as to inform those seeking to better understand and fund the breadth and depth of feminist solutions.



**WOMEN  
& GENDER  
CONSTITUENCY**



## What Works?

# The Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) Scale Fund

### History:

the GJCS Scale Fund seeks to respond to the challenges described by the solutions highlighted by the GJCS Awards and address the specific barriers they face to scaling and replicating their solutions. It was launched in 2021 alongside initial partners and advisory committee members Women Engage for a Common Future, Women Environmental Programme, and the African Women's Development and Communication Network.

WEDO has led four rounds of direct funding. These small re-grants are intentionally flexible and needs-driven, supporting a wide array of activities from communications to administration to strategic planning.



**WEP**  
International

## What Works?

# The Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) Scale Fund

### Resource Redistribution:

The GJCS Scale Fund provides small-scale regranting that examines feminist funding practices and highlights effective but under-funded solutions.

### Platform for Advocacy:

The GJCS Scale Fund serves as a platform for advocating for a greater scale of more accessible, flexible, and sustained funding. It helps to demonstrate how women's rights organizations, particularly those with much greater access to financial resources, can recognize resource redistribution as a symbol of solidarity and embed it into their work.





## What Works?

# GJCS Scale Fund Results

Since September 2021, the GJCS Scale Fund has hosted four rounds of awarding direct funding and one round of awarding targeted capacity support for applying for a larger government grant.

Applications are open to solutions seeking to support and scale their work. WEDO works with the following partners to identify solutions:

**WOMEN  
& GENDER  
CONSTITUENCY**

 **GLOBAL ALLIANCE  
FOR GREEN AND  
GENDER ACTION**

 **WORTH**  
WOMEN & EARTH INITIATIVE

# \$290,000

## Regranted since 2021

---

**The GJCS Scale Fund has supported  
26 recipients from 19 countries:**

*Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cameroon,  
Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo,  
Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Kenya,  
Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal,  
Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, and Uganda.*

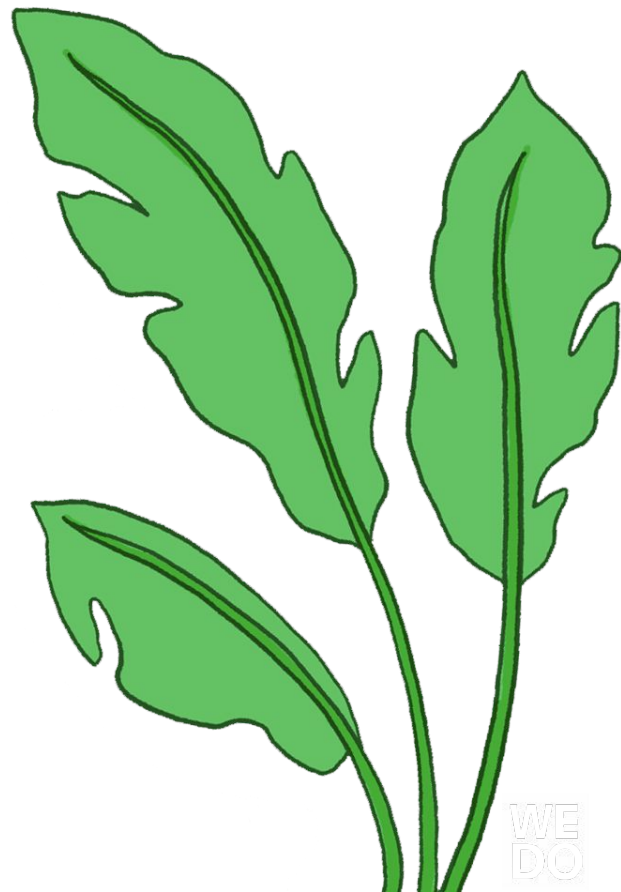
# Feminist Funding Principles

The GJCS Scale Fund as a resource redistribution mechanism builds from feminist principles articulated and practiced by funding partners, such as women's funds, around the world.

**Some key guiding principles shared by many feminist funding mechanisms are:**

- Granting flexible and sustained funding
- Providing accompaniment to meet and support solutions where they are
- Embracing participatory grantmaking practices
- Offering funding for unrestricted organizational activities, not just programmatic funding
- Supporting scaling through capacity building support

See the [Astrea Foundation](#) and [Canadian Women's Foundation](#) for examples.



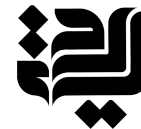
## What Works?

# Additional Examples of Feminist Funding Mechanisms

### Funding Organizations & Alliances



### Women's/ Feminist Funds



## Community and Policy Advocacy for Sustainable Agroforestry & Land Restoration

Association of Women in Agriculture Kenya (AWAK) is a community and policy focused organization that challenges traditional agribusinesses by moving communities towards sustainable forms of agroforestry and land restoration through capacity building and impact driven programs. AWAK couples this programming with national policy advocacy for gender just programs related to agriculture and land policy.

### Project Highlight: Health and Nutrition Through Sack Gardens

AWAK trained 700 urban women in slums to convert former domestic dumping sites into vegetable gardens, using organic compost to enrich the soil and biomass waste to produce biochar. The project provides women with sustainable sources of livelihood, and builds a holistic recovery program for women experiencing gender based violence and impacts from the climate crisis.



## Espacio de Encuentro de las Culturas Originarias (Meeting Space for Original Cultures)

EECO AC is a women-led advocacy organization bringing technical knowledge and experience from indigenous and rural women around Oaxaca to the larger community. Programs include radio advocacy programming, video storytelling, workshops and community training, and feminist economic approaches to supporting indigenous artisans. Their indigenous storytelling and programs lead to increased participation of indigenous women in local and state policy processes.

### Project Highlight: Avanzando Hacia La Justicia Climática

Women from indigenous communities in Oaxaca are raising awareness and advancing towards climate justice through the training, construction, use and maintenance of eco-technologies. This project has been shown to various municipalities, communities, and online communities in Oaxaca to share indigenous stories of climate resilience.



## Water Irrigation Systems for the Most Vulnerable Communities in India

Bhungroo systems last for 30 years, mitigating waterlogging on farm and land while also providing irrigated water for crops during farming seasons. The project relies on trained rural Women Climate Leaders (WCLs), who promote the technology and deliver fee-based agriculture expert advice. The co-ownership model has facilitated access to irrigation and farming facilities to smallholders, with each one ensuring food-security to 30-100 rural poor and generating income of approximately USD \$5700+ per year.

This project has been replicated in Bangladesh, Togo, Ghana, and Madagascar.



## Localization of Climate Services for Community Resilience

Rice Watch Action Network works to help reduce or avoid climate related losses and damages to agriculture livelihoods through tools and government advocacy. Their programs and schools inform farmers, municipalities, and other affected groups about 'ecological agriculture methods to help them prepare for and cope with adverse short- and long-term weather patterns and climate change.

### Project Highlight: Gender-informed risk management tools

Rice Watch Action Network is building a guidance tool on a gender-informed weather-climate and women's livelihoods risk matrix and specific risk management options. The tool will serve as the main training document for the local governments that are performing localization of climate services for farmers and fishers.





# What's next?





# Discover

Discover the solutions. These small-scale solutions with the capacity for large-scale transformation exist everywhere. Read more about the creativity, courage, and vision in these projects and programmes.

- [Women & Gender Constituency GJCS Directory](#)
- [Women Speak: Stories, Case Studies, and Solutions from the Frontlines of Climate Change \(WECAN\)](#)
- [Global Tapestry of Alternatives](#)



# Fund

Resource women's funds and women's organizations to collaborate with and support gender just climate solutions. Trust these existing feminist funding mechanisms to identify and redistribute resources in powerful ways that support feminist and climate justice movements. One survey showed nearly half of women's organizations operated on less than \$30,000 a year (Dolker, 2021).

For example, the GJCS Program aims to at minimum triple the annual available resources over the next five years.



# Advocate

As funders, advocate for greater direct funding for gender just climate solutions. Center principles of feminist funding, connect with solutions leaders, and center their work.

As feminist civil society, contribute to advocacy toward shifting flows of finance towards gender just climate solutions. For example, join and heed the leadership of:

- The Women and Gender Constituency
- The Green Climate Fund observer network of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities
- The Adaptation Fund Civil Society Network





***Gratitude to key resource allies funding this work:***  
Woka Foundation, Foundation for a Just Society (FJS),  
The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida),  
The Government of Scotland, IrishAid,  
Mama Cash/ GAGGA

***Illustration by Jessica Bartram | Design by Brevity & Wit***

