



Feminist Humanitarian Network Funding Policy

The purpose of the FHN's Funding Policy is to ensure that the FHN's own funding and fundraising practises align with its policy positions, and to ensure that the FHN and its members are upholding the feminist principles at the heart of its work. The policy provides clear requirements that must be upheld by the FHN Secretariat and FHN members in mobilising and managing resources for the FHN, both in the mobilising of resources for the FHN, and in the management of funds once mobilised.

This policy aligns with:

- The FHN's agreed approach to fundraising.
- The FHN Hosting Agreement with ActionAid International.

It is upheld through the FHN's fundraising tools, including:

- The FHN Go/No Go matrix
- FHN Fundraising RACI
- FHN Fundraising SOP

The FHN's fundraising objectives and priorities are defined in the FHN's Fundraising Strategy.

Background and overview

The Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN) seeks to transform the humanitarian system into one that is guided by feminist principles. Since its establishment, the FHN has worked collectively to identify prevailing patriarchal and colonial barriers within the humanitarian system that undermine and exclude women and their organisations in the Global South. The FHN is member based, comprised of grassroots, local, and national women's rights organisations; national and regional women's networks; international NGOs and organisations headquartered in the Global North; academic organisations; funding institutions; and individuals. The FHN is committed to maintaining a ratio of 70:30 women's rights organisations to international organisations. The FHN has worked to define feminist alternatives that redistribute power between humanitarian actors, and ensure women's organisations on the frontlines of humanitarian action have access to and control over decision-making and resources, and that their leadership is recognised.

Key to the patriarchal barriers experienced by women's rights organisations (WROs) are funding systems and distribution 'norms' that exclude them. These practises have been highlighted by the FHN's WRO members since the FHN's establishment, and have been documented in a number of key resources, including the FHN's research. Included in the FHN's policy asks of powerful humanitarian actors are immediate and critical changes to these practises, including, for example, the easing of due diligence and reporting requirements for WROs (particularly in crises), and equitable distribution of administrative funding allocations between partners in budgets.

The FHN seeks to shift power between humanitarian actors – to work with and influence powerful actors to relinquish power, and to support WROs leading humanitarian action who are taking it up. This policy seeks to achieve this by requiring greater accountability from international members of the FHN to WRO members. The policy has been developed largely



based on our research, on members' experiences and on our own learnings and commitments from the past two years. Given this, it is focussed largely on project funding, though the FHN is committed to prioritising flexible funding, in line with its feminist principles. This commitment will be reflected in the FHN Fundraising Strategy.

Transparency and accountability

- All FHN members in a project must provide a breakdown for all of their costs that are included in the budget on a line-by-line basis, including administration costs (costs for indirect cost recovery). While this breakdown may not be provided to the donor, it must be included in the FHN's internal detailed budget.
- In the instance that international FHN members are contributing staff time to a project or to the FHN's ongoing management, timesheets must be provided.
- All project budgets and the FHN's core budget must be made available to all members of the FHN on request, and FHN members must be made aware that these budgets are available to them.
- A top line overview of the FHN's budgets and financial position must be presented to FHN members on an annual basis (at the FHN's annual planning or reflection meetings).
- All funding opportunities will be screened through the FHN Go/No Go matrix to determine the alignment with the FHN strategy, available resources to process the funding opportunity and identify and mitigate any risks to the FHN. Each Go/No Go decision will be communicated to FHN members.

Equitable distribution of funding

- In a project that includes both INGO and WRO partners, more funding must be directed to WRO partners than INGO partners.
- Budget lines for indirect cost recovery (flexible funding lines and/or administration lines) must include more funding for WRO partners in a project than for INGOs.
- Where possible, all budgets must include contributions to the FHN's flexible funding pots that are made available to FHN members in the event of a crisis, or for discrete unforeseen requirements (such as hiring halls for advocacy events).
- FHN members will work together to design projects that seek to distribute funding equitably amongst members. Projects will include greater amounts for members that require it due to who they represent and their requirements (for example, organisations representing women with disabilities may require additional funding to cover specific transport requirements – this is called 'reasonable accommodations' or 'reasonable adjustments').

Partnerships

- In projects where WROs and INGOs work together in partnership, WROs will be leading members.
- Project management teams will be established within the FHN on a project-by-project basis and will consist of partners in and contributors to that project. These teams will be led by WROs, who will define the role of the FHN Secretariat and INGO partners. In line with the FHN's ways of working, a standard project management process would involve WROs leading, the FHN Secretariat coordinating and providing technical support as appropriate, and INGO members providing technical support and support with resourcing.
- The term 'implementing partner' has been used by the humanitarian and development sectors to refer to place-based organisations, including WROs: a frame of reference that instrumentalises a partner and removes their agency and leadership. The FHN will never



conceive of a partner in a project this way or use this term. While the FHN will seek the support of its INGO members to implement projects under the guidance of WRO members, the term 'implementing partner' will never be used.

Due diligence and reporting

- The FHN will only include compliance costs in projects that align with due diligence processes that have been agreed to by the FHN's WRO members. The FHN will not pay for excessive due diligence processes that effectively exclude WROs from accessing funding.
- All reporting templates will be designed in a simple format to ensure that the time required to report on a piece of work is minimal, at the same time as meeting reasonable donor requirements and effectively documenting the impact of WROs' and feminist work for advocacy purposes.
- As a partner in a project, INGO members of the FHN will provide hands on support and guidance to WRO members in reporting. For example, providing real time one on one or collective learning opportunities to WRO members in financial reporting if appropriate, or contributing to reporting directly, recognising that many WROs have limited staff capacity.

Donor relationships and standards

- The FHN will not accept funding from donors that resource the direct denial of women's rights or seek to undermine the feminist agenda.
- The FHN will not accept funding from donors that undermines the work of its WRO members.
- The FHN Secretariat will work with its members to screen potential donors, recognising the collective body of work that has been undertaken by the FHN's INGO members, and the capacity of INGO members to support with this work as required.
- The FHN will prioritise feminist donors, and those seeking to take up a feminist agenda.
- The FHN will engage with donors on feminist terms, and will seek to negotiate with donors on unreasonable requirements that do not align with feminist principles, with a view to shifting donor practise overtime.
- The FHN will seek to work alongside donors to undertake advocacy and system change, recognising the critical role that donors play and the power they hold, as well as the shifts donors are making towards feminist working models.

Political risks

- The FHN will not accept funding that compromises the work of its WRO members or puts its WRO members at risk in any way.
- The FHN will not accept funding that jeopardises its credibility by forcing the FHN to compromise on its principles.
- The FHN Steering Committee is responsible for identifying risks and decision-making on reasonable risk for the FHN as a collective.