



Network's Inclusivity-Based Approach to Partnerships

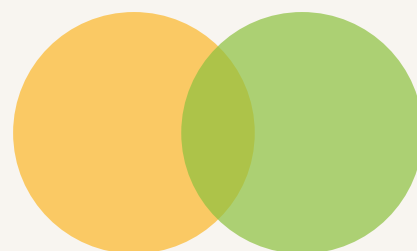
*Developed by the Inclusivity
Community of Practice*

Since becoming operational in 2014, the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers has supported individual traditional and faith leaders and actors, including women and youth. The promotion of gender equality continues to be a cross-cutting principle for the Network and part of its human-rights based approach and localization agenda. Network activities are conducted as a collaborative effort between Network members, supporters, and the Secretariat, and are based on requests from local or international peacemakers or partners. These collaborative actions and processes enhance the ownership of actors involved, measurably reducing the duplication of efforts, and involving strategic collaborative actions that are sustainable in the long-term.


As of May 2021, 3 percent of the total program funding of the Network was directly allocated to women and young women-led and focused organizations, with an additional 12 percent of funding allocated to organizations implementing gender-focused activities. The Network recognized that there is an overwhelming gap in funding allocated specifically for women, youth, and other feminist-led or focused organizations, whose mission evolves around peacemaking and broader peacebuilding processes. The Network is also committed to increasing partnerships with and funding to women and youth, including through advocacy forums, research and networking opportunities.

In line with the [Network's Five-Year Strategy](#), the Network made a commitment as part of the Generation Equality Forum and the [Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Compact](#) to address this issue, in promoting its strategic priority goals of promoting inclusivity and localization. The Network's commitment is, 'To transform its funding approach within the next five years (2026) to focus specifically on increasing direct and flexible funding and resources for women, youth, and feminist-led and focused organizations by tenfold (30%) through integrating new and scaled partnerships and funding within our programs.'

In order to reach this goal, the Network is transforming its approach to how and with whom we partner to allow for a more inclusive budget and localized partner funding. This means the Network will mainstream an inclusive perspective at all levels of the budgetary process within our programs. See the next page that outlines the key areas of action for the Network's new approach to partnerships and accompanying checklist.



New Approach to Partnerships

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- Establish and maintain an inclusive information management system to track which youth or women-led or focused organizations are receiving allocated funding from the Network. This includes establishing a budget tracking line within annual program budgets to determine how much funding is allocated to women, youth-led, and focused organizations.
 - Identify at least two youth or women-led, or focused organizations per region within this strategic period to collaborate on new projects with.
 - Ensure that we are providing adequate capacity-building – and women or youth-led and focused organizations we are working with (i.e. training on finance/grant reporting).
 - Ensure we remain sensitive to the unique safety concerns and accompanying costs that women or youth-led or focused organizations face.
 - Raise awareness and communicate to Network members about the new approach to partnerships and advocate for why members should implement a more inclusive funding approach within their own organizations.
 - Support Network Secretariat members through inclusivity-based budget trainings.
 - Monitor the progress made in implementing the new funding approach.
 - Uphold transparency to Network members on progress made to maintain accountability to our new commitment.
 - Continue to work with youth or women-led or focused organizations to address new or existing problems to accessing funding and new partnerships.
 - Enable women or youth-led or focused organizations to have a safe means of evaluating and/or providing feedback about the partnership approach process.



Partner-Identification and Shortlisting Process

In addition to following Finn Church Aid's requirements for proposal development and partnership processes, the Network will also consider the following points when assessing the strategic value of the potential partners:

- The potential partner being a Network member or supporter or having previous experience of working with the Network.
- The potential partner being women or youth-led and/or focused organizations.
- The potential partner being a local civil society and/or non-profit organization or working to advance the localization agenda.
- The alignment of strategies between the Network and potential partner being a strategic fit.
- Alignment of organizational values.
- The level of experience in working with religious and/or traditional actors.
- The level of experience in peacebuilding and/or conflict transformation.
- The added value for both organizations to enter into a partnership.
- The added value of the partnership to the overall mission of the Network and its current objectives.

Inclusivity-Based Budgeting Checklist

Proposal Budget Preparation and Design

- Each proposal will assess and identify together with in-country stakeholders, the relevant needs and barriers based on the call for proposals.
- Each proposal will allocate at least 30 percent of the total project budget to women and youth-led or focused organizations, depending on the guidelines and focus of the call for proposals.
- Each proposal will include gender and age-related outcomes and indicators to monitor progress in line with the call and donor guidelines. Other inclusivity-promoting indicators will also be captured in addition to our commitment, including for people with disabilities, LGBTQ++ and religious and ethnic minorities.

Project Implementation

- Each successful project must conduct a baseline study and/or needs assessment to analyze the impact on women, youth, and other marginalized populations. The assessment will correlate to what is being examined in the project's call for interest statement.
- Each successful project will ensure that the women and youth-led or focused organizations continue to play a key role in the entire life cycle of the project (to ensure their ideas are incorporated and that the monitoring and evaluation design is sensitive to security concerns).
- Each successful project will provide adequate capacity building support to the women and youth-led or focused organizations we are working with on issues pertaining to budgeting, finance and reporting cycles.

Program Budget Audit and Evaluation

Program/project progress against project deliverables is monitored, evaluated, and updated on a quarterly basis by Program Managers. Program Managers will provide internal monitoring updates on the program/project gender and age-related indicators to ensure needs are being met or to understand why they are not being met to adjust the program/project's approach for a more targeted effort.

Overall funding provided to women and youth-led or focused organizations will be monitored, evaluated, and updated on an annual and quarterly basis to ensure budgets are being fully implemented. The Senior Operations and Program Manager, together with the Partnership and Resource Development Manager and Finance and Administration Officer, will provide internal monitoring updates on the overall funding status towards implementing the Network's Generation Equality Commitment.

External updates on the total progress of the Network's Generation Equality Forum Commitment will be communicated through its Annual Report and at the Network Members' Annual Advisory Group Meeting.

Key Definitional Terms

Locally-Led Peacebuilding Organization

consist of individuals who are often most affected by conflicts within their society, represent their communities in order to set their own agendas, build their own capacities and leadership, develop and enact their own solutions, and manage their own resources to make those solutions a reality. Locally driven peacebuilding aims to amplify local ownership of conflict transformation.

Women-Led Peacebuilding Organization

is an organization whose senior most leadership position identifies as a woman.

Youth-Focused Peacebuilding Organization

is an organization whose primary mission and objectives are to support the empowerment of young people in peacemaking and broader peacebuilding processes.

Youth-led Peacebuilding Organization

is an organization whose senior most leadership position is identified as being 35 years and younger.

