

Let's Go!

Power to Change Fund update | December 2009

Dear Friends,

In 1999, the YWCA movement made a commitment to establish a permanent fund of at least \$25 million to resource YWCA leadership development programmes for women and girls worldwide. By July 2007, you helped the World YWCA Global Campaign raise \$10 million for a Permanent Leadership Fund.

In November 2007, the World YWCA Board approved the policies of the Fund and decided that annual interest of \$250,000 would be allocated from the Fund – half for grant making to member associations and half for global initiatives on leadership development for women and girls.

The World YWCA is pleased to announce that the Power to Change Fund (P2C) has begun direct grant making to member associations as of June 2009.

This first round of grants is opportune as women's organisations and community groups around the world struggle with the impact of the global financial crisis.



Grant making kicks off

For many years, the World YWCA managed a Resource Sharing Programme and Women Development Fund programme to facilitate programmes in YWCAs globally.

The Power to Change Fund Policy now establishes a single funding mechanism to member associations in order to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and strategic delivery of the World YWCA's vision, purpose and goals.

The Power to Change Fund combines support for programme activities with institutional capacity building to ensure YWCA programmes are sustainable. Applications are received twice a year with each grant request ranging between \$10,000 – \$25,000.

A second grant cycle was approved in November 2009.

Grants
have gone to
20
member associations
for a total
\$247,850

\$= US Dollar





Creating safe spaces for young women's development

YWCA Malaysia has launched a four-year campaign to attract and increase the participation of younger women in the association. The campaign was designed with pro-bono assistance from Bozell Worldwide Sdn Bhd, a leading marketing agency. The programme, 'Creating Safe Spaces for Young Women's Development' kick-starts the initiative to build a critical mass of young women well equipped to mentor, nurture and integrate new members. The P2C Fund will support approaches to enable the YWCA to be a safe space for young women, where they have a sense of belonging, leadership and creativity, thus enhancing their self-esteem and contribution to their community.

Building leadership

In addition to grant making for member associations, the Power to Change Fund has contributed to leadership training of individual women and girls and global advocacy and policy influencing actions. Work coordinated through the World YWCA has:

- 1. Sustained investment in women and girls in the global HIV and AIDS response.** In 2008 the World YWCA, in partnership with other organisations, led a focused global advocacy initiative for investment in women and girls in the AIDS response, especially for young and positive women. The World YWCA convened dialogues and policy meetings during the fifty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS as well as the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico.
- 2. Placed young women's leadership on the global agenda around SRHR, HIV and violence against women.** Through the Power to Change Fund and other resources, the World YWCA was the lead convener for the youth forum at the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment held in Liberia and hosted by President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and President of Finland Tarja Halonen.



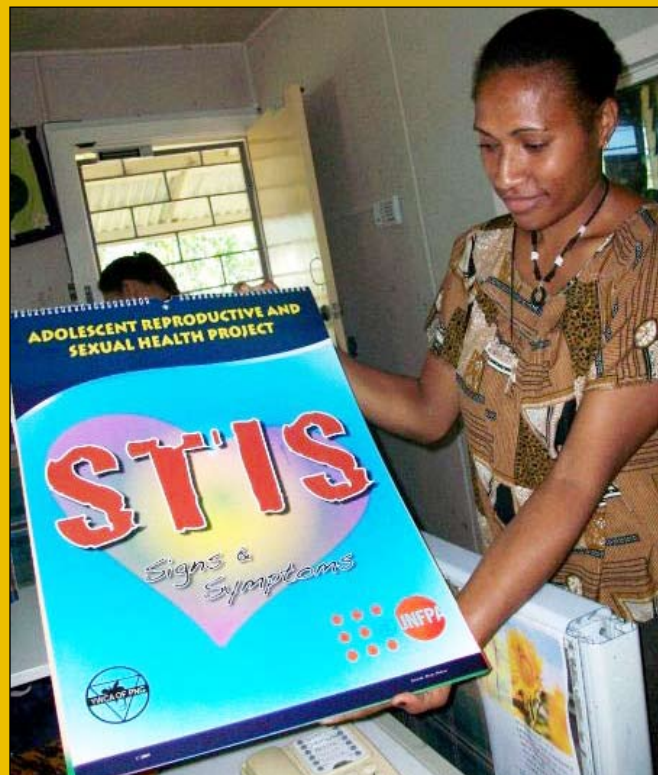
Improving access to youth friendly SRHR information and services

Youth in Sierra Leone make up about 35 - 40 percent of the national population. Studies reveal that this group is most vulnerable to a wide range of sexual reproductive health problems such as teenage pregnancy, unsafe abortion, a high prevalence of STIs including HIV and gender based violence. It is also evident that the existing health care systems do not adequately address the sexual and reproductive health needs of youth. This programme will promote improved quality of life for young women by campaigning for sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Eliminating violence against women

One of the three goals in the YWCA of Belarus Strategic Plan 2009-2013 is 'Eliminating domestic violence in Belarus.' Through the Power to Change Fund, the YWCA will advocate for the adoption of a law on domestic violence, working collaboratively with other organisations. The campaign will adopt a range of actions that include advocacy, lobbying and raising awareness. The YWCA of Belarus believe that decreasing the number of domestic violence cases can be achieved through such strategic interventions and addressing issues such as trafficking and existing gender inequalities.



Institutional strengthening and capacity building

Power to Change funding will improve existing capacity for organisational development elements and programmes within the YWCA of Papua New Guinea's national and local associations. The YWCA of PNG also seeks to strengthen existing partnerships and establish relationships with HIV-positive women's advocacy networks and engage in policy dialogue with the government. Institutional strengthening is important for organisations to effectively deliver programmes for women's leadership, empowerment and rights. The World YWCA 'Standards of Good Management and Accountability' is an effective tool that member associations use to build capacity.

3. Strengthened leadership capacity on SRHR, HIV and violence against women. In 2008, the World YWCA Board agreed to focus the World YWCA activities on two hallmark programmes: sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV and AIDS as one thematic focus, violence against women as the second. The P2C Fund has been an instrumental resource in rolling out a global capacity-building initiative for women leaders in the YWCA movement on SRHR, HIV and violence against women.

4. Trained women, including young women. In 2009, the World YWCA convened three Regional Training Institutes on SRHR, HIV and violence against women in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific at which 286 women were trained, including 83 young women. Plans are now underway for similar training in 2010 in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and at the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna.

Through the Power to Change Fund, member associations can strengthen partnerships and programmes to leverage change in women's lives .



Our Donors

Sources of income for Power to Change projects include investment income from the World YWCA Leadership Permanent Fund (the Global Campaign), donor contributions, foundation contributions, funds received from UN agencies and ecumenical donors and of course, contributions from member associations and friends and volunteers.

Some of the donors that have helped the World YWCA to achieve this great work include:

The Oak Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Susan Packard Orr, the YWCA USA World Service Council, Norwegian Church Aid, ICCO, EED, German World Day of Prayer, HorYzon, Switzerland and many other important individuals and organisations.

To be sustainable and effective, the YWCA movement needs good quality and consistent financial and technical assistance. Through the Power to Change Fund, member associations can strengthen partnerships and programmes to leverage change in women's lives for their empowerment and voice. The future calls for the World YWCA to maintain its voice as a global leader on women's issues, grounded within the daily experiences of women in their communities. This is our future--and we depend on your giving and support to build this movement's capacity.

The YWCA movement is richly resourced with partners, supporters and volunteers like you, who are willing to share time, expertise and skills. Without your commitment and contribution we could not achieve such great results.

Your continued belief in the World YWCA purpose is special and we genuinely appreciate your support.

We thank you.

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda
General Secretary, World YWCA

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