
Towards an obstacle free funding landscape for young feminists



CHOICE FOR
YOUTH &
SEXUALITY

Who are we?

CHOICE FOR
YOUTH &
SEXUALITY



**WE TRUST
YOUTH
INITIATIVE**

Recap: making the case for meaningful & inclusive youth participation

- Biggest generation of young people in history, half of today's global population are under 30
- A strong case for young people's participation in matters which affect their lives
- Shift in perspective - from "beneficiaries" → partners
- However, the system is not yet functioning well enough to enable young people in all their diversity to participate...

Story time...



So you're a young person who wants to receive funding? Well...



No hablo inglés...



How can we register with a government who considers our activities (and identities) illegal?

ILLEGAL



...the obstacle course continued...



We have to change our priorities to fit these criteria...

How can we have impact with so little time?



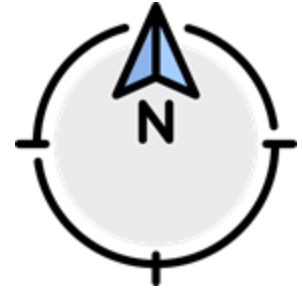
We'd better invest some additional time in finding more funding for when this runs out

This isn't what success looks like to us...



What do all these obstacles imply? *We don't trust you*

And who makes it through this obstacle course?



The usual suspects...Why? Because the impossible obstacle course is rooted in **patriarchy** and **colonialism** which privilege and trust certain types of knowledge, expertise and ways of working over others.

We can't squeeze innovation into a box



But funding practices aren't the only problem...

Global funding for youth engagement and youth programming, including funding going directly to youth, is vastly insufficient, resulting in chronic under-resourcing of young people and youth-led organizations.

There is limited domestic funding to youth engagement programs from both national governments and local non-state entities.

Funding practices to young people are often problematic in that they are tokenistic, rooted in a lack of trust in young people, and based on power imbalances that are harmful to youth.

5.56% of ODA from top gender equality donors went to young people aged 10-24. Global population of young people aged 10-24 is 1.8 billion.

How do we move forward? Key takeaways to bring to CSW

- **Commit more national budget to funding to young people directly.**
- **Meaningfully involve young people in grantmaking processes, so funding goes where it's actually needed.**
- **Make space for young people to design their own solutions.**
- **Invest in trust-based, multi-year flexible, un-earmarked funding.**
- **Think outside the box when reporting. How do young people define success?**

Further inspiration:

- To read about the ways of working of participatory donors: [7 habits of highly participatory donors & NGOs - Alliance magazine](#)
- To review the work of We Trust You(th), an initiative comprising five youth led organisations (including CHOICE) who are pushing for more equitable funding for YLOs: <https://www.wetrustyouth.org/resources>
- To read Women Deliver's guide for youth partnership and investment: http://womendeliver.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-06_Women-DeliverV6-3-EN_Final.pdf
- To learn about the experiences of three youth-led organisations (Malawi, Zambia, Mexico) and the impact of current funding practices on their work, check out this blog: <https://www.wetrustyouth.org/post/trust-the-new-narrative-for-partnering-with-and-funding-young-people>
- If you are going to support a young advocate financially and logistically to attend the CSW (or other events), here's some food for thought: <https://www.wetrustyouth.org/post/best-practices-in-supporting-young-people-to-attend-conferences>



Thank you!

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