Final Evaluation of Leading from the South Programme

Terms of Reference

Overview of Organisation

Women’s Fund Asia (WFA) is a regional women’s fund, committed to supporting women, girls, trans, and intersex people led interventions, to enhance and strengthen their access to human rights. WFA provides sustainable and flexible funding and resources to support the leadership of women, girls, trans, and intersex activists and group, who work at local, national, and regional levels for human rights.

The Fund started in 2004 as the South Asia Women's Fund (SAWF), operating in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In 2016 the organisation undertook an intense process of review and consultations, and it was relaunched as Women's Fund Asia on 8 March 2018. As WFA the organization expanded its mandate across Asia, increasing its outreach from five to 18 countries.¹

WFA’s programming is steeped in a rights-based approach, ie, progressive realisation of the rights of women, girls, trans, and intersex people in the region. The core of our programming is directed more towards the underpinning causes of the violations—therefore we look to realisation of rights, staking of claims, and holding states and communities accountable. We work towards building an environment wherein women, girls, trans, and intersex people can exercise and enjoy their rights. In addition, we also invest in processes through which local voices and experiences can guide global frameworks that will enable the realisation of normative standards at the local, national, regional, and global levels. We believe in substantive equality, non-discrimination, and participation. At the same time, we believe that states, as duty bearers, have an obligation to respect, promote, protect, and fulfil those rights. We support capacity development by our partners to work towards achieving Sustainable Development

¹ South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan
Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam
East Asia: Mongolia
Goals, by using existing frameworks, such as CEDAW, to create transparency and hold their States accountable for this.

The issues and initiatives we support through our grantee partners are critical to the realisation of human rights of women, girls, trans, and intersex persons and their activism for equality. Further, given the socio-political climate of heightened surveillance and attack on freedom of expression, speech and human rights, the information and data we harbour must stay soundly protected. Owing to this need, this application is to strengthen our own organisational processes on data and information management and security.

About Leading from the South

Leading from the South (LFS) is a three-year programme (2017-2020) that falls under the policy on women's rights and gender equality, as well as the policy framework Dialogue and Dissent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The overarching goal of this policy framework is to strengthen the capacity for lobby and advocacy of civil society organisations in low- and lower-middle-income countries. For women’s organisations in particular, influencing policy in order to ensure that women’s rights and gender equality are placed – and kept – on the agenda at local, national, regional, and international levels is essential.

LFS is a feminist alliance of philanthropic women’s funds, conceptualised and managed by four leading women’s funds: African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), Fondo de Mujeres del Sur (FMS), International Indigenous Women’s Forum (FIMI)/AYNI Fund (AYNI), and Women’s Fund Asia (WFA). These four women’s funds have been selected on the basis of their unique characteristics through a waiver.

Scope and objectives of the assignment

Each women’s fund has developed their own Theory of Change (ToC) and priorities reflecting their own organizational identity. The core of all four ToCs is creating gender equality for inclusive growth and development through the leadership and diverse voices of women.

This final evaluation focuses on the work undertaken specifically by Women’s Fund Asia under this programme and aims to address the critical question:
In what way does the programme succeed to resource and support women-led organisations, groups, and movements working on women and girls’ rights and strengthen their capacity to lobby and advocate towards the full achievement of their rights in the Global South?²

The main objectives of this final evaluation are to:

- Assess the results achieved under the LFS programme within the WFA LFS ToC framework.
- Assess the significant factors that facilitated or impeded the delivery of expected results while undertaking the LFS programme.
- Evaluate the impact/change on the intended beneficiaries and how the programme has contributed to these changes.
- Review the different methods and instruments used to reach, link, and strengthen capacities of women’s rights organizations in the WFA’s mandated region to lobby and advocate.
- Develop lessons learned and actionable recommendations which would feed into the LFS 2.0 Programme (2021-2025).
- Review the validity and relevance of the context-specific assumptions that underlie the ToCs as of 2020, especially given the sudden changes in the context owing to COVID-19.

**Timeline**

August 2020 – January 2021

**To Apply**

If interested, please send an expression of interest to mjagdeeshan@wf-asia.org with the subject line ‘LFS Final Evaluation’ by 10 July 2020. The expression of interest should include a curriculum vitae which indicates your past experience in relation to feminist evaluation.

² Global South in this question and study is limited to WFA’s mandated 18 countries refer to footnote 1 for the complete list of countries.