LESSONS FROM A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO FUNDING WITH AND FOR GIRLS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Collective is deeply grateful to the Stars Foundation team, past and present, our allies and friends in the Strategic Partners of the Collective, and our Referral Partners around the world. We would like to thank the research team, Susana Fried, Anne Gathumbi and Maria Bordallo, who were supported by Rhon Reynolds, for this exhaustive and insightful research that has captured the essence and philosophy of the With and For Girls Collective and will help us realise our goals more efficiently in the future. We are deeply indebted to the girl researchers Mercy Odero, Florence Otieno, Karen Auma, Maryian Ayiekoh, Linnet Kyalo, Faith Ndung’u, Lucy Ayoma, Joyce Ouma, Astha Wagle, Prakriti Neupane, Rikkysha Khadka and Sagoon Bhetwal for their time and their vital participation in this research. A huge thank you also goes to Women LEAD in Nepal and BoxGirls in Kenya for their generous support.

Finally, a special mention goes to all the incredible grassroots organisations we have been honoured to meet and work with, the winners of the With and For Girls Award for their crucial contribution to girl-centred organising which continues to inspire us every day.

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The With and For Girls Award recognises work by grassroots, locally-led organisations with annual incomes of between US$20,000 to US$500,000 that work to improve the lives of girls (10-19 year olds) and foster leadership. The awards do not focus on a particular theme; instead, organisations must demonstrate strengths in engaging girls in governance, programme design and decision-making to ensure that their work is truly girl-led and/or girl-centred.

The award package includes funds and capacity building support, as well as networking opportunities and profile raising activities for winning organisations. In order to ensure geographical diversity and reach the widest range of girl-led and girl-centred groups, the award process relies on an impressive global network of Referral Partners—from local grassroots groups to Funders, networks, bi-lateral and multi-lateral organisations and INGOs—to source and nominate candidates for the award in five regions.

A key feature of the award is the participation of girls throughout the process. Each year, judging panels composed entirely of adolescent girls aged 13 to 18 (girl-led panels) get to choose the 20 winning organisations.

Organisations must demonstrate strengths in engaging girls in governance, programme design and decision-making to ensure that their work is truly girl-led and/or girl-centred.
FINDINGS AND REFLECTIONS

GIRL LEADERSHIP

The Collective has continuously sought ways to meaningfully involve adolescent girls (award winners and panelists) wherever possible. Inviting previous award winners to facilitate the girl-led panels has allowed winners to remain engaged even beyond their award. Nonetheless, more can be done to strengthen the meaningful involvement of girls by incorporating them in its governance structures as a measure of embracing participatory grantmaking fully.

GIRL CENTRED VS. GIRL-LED

The interchangeable use of the terms girl-led and girl-centred has resulted in many organisations defining themselves as girl-led but in reality being only girl-centred. Among the members of the Collective, there is no consensus around what “girl-led” means. While some have advocated for a strict definition, others have pointed out that truly girl-led groups are rare and this is part of the larger challenge around building girl leadership.

INTERNAL LEARNING AND REVIEW PROCESSES

The Collective has demonstrated a commitment to using evidence to inform practice through a consistent and regular internal learning and review process, with input from girls as well as from stakeholders. The aim is to integrate this feedback into meaningful change. The Collective has a repository of rich data that needs to be used and shared to impact the work of others. Evidence has been used to inform a new award to engage adolescent girls in the development of the next generation of leaders. Evidence has also been used to inform how to engage girls in the decision-making processes and prioritisation of the work.

OPENING UP THE PROCESS TO REACH A WIDER BASE

A survey conducted by the Association of Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) of 740 women and girls’ organisations in 2011 showed that their median annual incomes were only US$20,000. This indicates that a large proportion of organisations don’t meet the lowest threshold of the With and For Girls Award (currently US$20,000). This criterion has contributed to underrepresentation in some regions. A review of the first year of the referral system showed that some partners had struggled to find applicants from the Middle East and North Africa as well as Europe and Central Asia because groups in these regions tended to have annual incomes below US$20,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS

INCREASING GIRL PARTICIPATION IN THE DECISION-MAKING

We recommend the creation of a girls’ participation advisory working group that would let girls advise on how best to meaningfully engage them in governance, decision-making and activities of the Collective.

AGREEMENT ABOUT GIRL-LED AND GIRL-CENTRED

We recommend a discussion among the Collective partners, as well as with the greater community working in the field, to agree on aspects of building greater girl leadership. This could take the form of a working group bringing together members of the Collective and experts from the field to examine these points and come up with a tighter definition of the terms girl-led and girl-centred, and to identify pointers that will help the Collective and others assess whether organisations are moving towards being girl-led. We also recommend approaching this issue with some flexibility in contexts where legal or societal restrictions prevent girls from taking on positions of leadership.

BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE

Using data to catalyse new funding for girl-led and girl-centred groups: As a Collective that seeks to leverage and catalyse new and expanded support for advancing the growth of girl-led and girl-centred organisations globally, it is important that the Collective uses its vast trove of data to analyse emerging trends in each of the regions to inform decision-making on funding needs and priorities by the Collective, its membership and the broader philanthropic community. This will make available a data-driven path to increased equity in the distribution of resources, both within the Collective and in the field of global philanthropy.

The Collective (ideally with the support of other donors) should also consider conducting a mapping of the state of funding for girl-led and girl-centred organisations to complement the analysis on trends and resource needs already carried out by some of the Collective members.

The Collective should also use data findings to advocate for increased and better targeted funding for girl-led and girl-centred organisations. We also recommend that the Collective consider adding this as a Strategic Objective on building the evidence base.
Amplifying girls’ voices in the press:

$1m awarded to groups working to empower girls and young women

These girl-led grassroots organisations seriously deserve your attention

We need to give platform to the Malalas of the world

6 badass women’s groups fighting for gender equality today

In the face of discrimination

4 young Muslim women on the biggest misconceptions people have of them

Interview: teenage panellists deciding on $1 million funding

World Day Against Trafficking: girls hold the solution

Contributing to philanthropy and development reports:

- State of Funding for Girls: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3L18L2mAGlPdzJiUm04QUlFdjg/view
- Spring Investor Toolkit: http://www.springaccelerator.org/knowledge/toolkit page 20 and 24

Presenting With and For Girls at sector events:

- OECD Marketplace for Coalitions, Paris
- UNSA Roundtable on New Coalitions for SDG, New York
- Asian Venture Philanthropy Network Annual meeting, Singapore
- Elevate Children Funders Group AGM, London and Brussels
- Human Rights Funders AGM, New York and Mexico City
- #MeToo and Philanthropy event, London
- TedX Women, London
- Girls Not Brides Annual Meeting, Kuala Lumpur

Amplifying girls’ voices in the philanthropic space:

- Girls and representatives from FFAC, Cameroon; NIGEE, Kenya; PGI, Kenya; Feminist Approach to Technology, India; NFICCK, Kyrgyzstan; Girls United for Human Rights, Pakistan; and Katswe Sistahood, Zimbabwe attended and spoke at the Girls Not Brides annual meeting.
- A girl from Integrate UK spoke on a panel at the #MeToo and Philanthropy event and at the Elevate Children Funders Group AGM.
- Girls from Association AMA, Guatemala; NIGEE, Kenya; Women LEAD, Nepal; I Am A Girl Barbados, Barbados; Ponton Group of Sex Educators, Poland; Young Women’s Freedom Centre, USA; AMOJO, Nicaragua; ALEG, Romania; Pastoralist Girls Initiative, Kenya; Shoruq Organisation, Palestine; Arab Women in Science and Engineering (AWSc), Israel attended and led the final closing plenary of the Human Rights Funders Network (HRFN) conference in Mexico City.

Since 2014:

- 103 Referral Partners onboarded
- 474 nominations received
- 137 organisations shortlisted
- 60 organisations awarded in 41 countries that work directly with over 153,067 people, and together reach 1,543,360 people indirectly
- $1.95m distributed in flexible funding and over $1.5m leveraged in additional funding to Award winners
- 474 nominations received
- 137 organisations shortlisted
**AWARD WINNERS: 2015, 2016 AND 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Americas and Caribbean</th>
<th>Europe and Central Asia</th>
<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
<th>Middle East and North Africa</th>
<th>Asia and the Pacific</th>
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<td>Mali</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Foundation YTTO pour l’hébergement et la Réhabilitation des Femmes Victimes de Violence</td>
<td>Aware Girls</td>
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<td>Kenya</td>
<td>L’Association Errahma des Handicapées Azilal (Errahma)</td>
<td>Girls United for Human Rights</td>
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<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Nyanza Initiative for Girls’ Education &amp; Empowerment (NIGEE)</td>
<td>Al-Bir Cultivating Culture &amp; Community Organisation</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
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<td>A Breeze of Hope</td>
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<td>Pastoralist Girls Initiative (PGI)</td>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>Stars of Hope</td>
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<td>BoxGirls Kenya</td>
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<td>Organisation of Women in Sports (AWSC)</td>
<td>Association of Women in Science and Engineering (AWSC)</td>
<td>Beautiful Hearts Against Sexual Violence (BHASV)</td>
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<td>ADWAR Roles for Social Change Association</td>
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<td>Cameroon</td>
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10 | SUPPORTING GIRL-LED AND GIRL-CENTRED ORGANISATIONS

11 | SUPPORTING GIRL-LED AND GIRL-CENTRED ORGANISATIONS
THEMES COVERED BY AWARD WINNERS IN 2015, 2016 AND 2017

- Health and mental health
- Indigenous rights
- Human rights defenders
- Peace-building and security
- Technology and innovation
- Media, arts, cultural representation
- Humanitarian relief
- Disability rights
- Rights
- Environment, climate change and sustainability
- Economic empowerment
- Trafficking
- Education
- Gender-based violence
- LGBTQ rights
- Political participation and leadership
- Domestic workers’ rights
- Refugee and migrant rights
- Safe cities
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Technology and innovation
- Safe cities