

# INVEST IN WOMEN-FOCUSED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

**WOMEN-FOCUSED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) ARE POWERFUL AGENTS OF CHANGE IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS. THEY ARE:**



## FIRST RESPONDERS.

During the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, women's groups **mobilized quickly to help pregnant and breastfeeding women prevent infection.**



## COMMUNITY LEADERS.

Women inside Syria have **negotiated local ceasefires, brokered prisoner releases, and set up humanitarian aid corridors.**



## UNWAVERING ADVOCATES.

Since the Arab Spring, women's movements have pushed Tunisia to **adopt constitutional protections for women's equal rights.**



## SKILLED PEACEBUILDERS.

**Peace agreements are 35% more likely to last at least 15 years if women leaders are engaged.**



## SUSTAINABLE DRIVERS OF PROGRESS.

Years after the 2015 Nepalese earthquakes, women's groups **continue to help lead efforts to rebuild homes and provide safe shelter.**

**...Yet women-focused CSOs lack access to the funding and opportunities they need to unlock their full power.**

**Only 3% of humanitarian aid was directed to national and local organizations in 2017 – and even less to those focused on girls and women.**

## INVESTMENTS IN WOMEN-FOCUSED CSOs HELP:



Enable **timely** gender-sensitive humanitarian **responses**



Support **context-appropriate** services for girls and women



Build local women's **capacity and leadership**



Drive **sustainable change**

**NOTE:** We define women-focused civil society organizations (CSOs) here as in-country organizations who are national, sub-national, or community-based.

## OUR ASKS:

- Increase flexible and long-term investments in women-focused CSOs in humanitarian settings, including those led by forcibly displaced girls and women.
- Promote the engagement and leadership of girls and women, and the organizations they lead, at every stage of a crisis, from preparedness through recovery efforts.
- Provide safe and equitable opportunities for women-focused CSOs to participate in humanitarian decision-making processes, including coordination and sector meetings.
- Include women-focused CSOs from humanitarian settings in all local, national, regional, and global discussions that affect their work and lives.
- Invest in gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women in all humanitarian action, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## ABOUT US

**WOMEN DELIVER** is a global advocate for gender equality and the health and rights of girls and women. Our humanitarian advocacy provides direct support to women-focused civil society organizations, as women are often overlooked leaders during emergencies and in their aftermath. We strengthen their voices through training and speaking opportunities, connecting them to the global and national conversations that affect their work and lives.

**THE NEAR NETWORK** is a movement of civil society organizations from the Global South who share a common goal of a world where local communities have the capacity, resources, and agency to address the challenges that impact them.



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[www.womendeliver.org/humanitarian](http://www.womendeliver.org/humanitarian)