

EMERGING LEADERS FOR CHANGE

Women Deliver is a global feminist advocacy organization that unequivocally demands the full suite of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all people, everywhere. Led by and representative of feminist movements in low- and middle-income countries, we focus on adolescent girls—both in terms of our impact and commitment to putting young people in the driver’s seat of decision-making.

Making progress on gender equality—while pushing back against anti-rights movements globally—depends on protecting and advancing the bodily integrity and rights of adolescent girls. We view adolescence for what it is: a period of vulnerability, but also a distinct window of time where, with the right tools and resources, girls can and do lead the charge on advancing positive change—not just for themselves, but for their communities. Securing their health and rights is the most powerful tool we have to overcome existing barriers on the road to a just and gender-equal world.

We advance the health and rights of adolescent girls by creating spaces for collective action, championing and supporting youth advocacy, and convening likeminded organizations. In everything we do, we aim to shift power into the hands of those closest to and living the challenges that girls face. Their expertise and lived experiences are vital to our collective struggle.

Gender advocacy and collective action must center adolescent girls and youth, especially those with marginalized identities, as designers, experts, and leaders, alongside traditional decision-makers and powerholders, in all gender equality advocacy spaces.

Through the Emerging Leaders for Change program, Women Deliver will invest in advocates under age 30 by providing trust-based grants, resources and mentorship for learning, a supportive network of fellow change agents, and space to lead. Through this program, we aim to support feminist movements, activists, and advocates working to protect and advance the health and rights of adolescent girls, in particular their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and to create a vibrant ecosystem of organizations that will continue to push for social change for many years to come.

Building on our track record of supporting activists through the Women Deliver Young Leaders program over the last 10 years, we will work to support individual advocates working to advance SRHR and climate action policy, programs, and investments, while ensuring that young people, and particularly girls, have access to policymakers and are able to take the lead in gender equality advocacy spaces.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Objectives

The Emerging Leaders for Change program will provide SRHR and climate justice advocates with multi-year, flexible funding, as well as mentorship and self-directed learning opportunities that focus on adolescent girls. Through this funding and support, we aim to:

- Strengthen the profile and impact of emerging advocates by providing access to key decision-making spaces and partnerships at national, regional, and global levels.
- Form ecosystems of emerging advocates working on SRHR and climate justice within specific geographies to advance collective, youth-led action on the health and rights of adolescent girls.

Outcomes

The Emerging Leaders for Change program will work to ensure that emerging advocates feel they have the funding, resources, supportive ecosystems, and leadership opportunities they need to achieve their gender equality and SRHR advocacy goals. The program will also help ensure that emerging advocates are included as key actors in decision-making spaces, particularly those focused on SRHR and climate justice.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Impact Group

Adolescent girls, especially those in low- and middle-income countries and those who hold marginalized identities.

Target Group(s)

Women Deliver's Emerging Leaders for Change program will invest in emerging advocates¹ under age 30, especially those who hold marginalized identities and are focused on advocating for the health and rights of adolescent girls. While the majority of the advocates we will support will either belong to or work in marginalized communities, we will also support emerging advocates in countries around the world who advocate for the issues identified by these groups.

Milestones

- **March 2023 - September 2023:** Design the Emerging Leaders for Change program.
- **September 2023 - December 2023:** Recruit advocates and activists.
- **January 2024 - June 2024:** Review and award first round of grants and learning support.
- **June 2026:** Completion of the program.

Tactics (Activities)

Grantmaking: Advocates will be provided with multi-year, flexible, trust-based grants to support their advocacy and to strengthen their organizations, along with technical assistance and context-specific resources.

Supporting learning, capacity strengthening, and sharing: Based on customized, self-created learning agendas, advocates will receive trainings, resources, relevant mentorship, and access to peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing opportunities.

Producing and using of evidence: Advocates will have access to, and be equipped with, relevant data and advocate-friendly evidence tools to support their work, with opportunities to co-create these materials when possible.

Political engagement and influencing: Advocates will build their profile as experts and leaders with the support of Women Deliver, who will use its own relationships to give advocates the ability to access decision-making roles and spaces.

Supporting/engaging coalitions: Advocates will be connected with other advocates, as well as networks and coalitions working on similar topics and/or in the same geographies, to form a supportive ecosystem of emerging leaders working on shared advocacy goals. Together, they will convene during global moments for change, including Women Deliver Conferences, to drive collective, youth-led action.

Geographies

This program will identify and prioritize 2-3 regions. Guided by those with context-specific expertise, regions will be selected strategically based on where the Emerging Leaders for Change program can have the greatest impact. These regions may change over time. Within selected regions, we will form national and thematic networks to connect emerging leaders working to achieve similar advocacy goals in similar contexts.

Partners/ Coalitions

Women Deliver's network of over 1,000 Young Leader Alumni are experienced researchers, program implementers, policymakers, and civil society leaders, and serve as mentors and advisors to Women Deliver and emerging leaders. Women Deliver also collectively advocates for youth leadership as part of a deep network of partner organizations and youth-focused coalitions.

Organizational Capacity

Through the Young Leaders program, created in 2010, Women Deliver has gained expertise in supporting emerging advocates through grantmaking, learning and knowledge-sharing, technical assistance, convenings, and speaker, media, and leadership opportunities. Women Deliver also has a proven track record advocating for youth leadership and equitable partnerships within SRHR and climate justice decision-making and influencing spaces. With this enhanced regional focus, Women Deliver will expand its internal capacity to include those with national or regional expertise.

¹ Emerging advocates are those who have demonstrated passion and commitment to SRHR and climate justice at the community, national, regional, or global level, and are seeking resources, mentorship, and opportunities to increase their impact.