

## Co-Impact Gender Fund Design Grants - New Awards in Africa, October 2023

Co-Impact has awarded grants to 13 new initiatives in Africa that are working to create positive changes for millions of people across a range of issues including maternal and child health, the care economy, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, access to education and healthcare, and improved economic and leadership opportunities for women. These year-long Design Grants from our Gender Fund are intended to help organizations to sharpen and refine their strategy and more clearly articulate how they can scale their systems change initiatives. The initiatives include the following:

Initiative	Country	Initiative Summary
<a href="#"><u>Cerath Development Organization (CDO)</u></a> Empowering Women in Ghana's Fisheries Sector	Ghana	CDO is focused on catalysing equitable, just, and inclusive development in African communities through fisheries economies to improve living conditions for the rural and urban poor. CDO seeks to increase the budget allocation for the fisheries' post-harvest management system in Ghana to enhance the quality, reach of and services provided to fisherwomen. This will improve the livelihoods, agency, leadership, and economic participation of fisherwomen.
<a href="#"><u>German Foundation for World Population (DSW Kenya)</u></a> . Kenya School Life-Skills Enhancement Project.	Kenya	For 20 years, DSW-Kenya has run school-based interventions since 2013 keeping rates of teen pregnancy and HIV infections low, increasing adolescents' access to SRHR and life skills, enabling SRHR responsive school environments and safe spaces for learning, help and referrals. DSW seeks to benefit 4.65 million adolescents by improving the primary school system delivery of life-skills to reduce high rates of HIV infections, teen pregnancy, and sexual and gender-based violence.
<a href="#"><u>Girl Effect</u></a> : Harnessing the Power of Digital to Improve SRHR Outcomes for AGYW in Kenya.	Kenya	Girl Effect (GE) for over 15 years has leveraged the power of data, tech, and networks to deliver integrated health content and improve health for AGYW - digital campaigns or individual safe spaces using AI, Interactive voice response (IVR), messaging etc. Using a human-centered and scientific approach to shift behaviours and norms in over 5 countries. Girl Effect's global digital platform Springster has reached 59 million people. GE seeks to reach 2.575 million adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) with inclusive and relevant sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information using social behavioral communication techniques (SBCC) to increase awareness and drive demand for SRH services. It also seeks to improve government capacity to design and package the information and services that they offer to AGYW.
<a href="#"><u>International Budget Partnership (IBP Inc)</u></a> : Strengthening Public Accountability for Results and Knowledge	Indonesia Nigeria Senegal South Africa	Since its founding almost 25 years ago, IBP has had a strong track record of facilitating bottom-up, civil society owned approaches to sustainable development and government accountability. Through collective grassroots-led service delivery and budget-focused reform campaigns, IBP's SPARK I, launched in 2018, contributed to improved service delivery and fiscal governance (oversight and public finance management) for marginalized communities in eight countries. IBP's SPARK II initiative seeks to improve

Initiative	Country	Initiative Summary
		the lives of at least 12 million women and girls, including women smallholder farmers, women with disabilities, and women informal settlement residents, to leverage and strengthen their collective action and political influence on health, water and sanitation, economic and budget systems in four focus countries in Africa and Asia.
<p><a href="#"><u>International Budget Partnership Kenya:</u></a> Enhancing access to healthcare for the poor and women through budget implementation.</p>	Kenya	IBP Kenya's core mandate is to build the capacity of civil society organizations and citizens to engage in the public finance management (PFM) space in Kenya empowering poor and marginalized communities to use budgets to solve service delivery issues. IBP-Kenya seeks to increase access to health care for 8.95 million people (5.93 million poor people and 3.02 million women) through improvements in public finance management (PFM) systems in the health sector.
<p><a href="#"><u>International Center for Research on Women - ICRW Africa Regional office:</u></a> Enhancing evidence-informed decision-making for improved childcare ecosystem in Kenya</p>	Kenya	International Centre for Research for Women - Africa Regional Office (ICRW-Africa) seeks to provide actionable solutions for strengthening the operations and services of women-owned childcare enterprises and expand access to affordable childcare among marginalised women and households in Kenya. ICRW-Africa brings almost 50 years' experience and focus on gender and inclusion to evidence-based solutions to advance gender equality. The initiative will furnish high-quality data and actionable solutions to policymakers and childcare service providers to drive system change for quality, affordable and accessible childcare services to address unpaid care work on women and vulnerable households in three counties in Kenya.
<p><a href="#"><u>Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University Foundation):</u></a> Engendering the Nigerian Financial Services Ecosystem</p>	Nigeria	For over 30 years, LBS has offered academic and executive programmes and short courses in management. LBS, in collaboration with Women's World Banking, aims to achieve gender parity in the representation of women in senior leadership and executive positions within the financial services sector in Nigeria. This will improve access to access to a savings product for over 7.2 million low-income women who are unbanked or under-banked.
<p><a href="#"><u>Maternal and Reproductive Health Research Collective (MRHRC), Nigeria:</u></a> Iyaloku Initiative II</p>	Nigeria	For the past 14 years, MRHRC has focused on advancing access to maternal health services for low-income women in Nigeria. MRHRC takes a holistic approach that not only focuses on health data and information collected, but also looks outwards to understand the factors that positively or negatively affects the ability of women to access health care services (the demand side); and factors that affect the delivery and availability of quality health service provision in public and private centres across Nigeria. With this initiative, MRHRC aims to strengthen the health and health financing system to deliver high-quality patient centered public maternity care, ensure financial protection for the most vulnerable women and girls, and implement community led social and behavioral change

Initiative	Country	Initiative Summary
		interventions to increase utilization of care with the aim of reducing preventable maternal morbidity and mortality amongst the urban poor in Lagos State, Nigeria.
<p><b><u>Reproductive Health Network Kenya (RHNK):</u></b> Advancing equitable access to quality sexual, reproductive, and maternal health services among adolescent girls and young women in Kenya.</p>	Kenya	Reproductive Health Network Kenya (RHNK) is a network of public and private trained reproductive health providers that work to enhance access to reproductive health services for adolescents, young people, and LGBTQ+ groups. With this initiative, RHNK aims to advance equitable access to quality sexual, reproductive, and maternal health (SRMH) services for adolescent girls and young women in Kenya. The initiative will focus on 4 high-burden counties, overcoming a set of structural, clinical, and social barriers that contribute to poor SRMH outcomes among girls and women aged 10-24 towards creating systemic, sustainable change in SRMH that reduces maternal mortality and morbidity and their devastating effects on families, communities, and society.
<p><b><u>STAR Ghana Foundation (SGF):</u></b> Mobilising for Girls Education.</p>	Ghana	Star Ghana Foundation (SGF) has been working on promoting inclusive education since 2010. SGF has improved access to quality education services for children with Special Education Needs through development and operationalization of an inclusive education policy. SGF seeks systems change to ensure that girls have access to quality education from enrolment to completion working with national and local government systems to streamline processes and ensure coherence between policy objectives, budget allocation, disbursement and execution, oversight, and support stakeholders' mechanisms for accountability.
<p><b><u>The Action Foundation (TAF):</u></b> Inclusive childhood care and education for children with disabilities (CWDS) in Kenya</p>	Kenya	For over 10 years, TAF has been working to fight discrimination and violence towards children with disabilities (CWDs) through education, health and childcare services, policies, and programs to support reduction of unpaid care work of caregivers - female headed households - through quality childcare and education services. TAF seeks to improve access to quality ECD, health rehabilitation, budgets, policy implementation, inclusion of CWDs and their caregivers in Universal Health Care (UHC) and the National Health Insurance Fund to address gaps in reporting and utilization of data to improve capacity of ECD and health care workforce.
<p><b><u>The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA):</u></b> Scaling Inclusion Mechanisms for Small-Scale Informal Traders in Kenya.</p>	Kenya	TISA promotes citizen empowerment and government accountability in Kenya. Their socio-economic inclusion supports marginalised groups to develop self-confidence, and act individually and collectively to change institutions and discourses that exclude them and keep them in poverty. TISA seeks to support women's economic empowerment by addressing the exclusionary and non-responsive informal trade system to benefit 15 million small scale informal traders with improved access to social protections, access to water and sanitation, address sexual violence, as well as improve provision of gender

Initiative	Country	Initiative Summary
		responsive services to reduce the unpaid care burden by the women informal traders.
<p><b>Zizi Afrique Foundation:</b> Assessment of Life Skills and Values in East Africa (ALiVE)</p>	<p>Kenya Tanzania Uganda</p>	<p>Zizi Afrique consolidates evidence, innovates solutions through collaborative networking, shapes policy and practice to equip all children and youth with competences for life and work. Zizi hosts the Assessment of Life Skills and Values in East Africa (ALiVE), a program of the Regional Education Learning Initiative-Africa (RELI), a consortium of over 70 organizations that seeks to integrate the assessment of life skills and values in the education system for holistic learning of children, through assessments and curriculum implementation.</p>