



Executive Summary

What does it take to sustain feminist movements, redistribute power, and finance equitable, dignified futures for all?

While feminist movements have long addressed this question, it is now more urgent than ever. Globally, they are facing rising authoritarianism, anti-rights mobilization, shrinking civic space and major funding cuts, even as they work to defend democracy, and just, dignified and joyful lives for all.

This reflection paper offers key insights, tensions, and strategies from the Financing for Feminist Futures (F4FF) Conference, convened by the Walking the Talk consortium. Nearly 200 feminists from diverse regions and sectors gathered to examine how feminist movements can be sustainably resourced within and beyond traditional development financing. Instead of prescribing solutions, this document contributes to the broader political narrative on feminist resourcing, centering movement knowledge, lived experience, and collective strategy as essential sources of leadership and expertise.

Three strategic pathways for financing feminist futures

The conference focused on three interconnected tracks, each offering insights into how feminist movements and allies address the resourcing crisis and advance transformative alternatives.

Building our movements: strategizing together

- **Sustaining feminist futures requires recognizing feminist movements as political actors who shape resourcing agendas:** Advancing feminist resourcing requires trust-based, co-created, and movement-led funding that centers Global Majority leadership and grassroots expertise.
- **Financing feminist futures requires sustained, intersectional investment in:** queer and trans liberation, disability justice, racial justice, climate justice, and youth-led organizing as interconnected efforts. Separating these issues into silos only undermines movement realities and weakens their collective power.
- **Women's and feminist funds are vital anchors in the feminist resourcing ecosystem:** They support grassroots organizing and practice participatory, long-term, and flexible funding aligned with movement priorities.
- **Collaboration among movements, funds, researchers and donors challenges competitive funding models:** Strengthening these alliances is essential for collective sustainability and expanding feminist political influence.



Holding the line: traditional financing as feminist contested territory

Traditional financing sources, including Official Development Assistance (ODA), multilateral financing, and philanthropy, remain essential but are highly contested. Public financing is vital for feminist organizing, especially during crises and conflicts. However, these systems often reinforce hierarchical governance and donor-driven priorities, limiting movement autonomy. Defending public financing requires structural reforms to ensure funding practices reflect feminist values and justice-based approaches.

Philanthropy expands available resources but often perpetuates power imbalances and lacks transparency. Shifting power, increasing transparency, and aligning funding with movement priorities are essential for effective philanthropic engagement. While diversifying and expanding funding partnerships are important, private and philanthropic sources cannot replace state responsibility. Public financing for gender justice remains a political obligation.

In this context, holding the line does not mean preserving flawed systems. It means preventing further setbacks and building momentum for systemic change.

Strengthening Feminist Funding: Building on FfD4 and Exploring New Possibilities

Global financing processes, including the Fourth Financing for Development Conference (FfD4), present both opportunities and challenges for feminist resourcing. While feminist agendas are more visible in global financing debates, calls for systemic economic transformation remain marginalized within financial frameworks that increasingly prioritize private capital and market-driven solutions.

Feminist movements and funders are testing innovative financing mechanisms, developing movement-owned financial infrastructures, and pursuing alternative resource mobilization strategies for long-term sustainability. They are adapting existing financial tools to align with feminist values, effectively “*hacking*” systems not originally designed for these priorities. However, financial innovation alone is not enough. Without strong feminist accountability, new financing tools may subordinate feminist agendas to profit-driven investment and capitalist logics, reinforcing structural inequality.

The Time to Resource Feminist Futures Is Now

Throughout the conference, participants reaffirmed a core feminist principle: *money is political*. The current resourcing crisis is not about scarcity, but about solidarity and justice. While feminist movements remain under-resourced, global wealth concentration, militarization, and extractive economic systems continue to grow.

Feminist movements propose a clear alternative to build a world that is worth living: financing systems that prioritize redistribution, center care and prioritize the collective wellbeing of people and planet. Realizing this vision requires political commitment from governments, multilateral institutions, philanthropy, and civil society. Meeting the urgency of this moment means transforming how resources are generated, governed and distributed.

The question is not whether feminist futures are possible. Against all odds, feminist movements continue to show how they are already building them across communities, territories, and transnational alliances worldwide. Through the political work of feminism, we have the opportunity to imagine how the world could be organized differently and to act to make those futures real.

The effort now consists in ensuring that financing systems evolve with feminist movements, and that collective action supports feminist financing structures capable of sustaining, expanding, and protecting this work. The choices made now will determine whether resourcing systems continue to concentrate power and perpetuate crises or become instruments for justice and collective liberation.

