Better preparedness: **FUNDING RESILIENCE** ()

LEARNING WEEK LABS

DECOLONIZING AND LOCALIZING GRANT-MAKING LAB Wednesday 15 November 2023



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Captioning is available.

Subtitulado (en inglés).

Sous-titrage (en anglais).

Mute yourself.

Pon tu micrófono en silencio.

Mettez vous en silencieux.

It will be recorded.

Se grabará.

Il sera enregistré.



Better preparedness: FUNDING RESILIENCE



Better Preparedness Funding Resilience

How are we doing this? Bringing together peace and security and human rights funders, and civil society to codesign a blueprint for better funder coordination, and to build the trust and political will to deliver against it.

Better Preparedness Funding Resilience

A blueprint for better coordination

By June 2024 we will have designed and validated a blueprint which includes a range of different approaches and tools that together enable coordination around different types of crises:

- coordination principles
- protocols and mechanisms for coordination
- crisis preparedness drills
- mapping of foundations' work and of an ideal wider funding ecosystem
- taxonomies of risk and crisis
- early warning systems

Better Preparedness: Funding Resilience



Discovery May-July Research coordination

challenges and opportunities Design program



Codesign Labs Dec/Jan/Feb/March

Confirm challenges we will address Build prototype coordination blueprint to address them



Learning Labs November Explore topics and

solutions as a community



Validate and optimise April/May/June

Test prototype with internal foundation teams and civil society Finalise blueprint



Learning Lab Week

LEARNING LAB: EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

8am PST / 11am ET / 4pm UTC 5pm CET / 11pm ICT

LEARNING LAB: LEGAL AND BANKING SOLUTIONS

TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

8am PST / 11am ET 4pm UTC / 5pm CET / 11pm ICT

LEARNING LAB: DECOLONIZING AND LOCALIZING GRANT-MAKING

WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

8am PST / 11am ET / 4pm UTC 5pm CET / 11pm ICT LEARNING LAB: AI AND HUMAN RIGHTS

THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

8am PST / 11am ET / 4pm UTC 5pm CET / 11pm ICT

Share questions and reflections in the Zoom chat as we hear from our speakers

Three lines of enquiry

How might we democratize civil society access to funding by decolonising and localizing grant making?

From strategy through programming, what are examples of successes?

How could these help improve coordination between philanthropic funders of civil society facing acute human rights and longer-term civic space challenges?



Helena Hofbauer

and Government

Director for Mexico and Central America

Ford Foundation

Int'l Program Director for Civic Engagement

Balmori



Anisha Chugh

Executive Director

Women's Fund

Asia



Degan Ali

Executive Director

November 15, 2023

Helena Hofbauer Balmori International Program Director, Civic Engagement and Government Regional Director, Mexico and Central America





Empowering, localizing and decolonizing...

- Ford does not have participatory GM practices and rarely speaks about decolonizing GM.
- *However,* Ford has gone a long way to transform the relationship with partners and is an active driver of trust-based GM.
- This is a highly political conversation: It is related to power and control, and who influences who
- Ultimately, the relation between funders and grantees is *symbiotic*.



Ford's shift to transform our relationship and increase agency of our partners...

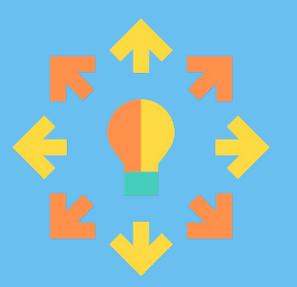
EXPAND UNRESTRICTED

SUPPORT Commitment to dramatically expand unrestricted support (general or core):

- 2015-36%
- 2023-82%

25% INDIRECT COST

Pay a minimum 25% indirect cost on all project grants.



BUILD INITIATIVE

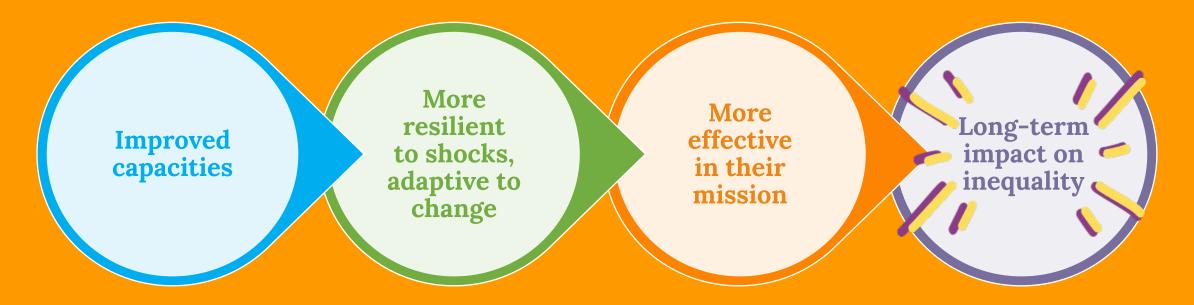
The 10-year, US\$2 billion BUILD initiative supports institutions and networks through multiyear, flexible funding and institutional strengthening.

• 44% US focus; 56% international focus.

We actively try to influence other donors with these efforts.

BUILD's Theory of Change

Long term goal: Resilient civil society organizations and networks power lasting reductions in inequality, in the US and around the world.



Grantees reported that this approach gave them "permission to strengthen," "headspace to think," "room to plan," "bandwidth to execute," "time to innovate," "space to fail" and "flexibility to respond and adapt" (internally and externally).

In 2020, Ford launched its Social Justice Bond

US \$ 1 BN to support civil society in weathering the COVID pandemic

One of CEG-I's goal: to **increase the resilience of civil society** in a context of challenges and restrictions. CEG-I worked with other programs, regional offices and other donors to launch WEAVING - Kesilience -

a US\$ 75M initiative



- Probably our most outspoken effort in terms of *localization and decolonization*.
- **Does not dictate** how organizations should work or conceptualize their work to support others, beyond broad focus areas.
- **Does not use intermediaries**, to directly send money and overheads to organizations in the Global South.
- **Does not create coordinating structures**, to allow organizations to define if and how to work as a network.



A vibrant network of institutions committed to the resilience of civil society and social movements working for social justice across Latin America, Africa, Middle-East and South-East Asia.

Anchored in an **anti-colonial**, **anti-patriarchal**, **anti-racist and anti-ableist** frame, that:

- Privileges feminist principles and perspectives,
- Rests on power analysis,
- Recognizes and fights against male-centric paradigms and white privilege,
- Confronts and deconstructs ableism,
- Re-affirms visions from and capacities in the Global South,
- Consolidates the Global South's role in building resilient and impactful institutions,
- Develops a South-based network of resource hubs that permeates dominant Global North paradigms of institutional development and resilience.



Strategic Relevance: Strategic Comms, Strategic Adaptation, MEL, movement/alliance building

Institutional Resilience: Admin. & Legal Compliance, Financial Resilience, Tech & Digital Resilience and Security (connected to wellness & safety) Priority Core Capacities to strengthen organizations in the Global South, by Global South-based hubs

Wellness & Safety: Holistic Safety, Wellness, Collective Care



Ford Foundation

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Executive Director

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Q&A

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Thank you







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