



VGIF GRANTMAKING SNAPSHOT: 2009–2014

In 2014, VGIF celebrated 45 years of grantmaking, supporting grassroots women’s organizations working to advance the rights of women and girls.

Over the past four decades, VGIF has invested approximately 2.7 million USD to support more than 525 projects in 90 countries across the globe. These projects have served close to 355,000 people through a range of strategies, including education, legal and policy advocacy, public outreach, skills training, and health and social service support.

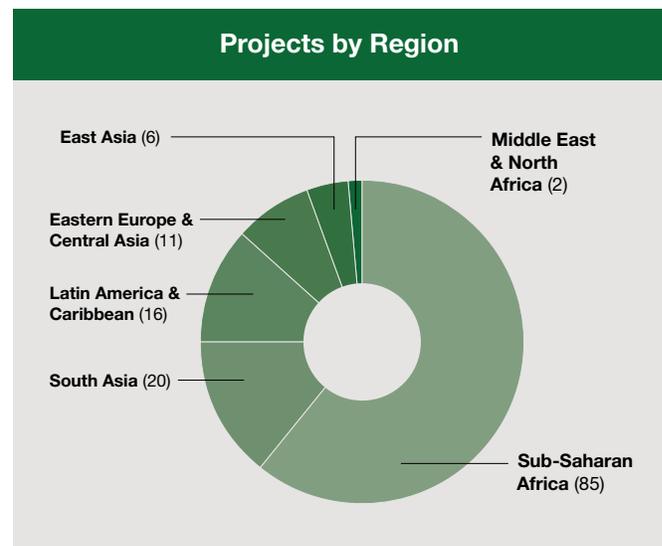
VGIF provides small grants (up to 7,500 USD per year) to women’s organizations who carry out projects in their local communities. Our grantmaking strategy focuses on increasing the resources and capacity of local women leaders to identify their own priorities, capitalize on opportunities, and foster change to improve the status of women and girls.

LOCAL IMPACT: 2009–2014

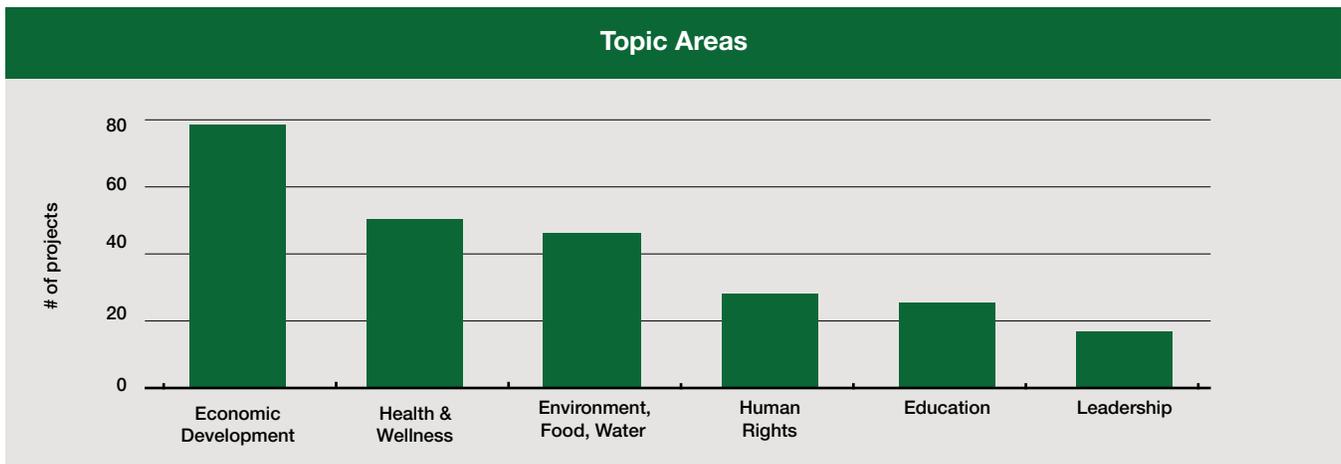
VGIF’s resources and impact have increased steadily. Over the past five funding cycles (2009 through 2014), VGIF invested close to 840,000 USD to support 142 projects. These included 136 one-year projects as well as six multi-year projects, which are designed to create lasting changes in their communities.

In the past five years, VGIF grantees have reached almost 93,000 people, including more than 52,000 women and girls. The grantees set high goals for their work and are making a difference. More than 90% of projects made progress towards or met their goals to improve the lives of women and girls in their communities.

VGIF funding is not restricted by topic area — we support projects based on the strength of their engagement with the target community, their individual plan, and their potential for longer-term social impact. VGIF responds to priorities identified by organizations and, from 2009–2014, about half of



From 2009 through 2014, VGIF funded 142 projects in 45 countries across the globe. The majority of funding supported projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Over the past several years, the majority of projects have focused on women’s economic development and empowerment; health, wellness, and bodily integrity; and environment, food, and water security.

VGIF funded projects (79 total projects) focused on economic development and empowerment, providing vocational training and business support to enable women to earn income. By addressing their economic power, these projects addressed women’s status within the family and larger society, helping them “*build self-esteem and reinforce a sense of personal dignity*” (project participant, Bosnia, 2013).

VGIF grantee partners have worked to advance women’s rights and social status using both

individual-level and broader community-level strategies. Over the past five years, twenty-two projects focused on human rights and advocacy, using public education campaigns around local laws to fuel changes in women’s lives. As one project participant stated, “*[t]he public education programme was very important...in that it gave me a sense of how groups of people could connect with one another trying to seek solutions to identified challenges and achieve results*” (Ghana, 2009).

STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONS

VGIF-funded projects have far-reaching impacts not only on the communities they serve, but also on the organizations themselves. VGIF specializes in supporting small-scale community projects and grassroots women’s organizations. Many of these groups are in the early stages of development and find their first opportunity for funding through VGIF. In the 2013-2014 grant cycle, VGIF collected more extensive data on the impact of its funding on the

grantees themselves. Of 35 organizations funded that year, the vast majority (89%) reported that VGIF funding had a significant impact on their capacity, visibility, and agency within their communities. VGIF funding enabled them to expand their staff knowledge and skills; form new partnerships with government and civil society organizations; obtain additional funding and resources (including donated land and equipment); and expand their work into new areas.

LOOKING AHEAD: LASTING CHANGE

VGIF is working in a time of exciting change and advancement for women and girls. As we look ahead, we will continue to strengthen our relationships with grantee partners and increase the impact of our funding across the globe. Our strategy will continue to put local women’s organizations first and respond to their needs as the experts and leaders in the field. As one recent grantee states, “*[w]hen we talk about funding for women’s projects, we are talking to the*

sponsors to allocate resources to these activities. [It] should be clear that women do not need a welfare approach, that approved projects should generate a change in the status and position of gender in the communities where [they are] implemented.” (Project Director, Mexico, 2014). VGIF is proud to partner with these organizations to put resources in the hands of those most qualified to create sustainable change.