A girl has different needs than a 40-year-old woman, right? A girl faces different experiences than a boy, correct? And girls' experiences are also not universal - depends on context, gender identity versus biological assignment, and more!

The current situation faced by adolescent girls is similar, if not the same, to the one women faced in the past.

"where is the money for women's rights?"
After the 1995 Beijing 4th World Conference, AWID and JASS mobilized new resources for feminist movements.

There was no difference between women and girls.
There was no age distinction in WOMEN's rights and funding nor any gender distinction in CHILDREN's rights and funding.

So, what is going on right now? Are adolescent girls being funded?
Funding for adolescent girls in the present

What is going on right now?

There are too many obstacles when funding girls

For example:
- no funding info for girls
- girls' diversity is not appreciated by funders
- no universal criteria of an adolescent girl
- girls lack space to express themselves

Let's talk funders

Different types
Source funders (have their own money like private foundations), intermediary funders (need to fundraise, like women's funds), and funder collaborations, just to name a few.

Different issues
Funders tend to prioritize health or education as opposed to political causes, such as child marriage, or sexuality. And girls have no say in setting these priorities.

Different strategies
Funders with the most resources tend to prioritize advocacy and monitoring the changes resulting from programs, while very few funders prioritize girls organizing and activism at all.

But is there money for girls? Where are these girls?
the present

Show me the money
But first we have to face these challenges: lack of transparency, girls are not counted/included, frameworks are not shared within the field, information about funding is not accessible.

Where are the girls?

It's simple: they are not included
And when they are, their opinions are ignored. Girls are seen as beneficiares rather than changemakers, so we need a transformational approach rather than a transactional approach.

There is hope!
Feminist funders are redefining how to fund adolescent girls by centering their voices and including them in the decision-making process.

We are making progress
Now feminist funders are looking for ways to work WITH girls!

It's time to take action!
Girls want a sense of community, power, freedom, success, protection, strong, cultural identity, confidence, love, joy, and FEMINIST CHANGE!

The future is ours, so let's think BIG!
Funding for adolescent girls in the future

What we need to do now to harvest in the future.

Let's create a new feminist ecosystem!
that is accountable to adolescent girls, vibrant, complementary, and collective!

But first:
Map 3 elements
Adolescent girls, resources (financial, political, and social), actors — where can we find them?

TRUST girls
and convene, research, and advocate with and for them. Girls are your best asset!

It is a work in progress
It will take years but if women were able to secure funding in 1995, then we can also hope and work hard for adolescent girls.

We can do this together!
Just so you know

This infographic was made possible thanks to the research

Resourcing Adolescent Girls to Thrive:
A report exploring where is the money for adolescent girls’ rights using an ecosystem approach

more about the report:

In summary

Why: Covid-19 instigated changes and demands in funding and grantmaking, opening room for improving for funding adolescent girls.

Who: Independent consultants (Angelika Arutyunova, Amy Babchek, Ruby Johnson, Boikanyo Modungwa, and Emily Battistini) with the help of a working group with members involved with funding for adolescent girls.

When: Conceptualized in 2019 and concluded in 2021.

How: the methodology consisted of a literature review, a survey, and 3 workshops with 31 girls from 10 different countries.

A special thanks to

Giovanna Basso and Yande Banda for helping girls access this research. After all, girls support girls!

And if you are curious (we know you are), you can access the full report here:

resourcinggirls.org