



WOMENSTRONG
INTERNATIONAL

STRENGTHENING WOMEN-LED ORGANIZATIONS: LESSONS FROM OUR EVALUATION



TESTING A NEW APPROACH

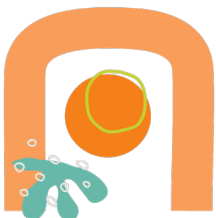
In 2023, WomenStrong piloted a new way to support women-led orgs – a 3-pillar approach that pairs unrestricted funding with organizational strengthening, and a Learning Lab:



Unrestricted Funding:
Flexible, multiyear, trust-based funding



Organizational Strengthening:
Tailored support to strengthen organizational functions



Learning Lab:
Peer learning community

We commissioned an independent outcome evaluation* to understand the most pressing needs of women-led organizations, how they define resilience, and how their priorities are supported by WomenStrong's approach.



WHAT WE LEARNED

As a result of our support, grantee partners shared that they were able to:

- diversify their funding sources
- formalize their fundraising strategies
- embrace long-term strategic planning
- deepen their engagement in networks
- invest in both specialized roles and continuous organizational learning
- prioritize staff wellbeing
- pursue innovative organizational strategies – from social enterprises to hybrid financing structures

WHAT PARTNERS TOLD US

- 97% of partners said WomenStrong's support was either "vital" or "very helpful" in helping them achieve both internal and external change.
- Over 80% of partners said unrestricted funding was the most critical piece of WomenStrong's support.
- 94% of partners report strong core systems (mission, vision, strategy), and partners also reported that targeted organizational strengthening support helps them adapt and respond in times of crisis.
- More than half said partnerships and networks are essential for weathering challenges, gaining visibility, and staying rooted in shared values.



WHY IT MATTERS

At a time when funding for gender equity is shrinking, women-led organizations — especially those led by women of color — are once again being asked to do more with less.

WomenStrong's 3-pillar model offers a powerful new way to ensure women-led organizations thrive.



OUR FINDINGS:

*The combination of
**trust-based funding +
organizational strengthening +
a peer learning community** is a
proven model for helping women-led
organizations thrive.*

Read more here:



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*An independent outcome evaluation commissioned by WomenStrong International and conducted by Abbie Cohen, Chistiane Yelibi, Darnesha Tabor, Ena Taguam, Malaika Cheney-Coker, and Sophia Davila of Ignited Word LLC