

# Women and Funding



CEAAL

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## Introduction

The Women's Program undertook an organizational review in 1989. At that time, the Program was in a financial crisis. Thus, an important part of the process involved assessing current policy towards funding women's programming and networks within international agencies. Through discussions with both funders and other women's groups and networks, it became clear that the same funding crisis we were facing was also being faced by many women's organizations around the world as agencies' policies towards women are changing. The potential result of these changes is that even less money will be made

available to projects specifically targeted at women in this coming period; agencies will exert more control over the kinds of initiatives that are supported and it will be even harder for new groups to break into the "international funding" arena. We felt it important not to tackle the problem merely as a question of survival for our office or the Women's Program; the issue of women's groups' dependence on government and aid funding where accountability exists in one direction (from us to funders) and control in another (by funders over what work is or is not appropriate) is a political issue.