Grants from the Global Fund for Women support women’s organizations working to stop violence against women, increase girls’ access to education, advance economic and political opportunity, and improve health.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Gender-based violence against women – female infanticide, sexual trafficking and exploitation, dowry killings and domestic violence – causes more death and disability among women in the 15 to 44 age group than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. [Center for Women Policy Studies, 2003]

Over the past 30 years, 30 million women and children have been trafficked for sexual exploitation. [United Nations, 2003]

An estimated 130 million women worldwide have undergone Female Genital Mutilation and 2 million more are mutilated every year. 98% of Somali women have been mutilated. [Center for Reproductive Rights, 2004]

Up to 47% of women report that their first sexual intercourse was forced. [World Health Organization, 2002]

41% of women in Columbia report having been physically abused in a current relationship. [International Planned Parenthood Federation, 2002]

Health Status

More than half a million women die from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth every year. 99% of these deaths occur in the developing world. [World Health Organization, 2004]

Providing basic maternal and newborn health services to developing countries would cost an average of $3 per capita per year. However, once complications develop, saving the life of a mother or infant costs about $230. [United Nations Population Fund, 2003]

Of the estimated 40 million people worldwide living with HIV, about 2/3 are in sub-Saharan Africa, and young women are 2.5 times more likely to be infected as their male counterparts. [BBC News, 2003]

The former Soviet bloc has seen a 50-fold increase in HIV infections, the most dramatic rise in the world, in the past 8 years. [Reuters, 2004]
Access to Education

Of an estimated 115 million children who currently do not attend primary school, girls make up 57%. [United Nations, 2003]

Of the world's 979 million illiterate adults, two-thirds are women. [UNDP Human Development Report, 2003]

A recent study shows that increases in women's education made the greatest contribution to reducing the rate of child malnutrition, accounting for 43% of the total reduction. [United Nations Population Fund, 2002]

More than 24 million girls in Africa are not in school and the overall gender gap in sub-Saharan Africa has widened in the last 10 years.[UNESCO, EFA [Global Monitoring Report, 2002]

Political Power

In 2003, at least 54 countries had discriminatory laws against women. [Amnesty International, 2003]

Some countries still do not have universal suffrage. Among them are Brunei, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. [Women in Politics 2003]

Women hold only 6.4% of the seats in Arab states' Parliaments, 14.4% of seats in sub-Saharan African, 17.6% of seats in Europe and 18.5% of seats in the Americas. [Women’s Learning Partnership, 2002]

Economic Status

Only 1% of the world's assets are in the name of women. [Women’s Learning Partnership, 2003]

Over $7 trillion worth of women’s work goes unpaid. [United Nations Platform for Action, 2002]

2.1 billion women live on less than two dollars a day, and 330 million women live on less than a dollar a day. [Center for Women Policy Studies, 2003]

In the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia, only 40 women per 100 men are economically active in the formal economy. [US News Center, 2004]