

The Resilience Fund for Women in Global Value Chains



The Resilience Fund for Women in Global Value Chains is a new, innovative pooled funding initiative for corporations, corporate foundations, and private foundations to invest in the long-term health, well-being, and economic resilience of women who form the backbone of global value chains.

Women have been disproportionately harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens to set back advances in their economic empowerment, health, rights, and safety for decades. The Fund offers a new approach for companies.

By channeling unrestricted, flexible funding to women’s funds and local, women-led organizations that know best what their own communities need, the Fund will support long-term recovery from the pandemic— and advance systemic changes that lead to more resilient girls, women, and communities.

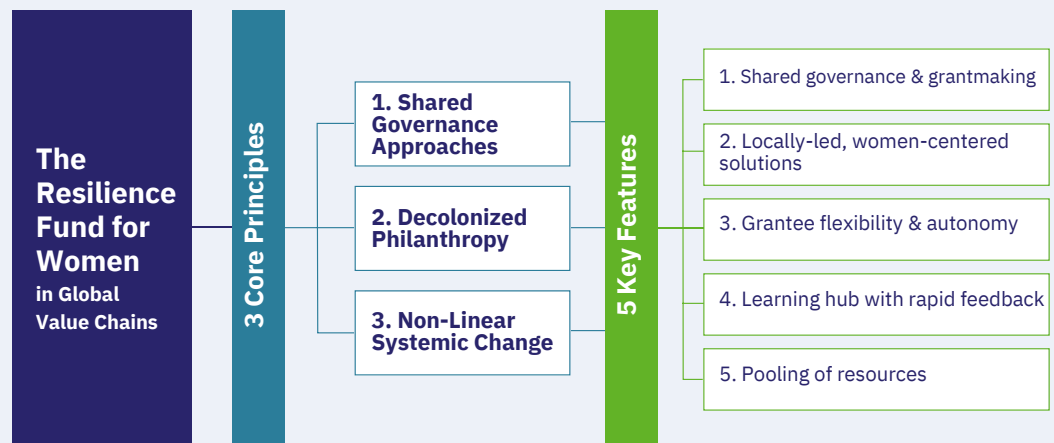
The Fund is a collaborative initiative started by BSR, the United Nations Foundation’s Universal Access Project, and Women Win/Win-Win Strategies with founding partners and investors Gap Foundation, PVH Foundation, H&M Foundation, The VF Foundation, and the Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation; as well as new investors Amazon, lululemon, and Avery Dennison Foundation. Its democratic and representative Advisory Board includes leaders from the Global Fund for Women, Prospera International Network of Women’s Funds, Maitrayana, and Women’s Fund Asia.

How the Fund Works: A New Model for Systemic Change

The Fund advances new forms of corporate investment and philanthropy by

- Ensuring feminist organizations have an equal voice with investors in decision-making;
- Trusting local communities and leaders to know what works best in their contexts; and
- Recognizing that lasting, systemic change must be grounded in local communities, not directed by top-down targets and globally engineered approaches.

It is animated by three core principles and five defining features





Who the Fund Supports: Investing in Women in Global Value Chains

The Fund will invest in women-led, community-based organizations that are working on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as women’s safety and security, as long-term drivers of economic resilience. The Fund’s first phase targets South Asia, with planned expansion to new regions in 2022.

Before COVID-19, women made up 60-80% of export manufacturing workers, 41% of agricultural laborers, and 75% of apparel workers. The Fund seeks to invest in communities in these value chains.

- **One-third** of funding will go to women’s funds based in the Global South that can subgrant to grass-roots organizations swiftly and effectively in complex settings and ensure transparency and accountability for investments.
- **Two-thirds** of funding will go in the form of direct grants to women-led organizations and organizations that are committed to significantly increasing women in their senior management positions.

Join Us

The Resilience Fund aims to raise at least US\$10 million in pooled funding over three years to support locally driven solutions to systemic problems—and to build resilience over the long term. We welcome new investors from a wide range of sectors who want to invest in the health and safety of women and build long-term connections with women’s funds and local grassroots organizations.

This is an opportunity for companies, corporate foundations, and private foundations to chart a new course with feminist leaders as true partners in shaping philanthropic strategies and support local women’s funds and women-led organizations at the center of change in their communities and countries.

The Fund will do what no organization or corporation can do alone: collectively build new democratic approaches to giving, learning, and impact measurement, and keep power in communities’ hands to advance gender equality, economic justice, and feminist leadership.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

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