

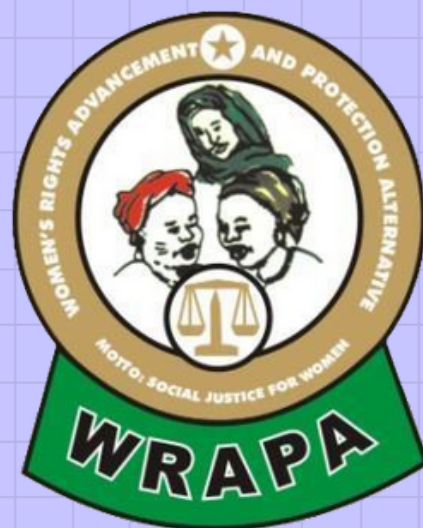


# Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA)

Advancing women's rights and enhancing women's skills in Nigeria







The case study on **WRAPA** is part of a series contributing to a larger research on intermediary organizations. [You can find all the details here.](#)

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- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| 01. | How did they start?                                   | ↘ |
| 02. | How do they define themselves?                        | ↘ |
| 03. | How does WRAPA work in Just and Equitable Governance? | ↘ |
| 04. | How do they fund?                                     | ↘ |
| 05. | Who do they fund?                                     | ↘ |
| 06. | Who funds WRAPA?                                      | ↘ |
| 07. | Challenges  | ↘ |
| 08. | Recommendations for donors                            | ↘ |



WRAPA is identified as a local organizations that advance a specific goal through advocacy, community organizing, research, or litigation. Their primary objective is not regranting, but they have become involved in this activity to support other actors in their movements/fields.\*



\*We have identified 4 different models on how intermediary organizations work. [To learn more, visit us](#)





# 01. How did they start?



The **Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA\*)** was founded in Nigeria in 1999 by the former First Lady, Honorable Justice Fati Lami Abubakar, as an independent NGO “to facilitate women’s access to legal rights, advocate for social justice and accountability, build women’s capacity to individually and collectively assert their rights, and demand accountability for infringements at family and social level.” With 25 years of experience in legislative advocacy, policy reform, and community mobilization, **WRAPA has made significant contributions to legislative enactments and social norms changes, while supporting survivors of gender-based violence across Nigeria.**

\*WRAPA is not only the organization’s acronym. It also symbolizes the cloth worn by Nigerian women, emphasizing the organization’s national coverage and inclusive approach for all women in Nigeria. More information on WRAPA is available [here](#)





## 02. How do they define themselves?



WRAPA identifies itself as a rights-based non-governmental organization. In its initial years of operation, WRAPA did not engage in regranting activities. Instead, it focused on advocacy for accountability and policy reform, promoting justice, and facilitating women's access to their rights. Tackling gender-based violence and promoting equity are cross-cutting objectives in all its interventions. The learnings from its early interventions gave the organization an advantage, positioning it as an ideal ally for donors seeking to enhance activities at the grassroots level." Regranting was entrusted to WRAPA because of its knowledge of the Nigerian context regarding women's rights. Leveraging its program and membership networks, regranting is taking an incremental hold becoming a strategy for cascading WRAPA's vision, scaling up scope and impact.





# 03. How does WRAPA work in Just and Equitable Governance?

**WRAPA's mission is advancing women's rights and fostering equity in Nigeria.** Through advocacy and justice promotion, WRAPA and its grantee partners actively shape decision-making processes and policy reforms. The Legal and Social Empowerment Program on Women's Rights in Plateau State, for example, underscores WRAPA's role in crafting laws to ensure women's access to justice and resources. With support from the MacArthur Foundation, WRAPA has implemented capacity-building processes that **provide women tools to identify and confront corrupt practices threatening their well-being.** Beyond advocacy, **WRAPA promotes gender equality through comprehensive programming, including legal aid, policy reform advocacy, and sensitization campaigns.** By supporting litigation for women and advocating for policy changes, WRAPA aims to create a more inclusive society where women can fully exercise their rights and enjoy human dignity.





# 04. How do they fund?

## A DOUBLE ROLE

WRAPA's operations encompass both direct implementation and regranting. WRAPA designed a process to **foster trust with local organizations working on women's rights issues, focusing on understanding the specific needs of grantee partners, boosting organizational confidence, and ensuring they benefit from the exchange.** Particular focus has been given to those organizations facing severe budgetary constraints. WRAPA strategically uses a combination of philanthropic funding and multilateral agencies funding (such as UN Women) to carry out direct implementation and regranting activities. At the same time, they receive the support of a group of individual volunteers.

## MAPPING GRANTEES

WRAPA has not included open calls as part of its regranting activities. Instead, the organization uses a grantee mapping process to identify suitable recipients. This approach allows WRAPA to directly select grantee partners that best align with its core values, such as the advancement of women's rights. The selection criteria include the organization's knowledge of the local context, capacity to deliver results, relevance to funder stakeholder profiles, and location in Nigeria.







## THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Funding decisions are taken through evaluation and discussion between the management and program team.

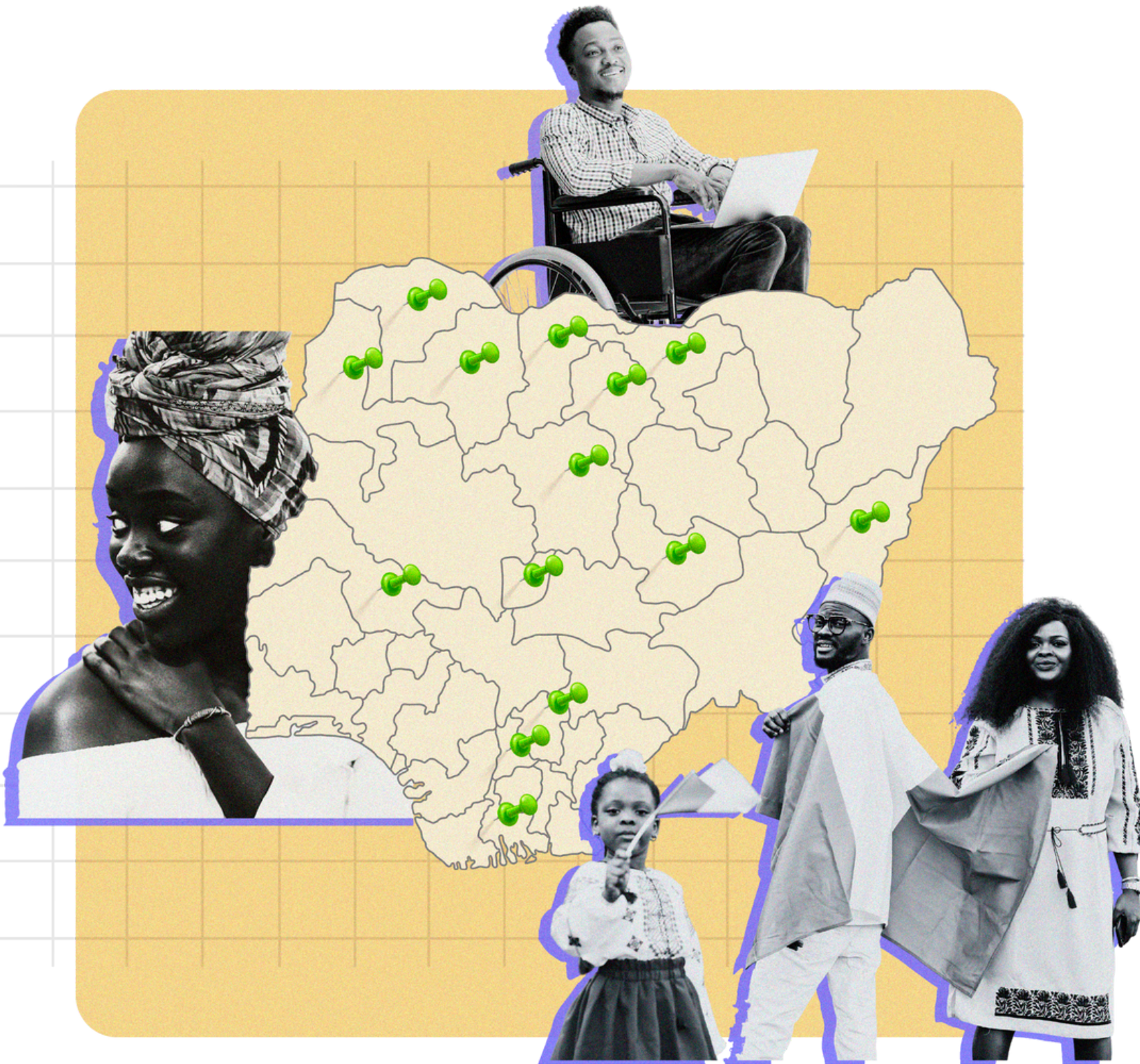
## SUPPORT BEYOND FUNDING

Grant support activities range from advocacy and community engagement to training and media outreach and vary in amount, duration, and thematic focus. Additionally, **WRAPA provides various forms of support to organizations beyond regranting, including technical assistance, equipment provision, capacity strengthening, visibility enhancement, and networking opportunities.** Communication, support, and monitoring methods with grantees include IT technical support, development of communication messaging, and implementation of documentation tools to capture outcomes and impact.

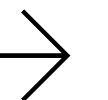




# 05. Who do they fund?

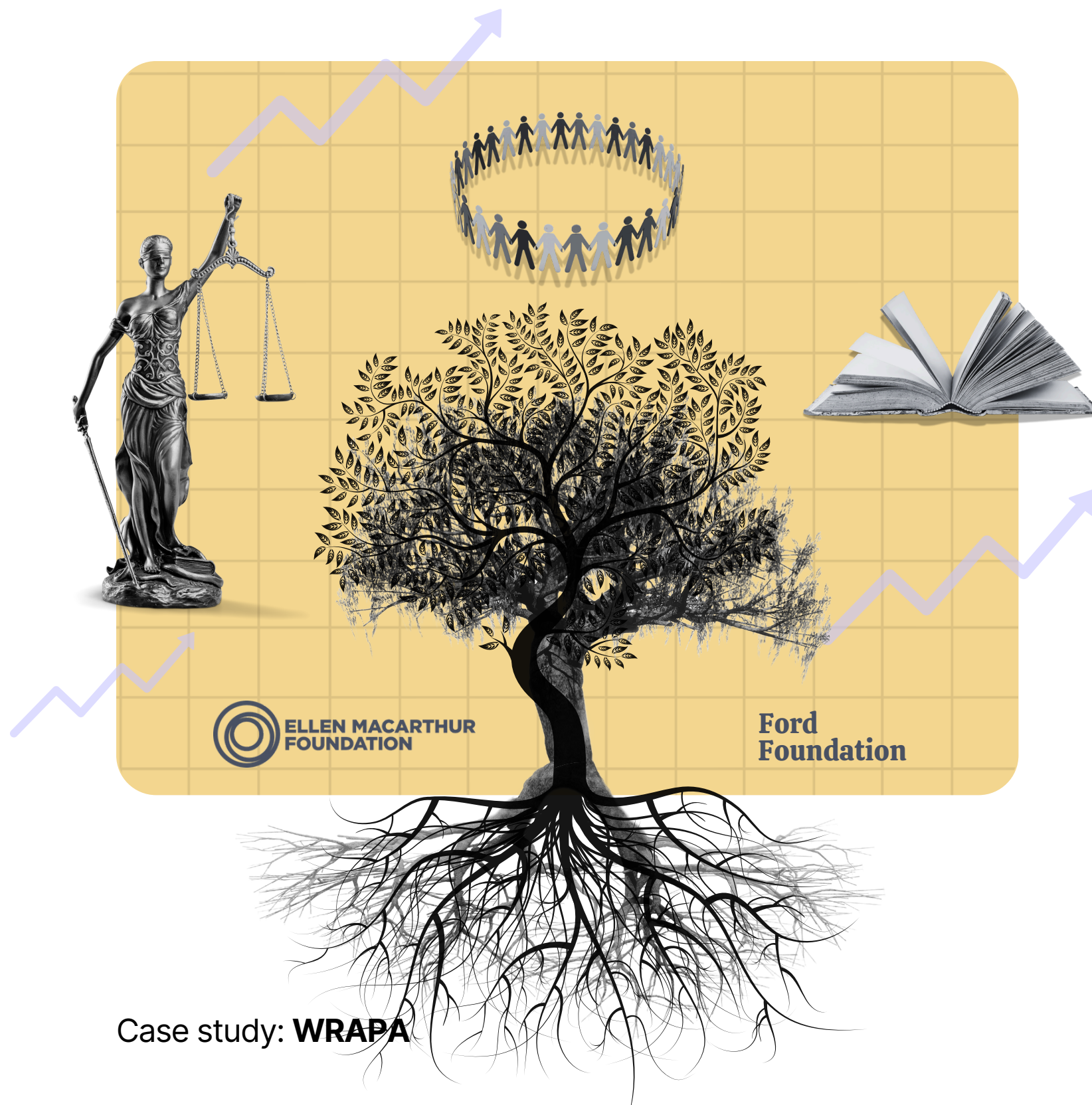


To date, **WRAPA has supported 30 grantee partners.** These partners are scattered throughout **six geopolitical zones** across the country. Locations include the Federal Capital Territory, Adamawa, Anambra, Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna, Kwara, Katsina, Kebbi, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, and Zamfara states. **One of the strategies used for regranting is the Ten Pillar Partners model, which entails strategically selecting ten grantee partners at the grassroots and local levels.** These groups encompass civil society organizations, women's rights organizations, faith-based organizations, autonomous social groups, youth, and disability groups, particularly those confronting intersecting forms of discrimination.

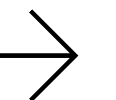




## 06. Who funds WRAPA?



WRAPA aims to ensure its long-term sustainability and promote women's rights and gender equality in Nigeria through diversified funding, sound financial management, and strategic partnerships. Primarily funded by private philanthropy, **WRAPA receives significant support from the MacArthur and Ford Foundations.** Expert support has been crucial for strategic interventions in legal aid, education, and family support. Other funding sources include investments, endowments, and donations, though their sporadic nature limits long-term planning. Membership fees and annual dues have contributed but remain relatively weak. **To enhance financial sustainability, WRAPA is revitalizing its membership base, restructuring processes, and securing grants** like the Ford Foundation's BUILD grant to strengthen internal operations.





# 07. Challenges and opportunities



Because of WRAPA's focus, **most of the challenges and opportunities the organization identifies are connected to Nigeria's overall structures and tendencies.** For example, Nigeria's trajectory toward sustained democratic governance sets a promising background for advancing women's rights and gender equality, and it creates the necessary conditions for civil society to perform an active role. Moreover, there are notable shifts in social norms regarding masculinity, gender, and equality.

**Accompanying this progress is the growing agency and organizational capacity among women, who are better acquainted with the tools to advocate for their rights more effectively.** WRAPA takes these advancements as a reflection of their work. Additionally, technology entails a great opportunity for widespread sensitization efforts to further amplify the potential for fostering gender-inclusive attitudes and behaviors across society.





# 08. Recommendations for donors



## PRIORITIZE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Provide technical and financial support to organizations like WRAPA to empower citizens' and women's collective stake in movement building. Offer technical support to help organizations develop their infrastructure and compliance standards, including technology support.

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## PROMOTE CAPACITY STRENGTHENING OVER IMPLEMENTATION

Build the organizational capacity of recipient organizations rather than just implementing programs. Encourage innovative approaches to funding beyond traditional currency denominations, considering broader resources and support mechanisms.







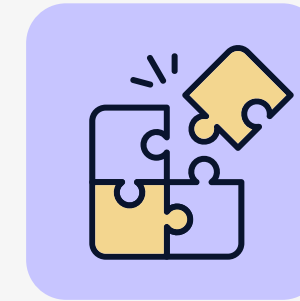
## ENCOURAGE EQUITABLE DONOR-RECIPIENT PARTNERSHIPS

Foster equitable and mutually beneficial bilateral relations between donors and recipient organizations.



## OPTIMIZE EXISTING FUNDING

Enhance efforts to identify and fund essential components that are unaffordable to organizations. For example, include technology costs as part of grant packages to alleviate the financial burden on organizations.



## MAXIMIZE IMPACT THROUGH COLLABORATION

Emphasize the importance of effective movements backed by civil society organizations and supported by government agencies to maximize the impact of funding efforts.







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