

provided were for a profit making entity. When the WVL-SA project team requested for the NPO/NPC registration document, the organisation failed to produce these. Furthermore, whilst running reference checks, the GL team noticed that the contact details and email address under referee were in fact for the organisation own internal contact persons; and that the budget submitted covered non-project activities but only office furniture and human resources costs.

Safeguarding against grantees mismanagement of funds: Due to the incidences of whistleblowing, sometimes after project close-out, the team has now added a "Survival Clause" to all grantee Contracts. This allows for more time after project close-out for verification of finance documents and other monitoring and evaluation documentation submitted by grantees; as well placing grantees under obligation to support the team in the event of investigations.

Review of grantees' supporting documents: In efforts to curb fraudulent expenses receipts and other supporting documentation by grantees, the team has put in place mechanisms for monthly routine checks on all supporting documents.

Supporting grantees: In response to the challenges some grantees face with financial reporting, the project team is in the process of identifying bookkeeping service providers to support grantees as needed. The team is also preparing to roll out programmes on-the-job support that will open opportunity for grantees to work from Gender Links offices under the guidance and support of the finance team as part of training and capacity building.

IX) RECOMMENDATIONS

A) Rapid Response Grant Making

Recommendations:

- Clarify requirements regarding Grants Call clearance with GAC and the PSC at the meeting scheduled for 24 June 2021.
- Double the grant amounts to R100,000.00 (CAD8,6000 approximate value) for the remaining period. Learning from ActionAid Nigeria and CARE Kenya.
- Have this as a rolling, open funding calls up until June 2022 (to allow enough time for final implementation).
- Revisit the grants selection procedure for RR, which had been delegated to the Secretariat with input from the independent M and E monitor. (If the grant is rolling it should be possible to include at least one of the of the GSC who in the past were constrained for time. Additional budget allocations will need to be made,
- In line with recommendations from the Baseline WVL-SA Project Monitor Report, and what we have learned from our colleagues, GL further proposes that Rapid Response funding allows for "basic material resources like laptops, computers, scanners, printers and infrastructural repairs and maintenance to existing structures."
- Add "innovation" to the criteria for RR grants.

B) Capacity building and training

Recommendation

WVL-SA capacity building programme be expanded to include on-the-job training experiential learning at Gender Links.

C) Utilisation of interest

Recommendations

- GAC approve the shift of "green savings" to immediate budget shortfalls on systems and website.
- GAC consider allowing GL, upon receipt of a detailed memo outlining rationale and cost, to apply some of the interest earned to implementing more efficient grant management systems, including financial systems. This is especially relevant if there is any consideration being given to extending the life of this fund.
- GAC allow GL to apply the remainder of the interest in year three of the project to the Rapid Response Fund, which we propose now become a rolling fund. This cannot be left to the end of the project period.