

Women and Volunteering

CDF run several large scale grant-giving projects and we carry out the evaluations of some of the programmes. Some key statistics relating to women have been pulled out from these.

Faiths in Action

Faiths in Action is a 4 million grant programme that aims to create more opportunities for face-to-face dialogue and collaboration between different faiths within local communities. In Round 1, 216 organisations were funded with more than 2 million in grants. The programme is funded by Communities and Local Government (CLG).

When looking at the projects funded in round 1, 67 percent involved young people and 74 percent involved women in the delivery of projects. Just under a fifth involved children (under 15) in the delivery of project objectives. Focusing particularly on women was also found to be very successful for groups who had incorporated this aim. In some instances, men and women had deliberately been engaged separately through projects and this was felt to create a 'safe' environment for women, in which views could be freely expressed.

Grassroots Grants

Grassroots Grants, is a 130 million programme which awards small grants of up to 5,000 to small local community groups, via local funders. Grassroots Grants includes an endowment match challenge, where the government has pledged 50 million to match every pound donated by the public. Donations are invested as an endowment, which provides sustainable grant funding to local communities allowing them to grow over the years to come. The programme is funded by the Office for Civil Society (OCS).

A large scale survey was conducted of the funded groups receiving Grassroots Grants funding and over 1300 members/users of the group were surveyed and interestingly 60 percent were women. Of the women surveyed, 48 percent specified that in the last 12 months they had given unpaid help to another club, organisation or club other than the Grassroots Grants funded group.

The members/users of the groups were asked about informal activities that they carried out unpaid for someone who was not a relative, in the last 12 months. Below are some of the findings relating to women who responded to these questions, that are statistically significant when compared to the male responses.

- Keeping in touch with someone who has difficulty getting out and about (visiting in person, telephoning or emailing) - **25 percent of women in comparison to 20 percent of men**
- Doing shopping, collecting pension, or paying bills – **19 percent of women in comparison to 11 percent of men**
- Babysitting or caring for children - **20 percent of women in comparison to 8 percent of men**

- Sitting with or providing personal care (e.g. washing, dressing) for someone who is sick or frail - **6 percent of women in comparison to 3 percent of men**

Over 700 funded groups were surveyed. These groups carried out a range of activities and **16 percent** stated that their main area of activity was equal opportunities. **42 percent** of the groups stated that since receiving Grassroots Grants, women were one of the user groups most likely to be benefitting from their organisation.

Survey of Community Development Practitioners and Managers

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) conducted a survey of over 900 CD workers and managers in England in autumn 2009, the first survey since 2002.

- Almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of respondents are female. Men, although fewer in number, are more likely to be in management roles than women.
- Overall, 62 percent of respondents were over 44 years old, though volunteers were much more likely to be over 44 compared to paid CD practitioners.
- Just under a fifth (18 per cent) of CD workers surveyed are volunteers, and just over half have been volunteering for ten years or more.
- 13 percent of female CD workers surveyed were volunteers.

Two in three respondents were female. The breakdown of the male and female profile is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Gender profile

Percentage of male and female respondents within each category				
	% of males	Base no. males	% of females	Base no. females
Over 44	69	245	58	442
BAME	26	239	21	436
Volunteers	26	245	13	442
Managers	54	245	43	442
Paid part time	14	177	27	381

The CD workers surveyed, specified their main work area of focus. 48 percent stated that they work on equal opportunities. In terms of the groups they work with, 36 percent worked with women and girls.

Contact us

CDF's Research Team can provide support and advice when carrying out your evaluation. If you would like more information contact Helen Sender at Helen.Sender@cdf.org.uk or on 020 7812 5451. If you would like to know more about the research we are carrying out go to www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/research