FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MATCH International to launch Canada’s first international women’s fund to accelerate change for women and girls.

Ottawa, ON, October 29 2013 – Today, after more than 37 years of working to improve conditions for women around the world, MATCH International is launching Canada’s first international fund for women.

The organization is launching the MATCH International Women’s Fund because equality and justice for women remains an elusive goal. Even where progress has been made, the rise in religious and cultural fundamentalism stands as an increasingly worrisome barrier for women around the world.

Women’s organizations are in the best position to mobilize communities and drive changes that are needed at the local level. Yet these organizations receive very little financial support to undertake their critical work.

Today, the average annual budget of a women’s rights organization is $20,000. In Sub-Saharan Africa, it’s nearly half this amount at $12,136. An astonishing 90% of women’s organizations cannot access funding from governments, bilateral institutions, or large international NGOs. Every month, one-fifth of these organizations face the very real threat of having to close their doors forever.

The MATCH International Women’s Fund will accelerate change for women by increasing the resources available to women’s organizations in developing countries. It will support them in their efforts to dismantle barriers, challenge perceptions and transform society. The Fund will support women’s organizations that are holding ground and breaking ground for a more equal world.

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MATCH International is a Canadian international organization that has been working with women’s rights organizations in the Global South for 37 years. Since we began, we have partnered with more than 650 women’s organizations in 71 countries around the world to help improve the lives of women and girls.