





# OUR MISSION

The Fund for Global Human Rights equips courageous local leaders with the resources and tools they need to mobilize people, build movements, and effect transformational change. Explore our unique approach and our Theory of Change on our [website](#).



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## A NOTE OF WELCOME AND GRATITUDE

When migrants cannot access medical care because of their legal status, women cannot work due to cultural taboo, or a man is murdered because of his race or ethnicity, local activists are often the first to act. The Fund for Global Human Rights is at their side, providing the resources they need to transform policies, attitudes, and lives.

In a year defined by turbulence and change, we are grateful for the leadership of community activists—and the dedication of our donor community in galvanizing their work. Since our launch in 2002, we are proud to have distributed over \$100 million in support to local activists and movements in more than 50 countries.

### On the Front Lines of COVID-19

Agility has always been a cornerstone of our approach. We work where others cannot and consistently find new ways to get critical supports to frontline activists. This year, our ability to adapt was crucial. As governments and healthcare systems scrambled to curb the pandemic, activists stepped in, providing communities with essential information and supplies while also protecting their rights as workers, citizens, and human beings. And we were there, responding to their evolving needs.

The pandemic gave police and authoritarian governments new forms of control—putting those who speak truth to power at greater risk of imprisonment, digital surveillance, and physical attack. Yet efforts to fortify civic space remain under-resourced. We're dedicated to investing in activists' security and well-being, along with strategies to create an environment conducive to activism.

Warmly,

Regan E. Ralph  
President and CEO



### Being True to Our Values

Social justice can occur only when policies, programs, decision-making, and staffing are fully inclusive, and power is shared. To be the ally organization that staff and grantees need and deserve, we must wholly embrace equity within the Fund.

In autumn 2019, amidst significant organizational growth, we made a commitment to better incorporate and amplify diverse perspectives and ways of working into our daily processes, senior leadership, and organizational design. We are committed to living our values internally, as well as externally. To that end, we are making some important changes, including implementing clear standards for management accountability, reimagining our leadership to comprise people with diverse life experience and points of view, and ensuring safe spaces for staff discussion and development.

The necessity of this work was highlighted by the ongoing groundswell of activism demanding respect for Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples' lives. We are dedicated to becoming a truly antiracist organization, and I hold myself responsible for working toward and achieving this goal.

As long as people continue to face barriers to living healthy, safe, and equitable lives, the Fund will support the activists and movements pushing for justice. Together with our supporters, staff, and activists across the globe, we will build a better, fairer world.

Your friendship and generosity make everything we achieve possible. Thank you.

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN OFFICE

The past year has been one of rapid change and challenge. Around the world we have seen a rise in authoritarian power, exacerbated by corrupt leaders manipulating emergency measures intended to address COVID-19. But the Fund and the courageous activists we support have not only 'held the line' but also created real, positive change.

Seeking to advance our goals in the UK and Europe, the Fund set up our European office (FGHR UK) in 2013. We work to create a broad movement that supports the frontline activists at the heart of our mission and to ensure that their voices are heard by governments, nongovernmental organisations, and philanthropists.

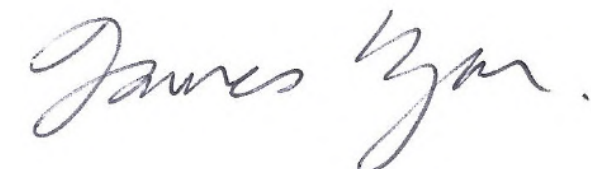
Despite the global challenges to human rights, FGHR UK took important steps towards meeting these ambitions this year. We initiated grant-making to protect the rights of migrants and advance corporate accountability. Our staff increased to 11 and led programmes promoting children's rights and pushing back against the constricting space for civil society.

This included a pioneering initiative to create and roll out strategies for mobilizing public support for activists and communicating human rights more effectively, as well as participatory grant-making with youth-led groups.

And we brought our message of action and hope to current and new supporters through a series of events in London.

Gratefully yours,

James Logan  
Director, European Office



This work has been supported by our renewed FGHR UK Board of Trustees and our new European Advisory Committee, which is tasked with helping us engage new audiences. We've also benefitted from new collaborations with organisations like Global Greengrants Fund UK and Comic Relief, who share our mission of empowering and resourcing movements around the world.

All our achievements over the last year are due to the unwavering commitment of our donors and partners. Effective grassroots leaders the world over are standing up against injustice and putting forth robust solutions. Together, we can continue to power these extraordinary individuals, communities, and movements in realising their human rights.



# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

**300** grants made to  
**224** locally led human rights groups across  
**25** countries throughout:

- Latin America
- North Africa and the Mediterranean
- Southeast Asia
- West Africa
- Africa's Great Lakes Region
- South Asia

## WE FOCUSED ON:

Advancing  
LGBTQ  
equality

Protecting  
activists' lives  
and work

Defending  
Indigenous  
peoples' land,  
cultures, and  
livelihoods

Safeguarding  
the lives and  
rights of  
migrants

Promoting  
gender  
equality

Protecting  
youth and  
children from  
abuse

Securing  
justice for  
past human  
rights  
violations

## This year, Fund-supported groups:

Documented human rights violations perpetrated by Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda that supported his conviction on

**18**

counts of crimes against humanity, including mass rape and the deaths of

**850**  
people



Produced evidence of serious crimes committed against

**1 MILLION+**

Rohingya, plus tens of thousands of Kachin and Ta'ang people, that led to the UN Human Rights Council establishing an independent investigation of Myanmar—a critical step toward prosecuting perpetrators



Overturned a law that prevented an estimated

**14,000**

pregnant girls annually from attending classes and continuing their education in Sierra Leone



Advocated that Mexico's government sign a decree creating an extraordinary forensic mechanism dedicated to solving the

**60,000+**  
forced disappearances in the country



Facilitated implementation of anti-discriminatory laws protecting LGBTQ people's rights in

**2**

municipalities in the Philippines

Because we know that creating real change takes time, we nurture long-term relationships with activists:

**53%** of grantees have been supported for **5+** years.

We're always on the lookout for emerging activists with groundbreaking ideas and enormous potential:

**18%** of groups supported received their first grant from the Fund this year.



## SUPPORTING A RIGHTS-BASED PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The long-term support provided by the Fund has strengthened frontline groups and built trusting relationships that encourage activists to test new approaches. So, when COVID-19 hit, we sprang into action. Our flexible framework ensured the groups we support could address the crisis head-on through providing vital supplies, services, and information to their communities. By continuing to also tackle societal inequalities, they demonstrated the importance of rights-based public health responses.

As activists we back began to adapt and respond to COVID-19, we carried out a survey of **214 groups** from more than **20 countries**. We found that **92 percent** were able to adjust and continue their core work. **Nearly two-thirds launched new efforts to protect their communities**, including documenting the pandemic's impact, monitoring government responses for human rights violations, and providing health education.



Here are a few examples of how, with the Fund's support and emphasis on agility, local groups worldwide protected their communities during the pandemic\*:



### India:

Jan Sahas provided support to more than 1 million informal workers across 19 states who lost employment and wages, including distributing food packages to families and protective gear kits to essential workers. Their study of migrant workers' needs informed government action and relief efforts.

### Honduras:

When food insecurity threatened Afro-indigenous Garifuna people, OFRANEH delivered food resources to 20 communities, providing aid faster than the government.



### Philippines:

CIEJ facilitated a process whereby dressmakers manufactured more than 3,000 face masks for health workers and community members. The organization also provided 800 boxes of emergency food aid and initiated planting of sustainable crops.

### Nigeria:

When the legislature tried to rush a law that would threaten civil liberties after the pandemic, Spaces 4 Change (S4C) led a coalition to secure public and parliamentary hearings. S4C was invited to help redraft the bill to better support both public health and human rights. The revised bill is awaiting National Assembly review.

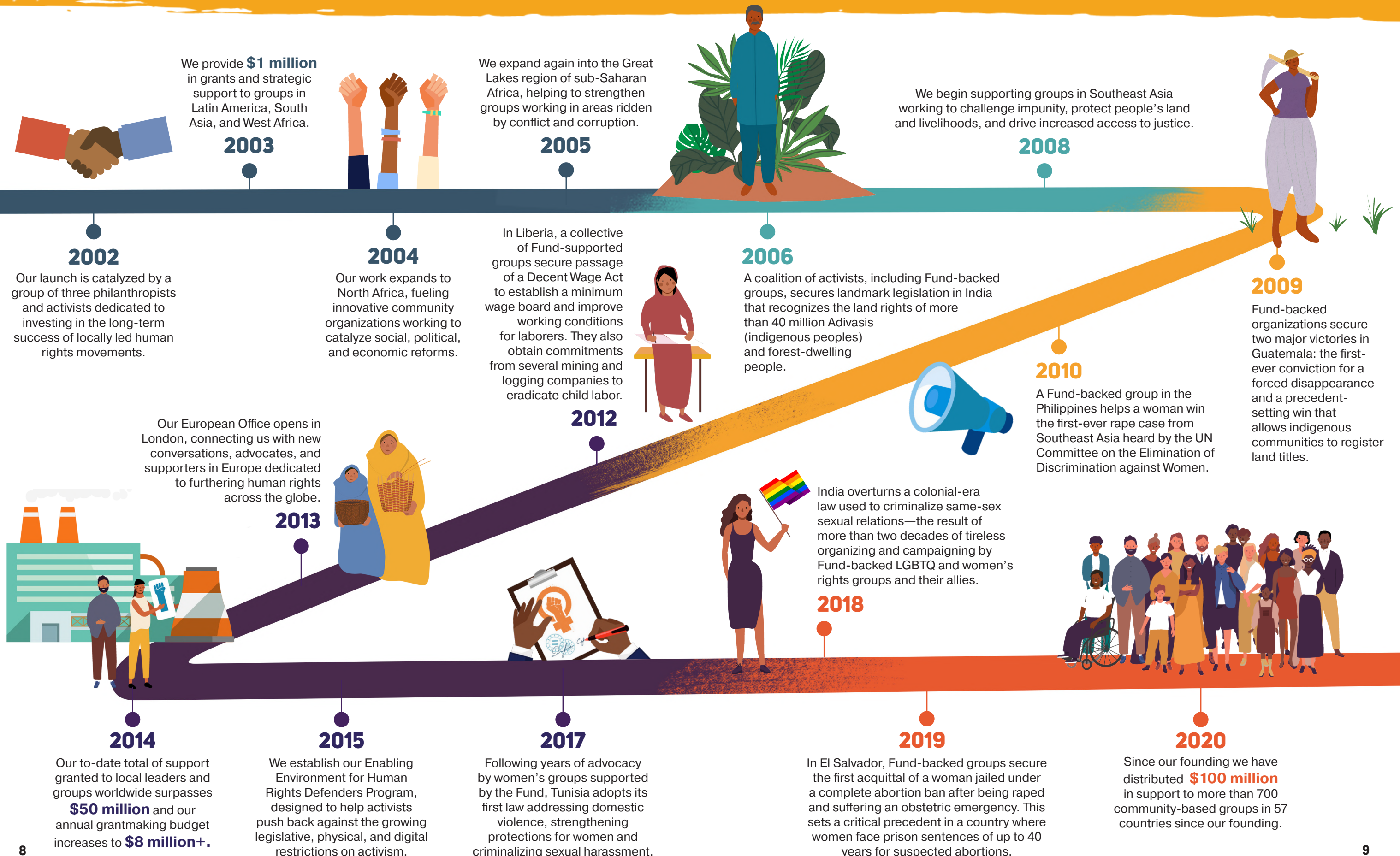


\*as of September 2020



# CROSSING THE \$100 MILLION MARK IN POWERING LOCAL ACTIVISM

The Fund was established with a vision for a new type of philanthropy—one that provides flexible, long-term, trust-based support to local human rights leaders and movements. Since then, we have distributed over \$100 million to courageous community activists and groups across the globe. Their work has changed the lives of millions. View the full timeline on our [website](#).





# MOVING CLOSER TO JUSTICE FOR BERTA



In December 2019, four years after the murder of Honduran activist Berta Cáceres, seven men received prison sentences of up to 50 years for carrying out her assassination. The sentencing came a year after they were found guilty. These rare but critical first steps toward justice were powered by Fund-backed organizations working in partnership with one another.

Berta was murdered for opposing a hydro-electric dam that threatened the land and livelihoods of the Lenca community. Her death has served as a rallying cry throughout Latin America, energizing her family, the Indigenous peoples she fought for, and COPINH—the Fund-supported organization she founded and led.

With our backing, COPINH continues to demand the cancellation of the dam project and all permits granted to the company backing it. The group has also received legal support from other Fund-backed groups throughout the murder case.

After Berta's assassination, it was immediately clear that enhanced protection of Latin American human rights defenders was needed. Our close relationships with organizations in the region generated a multi-year initiative with the groups to improve protective strategies for activists at risk.

This year, that work included equipping activists with digital security training, more effective legal defenses, and an app to report violations. We also supported activists in Honduras and Guatemala facing imminent threats, including temporary relocation.

This work is funded in part by the Ana Paula Hernández and Sally O'Neill Memorial Fund for Human Rights Defenders in Latin America, which was launched this year in memory of Ana Paula and Sally, Fund staff members who lost their lives in a tragic car accident in Guatemala in April 2019. Ana Paula and Sally shared a deep commitment to ensuring the safety of human rights defenders across the region. They are missed deeply at the Fund and by local activists, and their work lives on through these initiatives.

**We are grateful to all who support these efforts.**

# COLLABORATING TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM TRAFFICKING



In West Africa, three Fund-supported groups from neighboring countries have forged a powerful collaboration to put an end to child trafficking. In 2019, their work yielded a significant gain—the development and implementation of standard operating procedures for border officials across Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The groups made further inroads this year at national decision-making levels and, in Sierra Leone, with the first convictions of traffickers in nearly a decade.

The project was started by Defence for Children International-Sierra Leone (DCI-SL), Defence for Children International-Liberia (DCI-L), and Sabou Guinea in 2013, with our support. At the time, child trafficking in the region was on the rise, but addressing it was not high on anyone's agenda. Traffickers promised jobs or education, then often brought children across borders for forced labor in mines, construction, shops, or domestic service, as well as sexual exploitation.

Given the cross-border nature of the issue, it was critical for the groups to address it collectively. For five years, we facilitated annual opportunities to meet and strategize face-to-face, which would have otherwise been challenging financially and logistically. One resulting victory was the creation and adoption of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) last year.

The adoption of the SOPs was complemented by training for law enforcement officials, district and community leaders, youths, and motorbike taxi riders living along all three countries' borders. Most participants previously had limited or no knowledge of the issue but reported feeling confident about how to identify and support children being trafficked after the trainings. Additionally, the border officials strengthened relationships with local communities and their cross-border counterparts.

## This year, this work progressed to national decision makers, with powerful results:

**Sabou Guinea successfully lobbied the National Police Training School to integrate child trafficking recommendations into its training programs.**

**DCI-L's advocacy led to new policies within Liberia's justice system to improve coordination and referrals in investigating child trafficking and the introduction of a curriculum on human trafficking at the police training academy.**

**In Sierra Leone, DCI-SL supported the local taskforce in strengthening the nationwide investigation of child trafficking cases, leading to two convictions for human trafficking in February 2020—the first since 2011.**

These groups continue to prevent child trafficking through community education, to advocate for improved laws and policies protecting children, and to work to hold perpetrators to account. We are proud to support them.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

The unwavering determination of the courageous activists we support is matched only by the generous commitment of our donor community. We are grateful to the nearly 250 individuals, foundations, and companies who make our work possible. Here, we recognize key institutional supporters who backed our work this year:

- The 11th Hour Project
  - Apple Inc.
  - Anonymous donors
  - Channel Foundation
  - Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
  - Comic Relief
  - Electronic Arts
  - European Union
  - Ford Foundation
  - Foundation for a Just Society
  - Independent Franchise Partners
  - Joan and Lewis Platt Foundation
  - Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
  - The Libra Foundation
- The Moriah Fund
  - Oak Foundation
  - Overbrook Foundation
  - Rockefeller Brothers Fund
  - Schooner Foundation
  - Sigrid Rausing Trust
  - The Summit Charitable Foundation
  - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
  - Trellis Fund
  - Violet Jabara Charitable Trust
  - Wallace Global Fund
  - WE Trust
  - Zennström Philanthropies



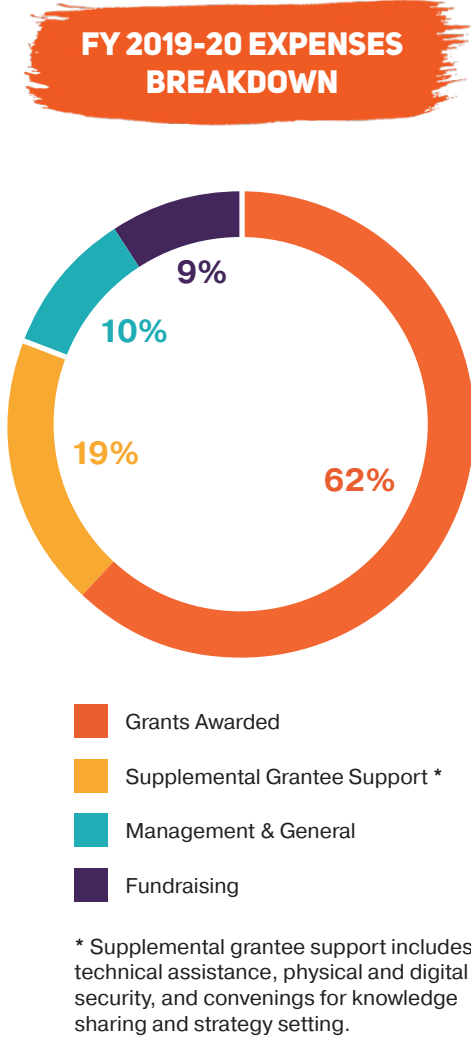
# FINANCIALS

Our commitment to efficiency and transparency ensures that around the world, courageous activists are helping communities achieve the respect, equality, and justice they deserve.

Below are financial highlights from this year. View our full financials [here](#).

We work hard to maximize every donation we receive:  
**81% of every dollar goes toward our programmatic work.**

SUPPORT AND REVENUES	2020
Contributions	
Institutional Contributions	\$15,431,597
Individual Contributions	\$1,137,942
Investment Income	\$30,423
Total Support and Revenues	\$16,599,962
EXPENSES	
Program Services	
Grants Awarded	\$10,174,391
Other Program Expenses	\$3,159,352
Total Program Services	\$13,333,743
Management and General	\$1,737,378
Fundraising	\$1,458,686
Total Expenses	\$16,529,807
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (Unrestricted)	\$70,155
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	\$2,554,323
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$2,624,478
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (With Restriction)	\$(897,175)
RESTRICTED NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	\$15,751,964
RESTRICTED NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$14,854,789
TOTAL NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$17,479,267







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