



ANNUAL REPORT



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22

The Fund for Global Human Rights identifies and invests in the world's most innovative and effective human rights activists, organizations, and movements.

This year:

\$19M in support delivered to activists

383 organizations supported

50+ countries

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In Turkey, Fund-supported activists support LGBTQ+ migrants and refugees fleeing persecution.

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Morena Herrera, a feminist leader in El Salvador, leads Agrupación in securing the release of women unjustly imprisoned under the country's complete abortion ban. (Credit: Claudia Zaldaña)

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HER Internet, part of the first cohort of Legal Empowerment Fund grantees, brings digital literacy education to women in Uganda.

In Mexico, Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado Democrático de Derecho works with families to secure justice for the abuse and disappearance of migrants.

WELCOME FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

The Fund for Global Human Rights has always operated with a singular goal: to ensure people whose rights have been denied are at the forefront for change. This means identifying and investing in emerging leaders and new thinking—and giving them support to create results.

Real change takes time. More and more, the Fund is seeing our labor bear fruit. This year, we saw our support fuel activists in winning major court cases that brought long-awaited justice to survivors of war crimes and corporate negligence. We doubled down on efforts helping activists protect citizens' ability to speak out, including the right to protest. We continued our commitment to activists tackling the climate crisis from the bottom up by challenging the extraction of fossil fuels and other natural resources at the source and securing community rights to their land. And we continued to build equity and inclusion in human rights movements through support of feminist leaders and strategies like participatory grantmaking.

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**Together, we're
helping create
stronger human rights
movements and a
more equal world.**



The year also brought new efforts to strengthen activists tackling some of our world's most urgent challenges:

We expanded our migrants' rights portfolio to new countries in North Africa and the Mediterranean to meet the growing needs of people escaping conflict and poverty. Our support has helped groups operate successfully on the front lines of multiple crises, from COVID-19 to the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan.

In September 2021, we launched the Legal Empowerment Fund—the first grantmaking initiative dedicated solely to empowering the 5.1 billion people who lack access to justice. Over the next decade, we aim to raise \$100 million to power to activists who are putting the power of the law back into people's hands.

Lastly, after two decades at the Fund's helm, I have decided to step down as president and CEO, effective November 30, 2022. When I assumed my role as the organization's founding leader, we had just \$1 million to realize our idea—reaching



In Brazil, support from the Legal Empowerment Fund is helping Themis work to end violence against women and the discrimination they face when pursuing justice for abuse.

the intrepid community activists who drive social change, but who struggled to receive meaningful funding. I never imagined how this journey would unfold or how far we would rise in the human rights world. Our community has grown to include more than 55 staff, more than 300 supporters, and the 900+ activist groups we've supported to date, who represent millions of people striving for their rights. Over two decades, we've delivered more than \$124 million to activists with bold ideas and unimaginable courage. It's been an incredible honor to serve the Fund community. And I cannot wait to see what the next 20 years bring.

So, for the last time, I want to thank you—for being a part of our movement, for your steadfast commitment to grassroots activism, and for the support and partnership you've given to me personally. It means the world to all of us. Together, we're helping create stronger human rights movements and a more equal world.

With gratitude and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Regan E. Ralph'.

Regan Ralph
President and CEO

YEAR

In Tunisia, where same sex relations remain criminalized, groundbreaking LGBTQ+ group Mawjoudin put on the first ever LGBTQ+ play in the country.



In response to increased fighting in Karen State following the 2021 coup in Myanmar, the Karen Women's Organization intensified its humanitarian work with internally displaced people.



IN



(L to R) Betsy Karel, Susan Kane, and Rona Peligal at a Washington, DC event honoring founding President and CEO Regan Ralph and her 20 years of service at the Fund (Credit: Chris Ferenzi)



In Burundi, where more than 187,000 refugees have been repatriated since 2017, REMA works to support the economic and social integration of people returning home. (Credit: Evrard Benjamin/Majority World)

PHOTOS

Mary Ann Stein and Regan Ralph at the Washington, DC celebration (Credit: Chris Ferenzi)



An emergency grant from the Legal Empowerment Fund helped the Legal Development Network in Ukraine provide humanitarian aid and legal assistance to people escaping war. (Credit: Brendan Hoffman/Majority World)



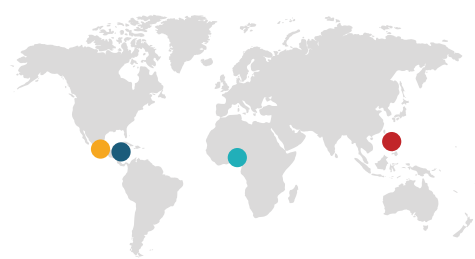
Elige works to equip young people to understand and advocate for their sexual health and increase reproductive health access in Mexico.



In December 2021, the Fund brought together more than 40 children's rights activists from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone to share lessons learned and brainstorm potential reforms. (Credit: Girls Behind the Lens)



HUMAN RIGHTS VICTORIES



Long-term, flexible funding is a core part of the Fund’s model for advancing human rights and creating lasting social change.

Victories secured this year by grassroots groups supported by our community reflect the power of this approach to social change, and the tenacity of activists in their pursuit of equality and justice:

● Guatemala

Four decades of community-led activism and 11 years of support by the **Asociación Bufete Jurídico Popular de Rabinal** (Law Association of Rabinal, or ABJP) resulted in a landmark conviction of paramilitary members responsible for sexual abuse of Indigenous women in Guatemala. ABJP provided free legal and psychological support, campaigns to boost public support, and security to 36 Maya Achi women through years of hearings, appeals, and trials. Next up, ABJP will work to ensure the sentences are upheld and prepare to bring former military leaders to trial for orchestrating these and other war crimes.

Photo: A Maya Achi woman awaits the court verdict.
(Credit: Verdad Y Justicia en Guatemala)



● Honduras

Twelve years after the murder of transgender activist Vicky Hernández on the streets of Honduras, LGBTQ+ group **Cattrachas** stood next to President Xiomara Castro as she formally recognized the state’s responsibility in Vicky’s death and committed to protecting LGBTQ+ people. This came a year after Cattrachas secured a ruling from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights finding Honduras responsible for Vicky’s murder and mandating the country adopt measures to prevent similar hate crimes.

Photo: Indyra Mendoza, the founder of Cattrachas.



● The Philippines

For a decade, the **Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center** (LRC) has worked with villagers who lost homes, crops, and two children to a flood in the Philippines in 1993. This year, a regional court ruled that a mining company’s negligence of a nearby dam was to blame for the devastation and ordered the payment of more than 6 million Philippine pesos (US\$107,000), mostly in restitution to 30 affected families. LRC will now work to ensure families receive the funds and build on this win to hold other companies accountable for environmental impacts.

Photo: A community member walks near the site of the dam that failed.



● Nigeria

Six years of research-driven advocacy paid off when **Spaces for Change** (S4C) and the Action Group for Free Civil Space secured a critical win for civil society in Nigeria. The country removed a complex set of financial counterterrorism requirements for nonprofits that actually hindered rights groups’ ability to operate or support their communities. At S4C’s recommendation, independent analysis is now being conducted around how to develop effective regulations without overburdening grassroots groups or endangering vulnerable people.

Photo: Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri is the founder and director of research and policy at Spaces for Change.

CURRENT CRISES, RAPID RESPONSES

As news of conflict and the rollback of women’s rights captured headlines around the world, the Fund worked tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring grassroots activists could respond to the most urgent, shifting needs of our world.

When the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in August 2021, Fund-supported **migrants’ rights groups in the Euro-Mediterranean** took immediate action. The gender equality–focused Leader Women Association, located near Turkey’s borders with Syria and Iraq, opened the doors of their community centers to Afghan women and girls. There, they provided both material relief such as school supplies and as well as psychosocial and integration support. And an LGBTQ+, migrant–led group worked to help LGBTQ+ people evacuate, receive rent assistance, and connect with legal and translation resources to apply for asylum throughout the region.

The Fund’s Migrants’ Rights Program is supported by Comic Relief and donors like you.



In **Ukraine**, support from the Legal Empowerment Fund (LEF) helped the Legal Development Network provide **vital humanitarian and emergency legal assistance**. One of the LEF’s first grantees, this coalition of organizations harnessed their network to help displaced people and families. This has included getting nearly 200 tons of supplies to hospitals and shelters as well as free legal counseling throughout Ukraine on issues such as temporary housing, the destruction of personal property, birth and death registrations, and securing employment after relocation. To date, they have worked on more than 3,200 cases since Russia invaded in February 2022.

In **El Salvador**, we support several feminist groups working to **expand reproductive rights and free women** who face up to 40 years imprisonment for suspected abortions under the country’s complete ban. The vast majority of women given jail time are impoverished and convicted after seeking treatment for a miscarriage or other obstetric emergencies. In February 2022, Agrupación secured the release of Elsy, who had been jailed for over a decade. She is the 61st woman the group has helped free over 13 years of legal advocacy.

Our women’s rights work in El Salvador is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The women of Leader Women Association in Mardin, Turkey expanded their work to give critical support to refugees arriving in after fleeing Afghanistan.

CLOSING THE GLOBAL JUSTICE GAP

It’s estimated that 5.1 billion people—two-thirds of the global population—have nowhere to turn if their rights are violated. Legal empowerment—a powerful, people-centered strategy to effect lasting change through the law—offers a holistic solution.

To help close this global justice gap, the Legal Empowerment Fund (LEF), the newest program at the Fund, was created in collaboration with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Namati, the International Development Research Centre, and Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. This collaborative, 10-year initiative was launched in September 2021 at the Global Citizen Live concert in New York City. The LEF aims to raise \$100 million to fund grassroots groups helping people understand and claim their rights and reshape the laws that govern them.

At the start of 2022, we put out a global open call for proposals. The response was staggering: we received over 4,800 grant applications from grassroots groups and marginalized communities in 153 countries, demonstrating the critical need for this type of funding. In July, we announced the first cohort of LEF grantees—49 organizations received multiyear **core funding** to tackle systemic injustices like gender inequality, land, climate and environmental justice, children’s rights, and migration. The second and third cohorts of grantees, an estimated 80–100 groups in total, will be funded in December 2022 and March 2023 respectively.

The LEF is the only grantmaking initiative solely dedicated to supporting grassroots groups using legal empowerment tools and bringing the strategy of community-level access to justice to scale. It is led by Atieno Odhiambo, a human rights lawyer based in Kenya, whose work has focused on

access to justice, democracy, and governance. Her expertise has elevated the LEF’s goal to transform justice systems and highlight the underfunding of legal empowerment to the international stage, through [op-ed commentary](#) pieces and a dedicated session at the [World Justice Forum](#).

The LEF was launched with funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. It is supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery and donors like you.



The LEF was launched at Global Citizen Live by its director, Atieno Odhiambo (center)

In its first open call for proposals launched in January 2022 the LEF received:

4800+
applications

from **153**
countries

OUR SUPPORTERS

The difference we make for activists and their communities is transformative, and it’s because of you—the hundreds of individuals, institutions, and corporations who compose our donor community. Your gift gives activists across the globe the critical funding and strategic support they need to help their communities thrive. Thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your dedication to strengthening grassroots activist movements. Here, we recognize key foundation, government, and corporate donors who powered the Fund’s work this year:

- The 11th Hour Project/The Schmidt Family Foundation •**
- Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust • Apple • Blue Oak Foundation •**
- Channel Foundation • Charles Stewart Mott Foundation • Comic Relief •**
- Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation • Dutch Postcode Lottery •**
- European Commission • Evan Cornish Foundation • Ford Foundation •**
- Foundation for a Just Society • Hewlett Foundation •**
- Independent Franchise Partners • Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation •**
- Luminate • Moriah Fund • Oak Foundation • Open Society Foundations •**
- Overbrook Foundation • Rockefeller Brothers Fund • Schooner Foundation**
- Sigrid Rausing Trust • Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation •**
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency •**
- The Libra Foundation • The Luis Von Ahn Foundation •**
- The Summit Foundation • Target Foundation • Trellis Charitable Fund •**
- WE Trust • Wellspring Philanthropic Fund**

An Extraordinary Gift

In March 2022, we announced a \$10 million gift from MacKenzie Scott. This extraordinary support is being directed to bold initiatives dedicated to climate justice, legal empowerment, and the protection of embattled activists, as well as strengthening our ability to serve effective grassroots groups. We are grateful to Ms. Scott for her investment in our approach to identifying and investing in innovative human rights defenders.

The Regan Ralph Feminist Leadership Fund

In May, we established the Regan Ralph Feminist Leadership Fund to honor Regan’s commitment to bold new thinking and amplifying women’s voices. We thank our friends who have given to this five-year fund, which will offer feminist leaders vital tools, training, and opportunities:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Anonymous (11) | • Elizabeth Gardiner | • Rakesh Rajani |
| • Yvette J. Alberdingk Thijm | • Susan Gibson and Mark Bergman | • Cynthia Rice |
| • Joy Alferness | • Christopher Grove | • Laurie Richardson |
| • Philip Alston | • Katherine Hall | • Rockefeller Brothers Fund |
| • Akwe Amosu | • Hinerfeld-Jaskowiak Giving Fund | • Alicia Sams |
| • Elizabeth Andersen | • Julia Holland | • Joanne Sandler |
| • Karen Avery | • LaShawn Jefferson | • Shira Saperstein and Mark Rovner |
| • Sarvenaz Bahar | • Devon Kearney | • John Schwaab |
| • Elizabeth Barratt Brown | • Anna Keye | • Heather Sibbison |
| • George Biddle | • Caroline Kronley | • Sigrid Rausing Trust |
| • Talia Bilodeau | • Gara LaMarche | • The Summit Foundation |
| • Molly Bingham | • Joshua Mailman | • Dana Thomas |
| • Blue Oak Foundation | • Anish Malhotra | • Dorothy Thomas |
| • Declan Browne | • Laurie Mazur | • Cynthia Totten |
| • Melissa Bukuru | • Sharon Meers | • C. Bowdoin Train |
| • Maria Burnett | • Jill Morrison | • Anne Travers |
| • Laurie Campbell | • Oak Foundation | • Trellis Charitable Fund |
| • Chris Canavan | • Atieno Odhiambo | • Hilda Vega |
| • Holly Cartner | • Ann O’Hanlon | • Wallace Global Fund |
| • Annice Cody | • Susan and Peter Osnos | • Wellspring Philanthropic Fund |
| • Sarah Craven | • Pamela Parizek | • Julie White |
| • Martin D. Dunn | • Bruce Rabb | • Mona Younis |
| • Janet Fleischman | | |
| • Foundation for a Just Society | | |

FINANCIALS

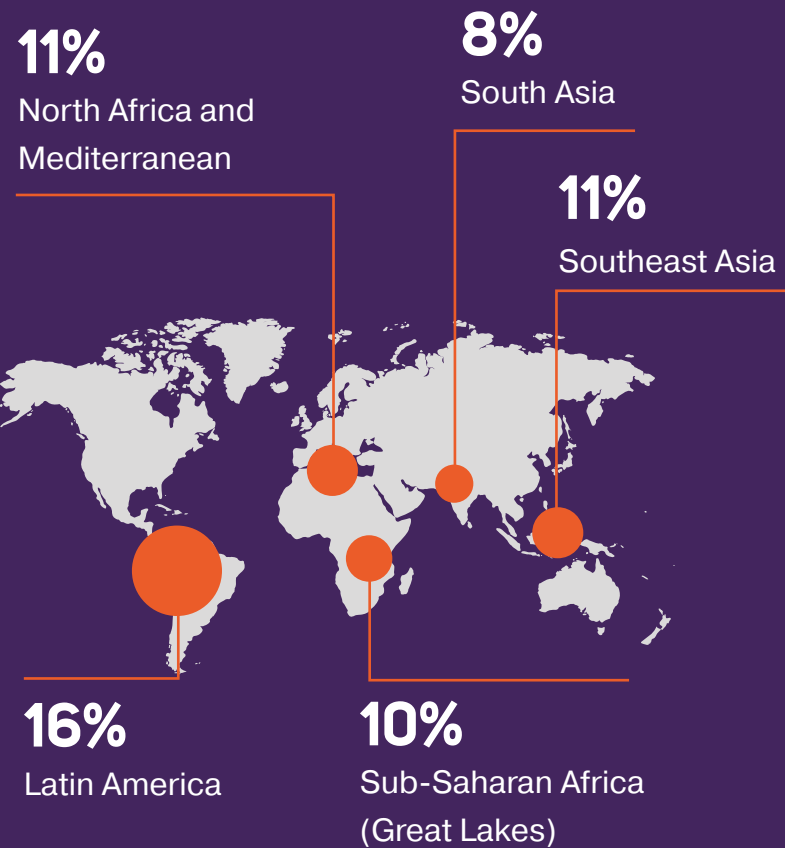
Support and Revenues		2022
Contributions		
Institutional Contributions		\$ 22,884,000
Individual Contributions		\$ 12,709,915
Other income		\$ 32,565
Total Support and Revenues		\$ 35,626,481
Expenses		
Program Services		
Grants Awarded		\$ 13,355,751
Other Program Expenses		\$ 6,101,743
Total Program Services		\$ 19,457,494
Management and General		\$ 1,007,564
Fundraising		\$ 1,355,959
Total Expenses		\$ 21,821,018
Change In Net Assets (Unrestricted)		\$ 9,783,506
Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning Of Year		\$ 3,739,089
Unrestricted Net Assets, End Of Year		\$ 13,522,595
Change In Net Assets (With Restriction)		\$ 4,021,957
Restricted Net Assets, Beginning Of Year		\$ 19,774,860
Restricted Net Assets, End Of Year		\$ 23,796,817
Total Net Assets, End Of Year		\$ 37,319,412

FY21-22 Expenses



Breakdown of Program Expenses

Regional



Thematic



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