





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, WE DELIVERED:

\$14.8M

TO 409 GRASSROOTS GROUPS

IN 63 COUNTRIES

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REFLECTION FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear friends,

Ten years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt penned her iconic quote about human rights beginning in “small places, close to home.” She said:

“ These are the places where every man, woman and child seeks  
equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination.  
Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.  
Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home,  
we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

This recognition—that people who experience injustice not only deserve equality but are critical to realizing it—lies at the heart of our approach here at the Fund for Global Human Rights. The needs of frontline, grassroots activists inspire every action we take. Sadly, the challenges they face are mounting.

Activists have always faced threats from those desperate to hold onto power and control. Today, their foes have more advanced tools: digital surveillance, misinformation that spreads instantaneously, and national security measures that can be misused to restrict activism. Meanwhile, climate change, conflict, and waves of anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-reproductive rights legislation pose a new set of challenges.

The Fund remains committed to providing the resources, tools, and connections that frontline groups need to remain agile and effective. Our investments are helping activists produce research and devise new strategies to protect civic space. Our flexible funding is powering innovative visions for climate justice and feminist leadership. Our trust in activists’ knowledge of their local contexts is unearthing exciting new groups and young leaders. And our collaborations are shifting the power of the law into the hands of marginalized people.

While the Fund’s philosophy is our heart, our community is our soul. The activists we support are creating movements based on innovation, courage, and purpose. Fund staff show unmatched expertise and dedication, building trust-based relationships with grantee groups and problem-solving to move funds in repressive places. Our supporters demonstrate extraordinary commitment to propel social change at every level. This generosity makes every moment of progress possible and is vital to grassroots groups worldwide. I am energized by the lessons I learn daily from our community of activists and allies, and I am honored to lead this incredible organization.

Warm regards,

Gabriela Bucher

GABRIELA BUCHER | President and CEO



FROM  
SMALL PLACES

1. EASTERN GUATEMALA  
Q'eqchi' village

Indigenous Q'eqchi' communities living on Lake Izabal, Guatemala's largest freshwater body, knew for years that a nearby nickel mine was polluting their water. Their protests were met with arrests and violence. The Fund's past support to Rights Action helped them win a court case suspending illegal mining operations and provide shelter and psychological support for community members who were harassed or attacked. This campaign to protect their land and water was spotlighted in a documentary by grantee Prensa Comunitaria. It was screened at several festivals throughout Central and South America and won the Jury Prize at Barcelona's 2023 IndiFest. The Fund began supporting Prensa Comunitaria in 2011.

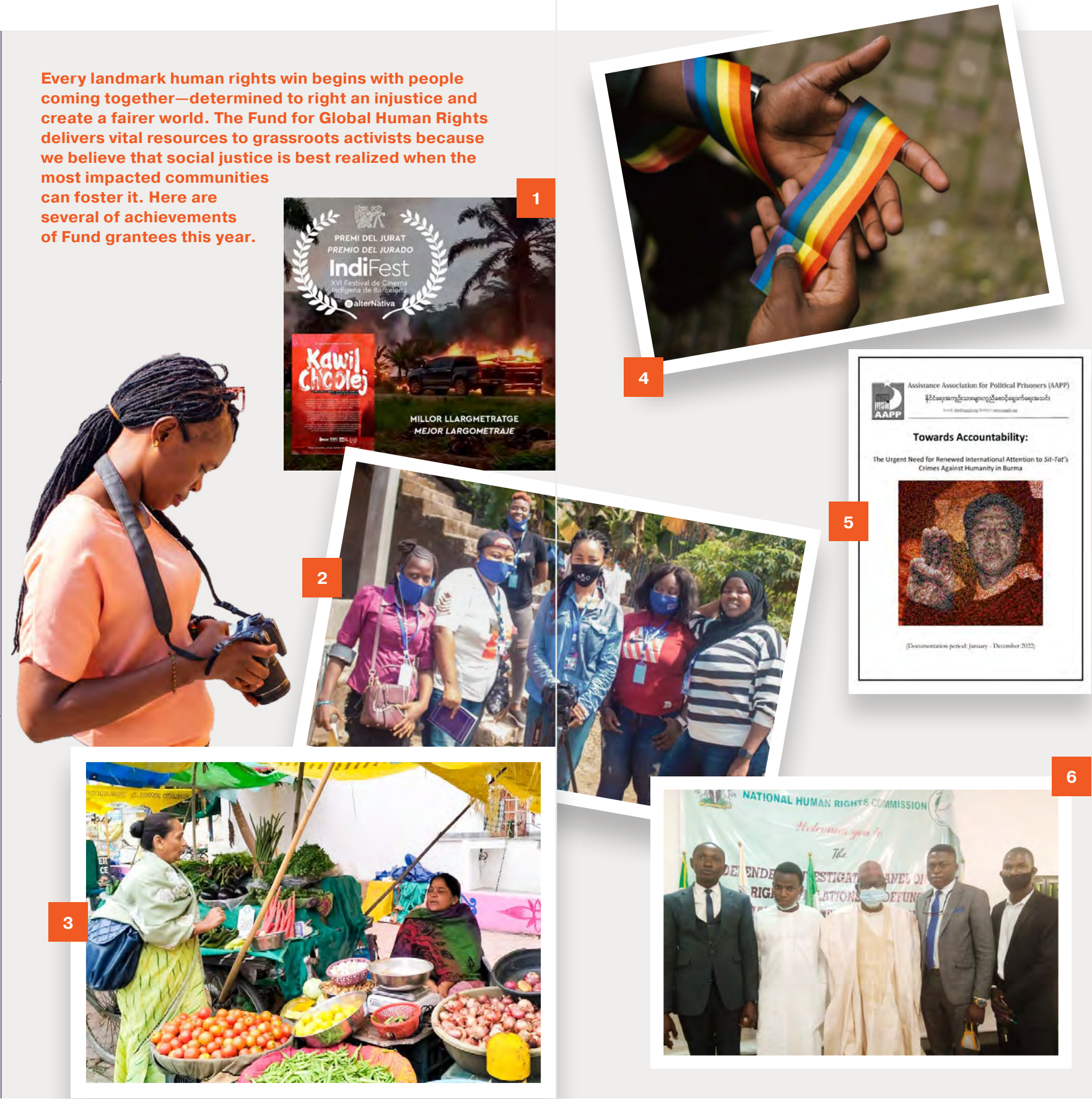
2. FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE  
Photo studio

Five years ago, a group of young women in Sierra Leone dreamt of becoming photographers. But they had no money to finish their own university education, had few role models, and saw many gender stereotypes. Through the Fund's participatory grantmaking, where young people help select grantees, they received start-up funding beginning in 2019, and **Girls Behind the Lens** was born. The group has since created a full studio and educational programs for girls and young women, opening doors to economic opportunity and jump-starting conversations about gender equality through visual storytelling.

3. UJJAIN, INDIA  
Marketplace

When 400 women vendors learned that the marketplace they relied on for their families' income was due to be shut down, they knew who would help. **Mahila Shram Sewa Nyas (MSSN)**—a mass membership organization of 600,000 informal women workers—held a series of meetings with administration leaders to defend their right to earn a living. As a result, the local government began building a new marketplace for them. MSSN also helped some of the women secure subsidized loans to grow their businesses. The Fund has supported MSSN's efforts for nearly 14 years.

Every landmark human rights win begins with people coming together—determined to right an injustice and create a fairer world. The Fund for Global Human Rights delivers vital resources to grassroots activists because we believe that social justice is best realized when the most impacted communities can foster it. Here are several of achievements of Fund grantees this year.



TO  
GLOBAL CHANGE

4. EAST AFRICA  
LGBTQ+ health center

Extreme anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and proposed oppressive laws in the region made the work of one Fund grantee particularly vital. Yet LGBTQ+ people worried that simply visiting their health center could lead to being attacked or arrested. The group decided to go mobile, using pop-up clinics to provide mental health counseling and maintain uninterrupted access to HIV testing. They remain one of a few safe havens where LGBTQ+ people can access care and organize to push back against passed and proposed anti-LGBTQ+ laws. The Fund has supported their work since 2009.

5. NEAR THAILAND-MYANMAR BORDER  
Small office

The mass protests following Myanmar's 2021 military coup were met with brutal crackdowns on pro-democracy groups and citizens. Since then, the courageous activists at the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners have gathered data and testimonies to catalogue the junta's systemic arrest of more than 24,400 pro-democracy supporters, in addition to extrajudicial killings, sexual assault, torture, and property seizure. In March 2023, the Fund's support helped this group of former political prisoners publish their report, *Towards Accountability: The Urgent Need for Renewed International Attention to Sit-Tat's Crimes Against Humanity in Burma*. Their findings have been shared with the UN, including the Special Rapporteur and General Assembly.

6. ABUJA, NIGERIA  
Courtroom

Twelve years ago, a young lawyer mobilized a group of committed advocates in Nigeria to created Spaces for Change (S4C) after becoming frustrated at the lack of accountability for corrupt or violent authorities that were curbing civic freedoms. The Fund began supporting S4C in 2016. Today, they're a leading force in preserving human rights and civic space in Nigeria and internationally. In September 2022, their legal representation won compensation for a victim of police brutality who was shot in his home by the now defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a police unit notorious for abuse, before being illegally detained and denied access to healthcare for several days.



# CLOSING THE GLOBAL JUSTICE GAP

An estimated 6 billion people do not have access to justice. The most affected lack resources to obtain legal support or contribute to laws and policies. Closing the justice gap requires a fresh vision, a transformation in ambition, and strategies that purposefully tackle the scale of the problem. **The Legal Empowerment Fund (LEF)**, a program of the Fund for Global Human Rights, supports groups that empower communities to know, use, and shape the law. Now in its third year, the LEF provides multiyear funding to community-led groups helping marginalized people overcome the barriers to justice they experience.



TUNISIA

## HIGHLIGHTS

In Tunisia, **Association Nomad08** halted a national law that would have threatened marginalized people’s access to water. The group mobilizes communities whose livelihoods, cultures, and environments are endangered by industrial development.

**Equal Ground** in Sri Lanka ran a social awareness campaign to foster support for LGBTQ+ people and counter discrimination. Their campaign, “Live with Love,” reached more than 10,000 people. One of their short films was selected for Sydney’s 2023 Mardi Gras Film Festival.



Network, the LEF brings grantees into regional and global spaces where they can share knowledge and strengthen strategies. This included financing four legal empowerment groups from Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Liberia to attend COP28.

On International Women’s Day 2023, the LEF announced a **new partnership with the Clooney Foundation for Justice**. The Waging Justice for Women Fellowship offers one-year fellowships to ten early-career women lawyers in sub-Saharan Africa. The program will equip them to respond to local issues, provide legal support to survivors of gender-based violence, and access both national and regional justice mechanisms.

\* Source: 2023 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index

# CRISIS RESPONSE TURKEY EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

When two devastating earthquakes hit Turkey in February 2023, grassroots activists became frontline disaster responders. With strong connections to local groups throughout the country, the Fund launched an emergency fundraiser to support their lifesaving efforts.



**\$100,000**  
IN EMERGENCY AID  
DELIVERED

**DONATIONS FROM  
MORE THAN**  
**300**  
generous people  
and groups

**FIRST GRANT  
SENT**  
**8 DAYS**  
after the initial  
Feb. 6 quake

Your generosity made it possible for activists to provide:

**Tents • Heat • Blankets**

**Food • Baby Formula**

**Psychosocial Support •  
Support for children who  
lost their parents**

**Crutches • Wheelchairs**

**Hygiene Kits •  
Winter Clothing • Shoes**

**Accurate healthcare  
and legal information**

Our community’s response was phenomenal. With your help, we delivered \$100,000 to activists providing critical supplies and resources to marginalized people. Many of the communities served—such as migrants, women, and LGBTQ+ people—were among those most overlooked or left out of other aid.

The strong networks of Fund grantee organizations and deep understanding of cultural and geographic contexts meant they could identify and respond to urgent needs before anyone else. With your support, groups continue to push for rebuilding efforts that are fair, equitable, and forward looking.

A special thanks is given to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and Unitarian congregations who organized fundraisers and generously contributed more than \$10,000.

**RULE OF LAW  
IS IN DECLINE**  
FOR THE SIXTH YEAR IN A ROW\*

**SINCE 2022**  
**\$5M**  
**AWARDED**  
to 132 grassroots groups  
in 56 countries through  
participatory grantmaking



OUR  
SUPPORTERS

You—as part of our donor community—make it possible for the Fund to provide the funding, tools, and training that activists need to effect change around the world. We’re grateful for your shared belief in empowering marginalized communities to stand for justice, for your investment, and for your trust.



Global Activist Alliance

Thank you to these Global Activist Alliance members, dedicated individual donors whose investments were key to helping activists make lasting change this year.

Joy and Jonathan Alferness	Katharine Kendall Guthrie	Stephanie Pennell
Harmony Anderson	Marilyn Hartig	Dylan Pereira
David L. and Melinda M. Anderson Fund	Hinerfeld-Jaskowiak Giving Fund	Chloée Ponchelet and Michael Goltzman
Russell Banzon	Syed Hoda	Shannon Poole
Brett Beveridge	Susie Hwang and Matt Glickman	Christine and Douglas Rohde
Wayne and Cynthia Bullaughey	Independent Franchise Partners (IFP)	Cristina Romero
Blue Oak Foundation	Suzzette and Peter Jaskowiak	Tracey Russell
Brody Family Fund	Jeff Klein	Shira Saperstein and Mark Rovner
Melissa Bukuru	Nancy and John LaPann Charitable Gift Fund	Corinne Servily
Chris Chi	Macrae Broadbent Family Fund	Spencer Family Foundation
Curtin Weaver Fund	Patricia Madden	The Spottiswoode Fund
Kalvinder Dhillon	Sharon Meers	Kurt Steele
Martin D. Dunn	Jason Moen	Mary Ann Stein
Tara Farnsworth	Mary and Keith Mogerley	Joan Vermeulen
Fledgling Fund	Nancy Nichols	Nicholas and Katy Vetch
French American Charitable Trust	Kay Noel	Edward Wight
Susan Gibson and Mark Bergman	Rona Peligal	Peter and Carolyn Woodbury

Institutional Donors

We are grateful to the following foundation, government, and corporate supporters who powered our work in 2022-2023:

The 11th Hour Project/ The Schmidt Family Foundation	Libra Foundation
Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund	Luis Von Ahn Foundation
Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	Luminate
Apple	Moriah Fund
Channel Foundation	Namati
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	Oak Foundation
Clooney Foundation for Justice	Open Society Foundations
Comic Relief	Overbrook Foundation
Dutch Postcode Lottery	People’s Postcode Lottery
European Commission	Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Ford Foundation	Sant Foundation
Foundation for a Just Society	Schooner Foundation
Ing Foundation/WE Trust	Sigrid Rausing Trust
Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation	Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
Karakin Foundation	The Talent Fund
Laudes Foundation	Wallace Global Fund
	Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
	William and Flora Hewlett Foundation



Mary Ann Stein  
A TRIBUTE

In September 2023, the Fund joined the human rights community in mourning the passing of Mary Ann Stein. Mary Ann helped raise seed money to launch the Fund and served as our founding Board chair. She remained an active Board member until stepping down in 2019 and regularly traveled with us to meet and learn from local human rights leaders. Her dedication to human rights was unmatched and we will truly miss her unending curiosity, vision, and humor.



# FUND FOR GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

2023

### Support and Revenues

#### Contributions

Institutional Contributions	\$ 22,123,620
Individual Contributions	\$ 1,431,194
Other income	\$ 667,740

**Total Support and Revenues \$24,222,554**

### Expenses

#### Program Services

Grants Awarded	\$ 14,821,974
Other Program Expenses	\$ 7,398,195

**Total Program Services \$ 22,220,169**

Management and General	\$ 1,475,669
Fundraising	\$ 1,987,908

**Total Expenses \$25,683,746**

Change In Net Assets (Unrestricted) \$ (2,249,876)

Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year \$ 12,900,607

Board Designated Operating Reserve \$ 4,400,000

**Unrestricted Net Assets, End of Year \$ 6,250,731**

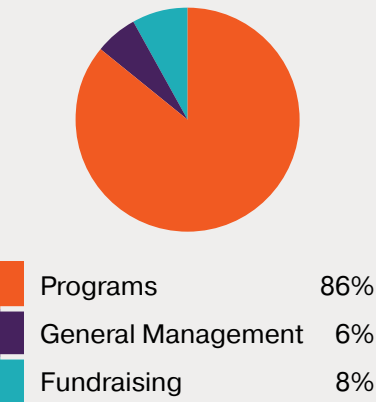
Change In Net Assets (With Restriction) \$ 1,091,079

Restricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year \$ 23,571,671

**Restricted Net Assets, End of Year \$24,662,750**

**Total Net Assets, End of Year \$ 35,313,481**

FY 2022 – 2023  
Expenses Breakdown



WE CAN'T CREATE  
DIGNITY / EQUALITY / JUSTICE  
WITHOUT **YOU.**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR ACTIVISM.







**THE FUND FOR GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

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