



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



OUR IMPACT: THIS YEAR, WE DELIVERED

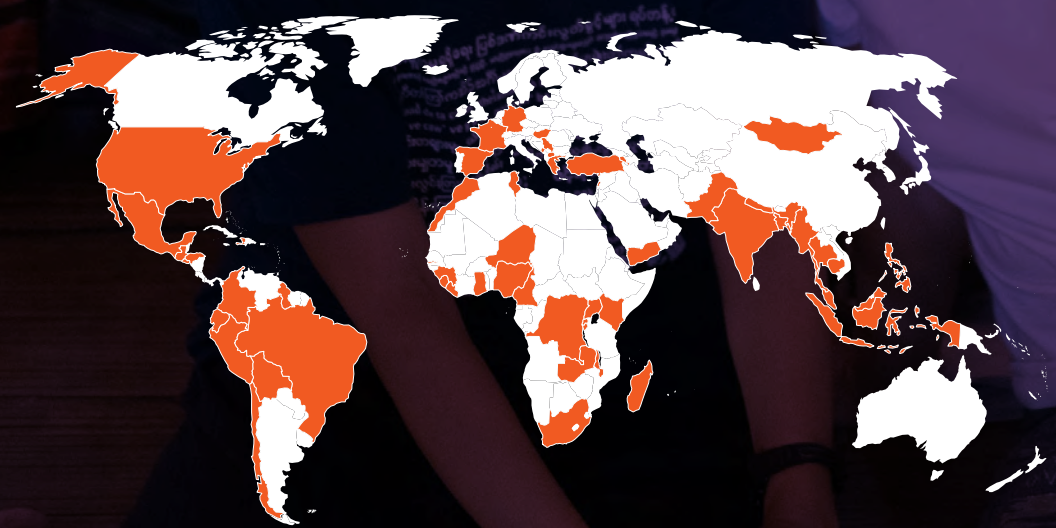
\$11 MILLION+

TO

402 GRASSROOTS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS

IN

52 COUNTRIES



P2

Q & A

P10

Our Supporters

P12

Consolidated Statement of Activities

The Fund supports activists furthering:



Climate Justice



Children's and Youth Rights



Civic Space



Labor Rights



Land Rights



Legal Empowerment



LGBTQ+ Rights



Rights of People on the Move



Women's Rights



WELCOME FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

As I complete my first full year at the Fund for Global Human Rights, I am fortunate to have met countless extraordinary activists, committed donors, and passionate staff and board members. I am re-energized by our collective power for change.

The bold activists we support, driven by their own lived experience of injustice, are addressing a multitude of pressing local and national issues that connect with the urgent global challenges of our time, from the climate crisis to migration and discrimination-fueled violence. Their work protects the rights and lives under threat, while also addressing entrenched and long-standing systems of oppression.

We work hard to ensure that our support is respectful, holistic, flexible, and trust-based. With these values at our core, we aim to strengthen grassroots movements that uphold civic principles and human rights while countering a growing tendency toward authoritarian rule in many geographies. This year, we've seen youth leaders drive economic opportunity in West Africa. LGBTQ+ groups unite to counter deep-seated bias to advocate for an equality law in the Philippines. Kenyan activists produce evidence of state-sanctioned repression. And rural and Indigenous communities in Brazil halt a power plant that would devastate the environment and local livelihoods.

From the day we started partnering with activists and committed human rights supporters, the Fund has focused on helping communities who are excluded or exploited reclaim their power. As new challenges loom, we remain steadfast in delivering the funding, tools, connections, and protection activists need as they advance rights and expand justice, dignity, and fundamental freedoms.

Our loyal supporters make all this change possible. We are so thankful for your commitment and your trust. The fight for equality and justice needs all of us. Together, we can build the future we want to see—one where everyone can live with dignity and our collective rights are protected.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Gabriela Bucher

GABRIELA BUCHER | President and CEO

OUR STRATEGY AND IMPACT

The Fund for Global Human Rights was founded on the belief that realizing equality and justice requires elevating the voices and solutions of grassroots activists who are rarely given a seat at the table.

Here, we share a series of brief Q&As with Fund program leaders highlighting the year's milestones and how our ground-up, trust-based approach is advancing human rights around the world.

- P4** Research That Counters Anti-Activist Repression
- P5** Art and Storytelling for LGBTQ+ Equality
- P6** Climate Justice Movements Driven by Legal Empowerment
- P7** Youth Empowerment for Long-Term Change
- P8** A Win for Justice 18 Years in the Making





Research That Counters Anti-Activist Repression

with **James Savage**, director of the Enabling Environment for Human Rights Defenders Program



What does the Enabling Environment for Human Rights Defenders Program do?

We help activists counter hostile governments and corporations and defend our rights to build open, just societies.

Much of our strategy focuses on upending the “security playbook”: a set of tools used by governments to stifle activism, including the misuse of national security and counterterrorism measures, abuse of digital surveillance, and weaponization of narratives of fear and division.

How does research help end repression of activists?

Through evidence-gathering and expert analysis, activist-led research can elevate their lived experiences

and support their solutions locally, regionally, and internationally. For example, in January 2024, a Fund-supported report series explored how use of the security playbook has undermined the rule of law and led to human rights violations in Kenya. Led by **ARTICLE 19 Eastern Africa (pictured above), HAKI Africa, the Kenya ICT Action Network, and the Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies**, the reports shared recommendations for pushing back and formed the basis for collective strategizing and action in the coming years.

Additionally, we continued a study of how migrants, refugees, and those who defend them are being criminalized under the guise of border security and countering terrorism. The analysis was

conducted alongside Statewatch, a rights-focused research, policy, and journalism organization, and with grantees from Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas. Its final report will examine how reclaiming narratives about people on the move and collaboration among activists and with new allies can slow this worrying trend.

Long-term, how can this work promote and defend democracy, as well as activism?

Civic space is dynamic. Activists make gains and face setbacks. We know authoritarians look to and learn from each other. The Fund’s strategy focuses on equipping activists to do the same, for their protection and so that they can replace oppressive systems with just and enabling ones.



Promoting Democracy in Myanmar

Since the 2021 coup, Myanmar has experienced ongoing conflict, mass displacement, and crackdowns on pro-democracy activism. With the Fund’s support, **Assistance Association for Political Prisoners** documents human rights violations against those imprisoned through reports and videos, including submitting evidence to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The group also rebuilt a museum dedicated to the country’s pro-democracy movement and conditions faced by political prisoners.



Art and Storytelling for LGBTQ+ Equality

with **Asmaa Falhi**, program director for North Africa and the Mediterranean



What is the situation of LGBTQ+ rights and activism in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)?

Repression against LGBTQ+ people and activists in the region is on the rise, with increased digital surveillance, public outing campaigns on social media, and harassment or detention by authorities. Non-normative gender identities and expressions are stigmatized. It impedes LGBTQ+ people’s civic participation.

Fighting human rights violations can be extremely difficult in these contexts. LGBTQ+ people need safe spaces that offer opportunities for exchange of ideas, learning, and development of creative actions to resist social injustice and shift dominant discriminatory narratives.

How has the Fund helped LGBTQ+ groups make progress?

We support groups that are creatively challenging stigma and oppression—building community, resilience, and well-being so that their movements can better challenge discrimination.

For example, six years ago, we funded **Mawjoudin’s** efforts to bring LGBTQ+ groups in Tunisia and surrounding countries together to form a Maghrebin coalition. The groups have launched art and storytelling campaigns that make the lives, struggles, and hopes of LGBTQ+ people visible. This includes this year’s release of Maghreb’s Hope, a documentary following four LGBTQ+ people breaking taboos in the region and beyond.

How does the use of art create social change?

Music, poetry, graffiti, theater, paintings—they’re all forms of artistic expression that activists use as tools to voice discontent with oppressive regimes, which resonate strongly with various audiences. During protests and popular uprisings in the MENA region, art has supported claims for dignity and freedom, inspired movements of resistance, and elevated social consciousness to fight injustice.

This “artivism” not only provides a rare and powerful platform for often-silenced voices, it also creates opportunities for addressing inequality and power structures. Its inclusive format energizes youth and brings discussion of feminism, LGBTQ+ rights, and gender identity to the surface.



Climate Justice Movements Driven by Legal Empowerment

with **Atieno Odhiambo**, director of the Legal Empowerment Fund



Since its launch in 2021, the Legal Empowerment Fund (LEF) has elicited extraordinary interest from grassroots groups. What have you learned about the need for legal empowerment support?

Grassroots groups, the focus of our grantmaking and technical support, face immense challenges, from restricted funding to shrinking civic space. In a 2023 grantee partner survey, 73 percent of groups reported that they struggle to cover basic operational costs. They also need spaces to connect, learn, collaborate and share strategies, and refine their approaches. Climate change further amplifies these challenges, with over two-thirds of respondents noting its impact on their work. This underscores the need to integrate climate resilience into legal empowerment efforts.

The LEF's participatory and flexible funding of \$8.5 million to date addresses these gaps, but the demand for sustained support remains high. For the 5.1 billion people worldwide lacking access to justice, legal empowerment is not just a tool—it's a necessity for survival.

This year, the LEF launched two calls for proposals aimed at grassroots climate activists. What is the relationship between climate action and access to justice?

They are deeply interconnected. Marginalized communities bear the brunt of the escalating climate crisis. As they lose their livelihoods, face displacement, and grapple with conflicts over dwindling resources, how can they fight back?

Legal empowerment is central to climate justice. It is the very backbone of climate justice because it equips frontline communities with knowledge of the law, enabling them to claim their rights, demand accountability, and advocate for equitable policies. When pollution from industrial projects, displacement from "green energy" initiatives, or land grabs threaten survival, access to legal knowledge becomes their only recourse. Legal empowerment ensures marginalized groups—including women, Indigenous people, fisherfolk, and pastoralists—aren't silenced but instead shape solutions.

For example, in Brazil, LEF grantee partner **Instituto Preservar**—a group of rural workers, legal educators, lawyers, agronomists, and human rights defenders—persuaded a Brazilian federal court to indefinitely suspend a mining giant's environmental license. The August 2023 ruling thwarted the construction of what would have been the largest coal-fired power plant in the country.

At its core, climate justice demands equity. But equity cannot exist without agency, and agency cannot flourish without empowerment. The LEF is a lifeline for communities and individuals, enabling them to know, use, and shape the law as a tool for justice and to secure their rights.

The call is clear: grassroots groups need sustained, flexible, and trust-based funding, deeper connections, and long-term collaboration. Legal empowerment isn't a one-time intervention; it's an ongoing lifeline for communities reclaiming their agency and dismantling systemic inequities. With the law as a tool for justice, grassroots movements are turning resilience into lasting change.



Youth Empowerment for Long-Term Change

with **John Kabia**, director of the Children's and Youth Rights Program



Can you tell us about the program's recent focus on economic empowerment?

In 2019, the Fund initiated a participatory grantmaking project in Sierra Leone, where young people selected peers' human rights initiatives to fund. This year, in collaboration with youth rights consultancy Recrear and ten youth co-researchers, we published a learning agenda exploring livelihoods and human rights in West Africa. It demonstrates how education, access to jobs, discrimination, and entrepreneurship affect social and economic equality.

We also started supporting 10 youth-led organizations and social enterprises working at the intersection of human rights and livelihood in Liberia that aim to uplift

themselves and their communities from the grip of poverty and advance social change.

What is the link between youth economic empowerment and human rights?

Young people deserve a say in the policies that affect their lives but aren't always given a seat at the table. With opportunities that foster their livelihood and their agency, they help create a brighter, more equal future.

We see this in our grants to youth-led social enterprises, where young people have become community leaders tackling issues like unemployment, food waste, climate change, and computer illiteracy.

The Fund has promoted children's rights for nearly two decades. Can you share an example of a long-term win?

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Fund's support has helped **BVES** free tens of thousands of children from armed groups and build a sustainable children's rights movement. This includes founding a network to address child conscription, gender-based violence, and other abuses.

Last year, BVES' negotiations with armed leaders led to the release of more than 6,000 children. The youth were provided health, psychosocial, and educational support to help them reintegrate into society. They also opened a center providing health and psychosocial care to youth escaping conflict.



Fostering Rights Through Digital Literacy

Engaging today's youth in human rights requires understanding how online channels and platforms shape their view of themselves and the world. For six months, starting in September 2023, the Fund partnered with **Enfold Proactive Health Trust** to study digital engagement from the perspective of children and teens in Karnataka, India. The research contains insights on building digital literacy, including identifying misinformation, and encouraging rights-based behaviors.



A Win for Justice 18 Years in the Making

with **Ricardo González Bernal**, program director for Latin America



Tell us about the Pasta de Conchos disaster and the campaign for justice.

In 2006, an explosion at the Pasta de Conchos mine in Mexico killed 65 miners. Despite evidence of gross negligence by the company constituting “industrial murder,” no one was held responsible and the miners’ bodies were never recovered. The miners’ families never stopped fighting for justice, bringing public attention to the terrible working conditions in the mines in the process.

In May 2024, following high-profile campaigns and legal cases, the Mexican government announced that the first remains of the miners had been recovered.

How did the Fund support the families?

For nearly a decade, the Fund has supported groups working on the case, including **Familia Pasta de Conchos**, a group of miners’ family members, and **Centro Prodh**, a leader in providing legal, psychological, and public awareness support.

For years, the Fund’s support helped them pursue justice together, including securing a ruling in their favor at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights—the first time that recovery of industrial disaster victims has been part of reparations. We also supported the families and their communities in pursuing economic alternatives to mining, which has been the centerpiece of their livelihood.

What are the broader implications of this win?

This shows the power of standing by activists for the long haul and investing in long-term, comprehensive supports for people living with human rights violations.

The miners’ families continue mobilizing to ensure the timely, proper recovery of remains, and are working to reduce their communities’ economic dependence on mining. No matter how long the journey, the quest for justice truly transforms everything in its path.



SUPPORTING EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS IN MOROCCO

Hours after a 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit Morocco on September 8, 2023, the Fund was in contact with grantee partners coordinating life-saving aid and relief. We are grateful to the donors who generously gave more than \$58,000 to help activists meet urgent needs and continue advocating for the rights of women, children, and migrants.



\$58,000+
raised



8 helicopters
transported
injured survivors to
medical care



Rights-based groups provided **tents, food, blankets, diapers, women’s hygiene products, and clothing**



Groups continue to tackle emerging issues such as child marriage and advocate for equitable emergency responses



OUR SUPPORTERS

Your generosity powers our mission providing activists with the flexible funding, tools, training, and emergency support they need to create a more equal world. We are truly grateful for your belief in grassroots activists, your investment in justice, and your trust.

THANK YOU to the following foundation, government, and corporate supporters who powered our work protecting human rights and their defenders this year:

11th Hour Project/ The Schmidt Family Foundation	Irene M. Staehelin Foundation
Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund	Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
Apple Inc.	Laudes Foundation
Capcon Foundation	Luminate
Channel Foundation	Moriah Fund
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	Namati
Choose Love	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Clooney Foundation for Justice	Oak Foundation
Comic Relief	Overbrook Foundation
David and Lucile Packard Foundation	Players of People's Postcode Lottery
Dutch Postcode Lottery	Porticus
European Commission	Rockefeller Brothers Fund
European Endowment for Democracy	Schooner Foundation
Ford Foundation	The Talent Fund
Foundation for a Just Society	WE Trust
Global Affairs Canada	Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
	William and Flora Hewlett Foundation



WE'RE GRATEFUL TO THE GLOBAL ACTIVIST ALLIANCE, our community whose dedication to human rights helps activists to grow their movements and make long-lasting change.

Anonymous	Bluma Herman
Joy and Jon Alferness	Hinerfeld-Jaskowiak Giving Fund
Christopher Avery	Independent Franchise Partners (IFP)
Blue Oak Foundation	David Lapello
Blue Sky Social Justice Fund	Joshua Mailman and Monica Winsor
Gabriela Bucher	Gina Maya and Richard Capelouto
Melissa Bukuru	The Estate of Carse McDaniel
Kalvinder Dhillon	Dylan Pereira
Fledgling Fund	Schmidt Family Foundation
Constance Fong	Emily Scott
French American Charitable Trust	The Spottiswoode Fund
Fuller Family Charitable Trust	The Estate of Mary Ann Stein
Matt Glickman and Susie Hwang Fund	Trellis Charitable Fund
Marilyn Hartig	The Van Pelt & Holman Charitable Fund

FUND FOR GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

US AND UK ENTITIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

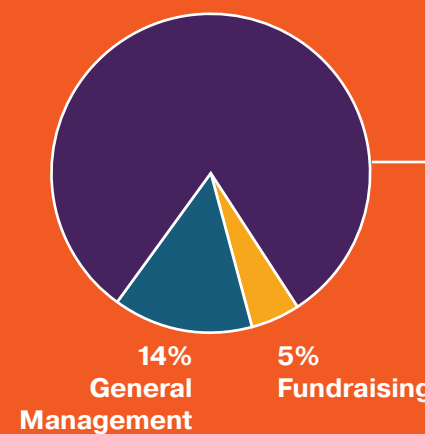
	2024
Support and Revenues	
In Year Contributions	
Institutional Contributions	\$ 13,212,641
Individual Contributions	\$ \$936,698
Other Income	\$ 1,154,425
Total Support and Revenues	\$ 15,303,764
Expenses	
Program Services	
Grants Awarded	\$ 12,544,442
Other Program Expenses	\$ 4,991,760
Total Program Services	\$ 17,536,202
Management and General	\$ 3,019,603
Fundraising	\$ 1,194,738
Total Expenses	\$ 21,750,543
Change in Net Assets	\$ (944,914)
Unrestricted Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	\$ 10,968,285
Board Designated Operating Reserve	\$ 4,406,600
Unrestricted Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 5,616,771
Change In Net Assets (With Restriction)	\$ (5,501,865)
Restricted Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 24,529,106
Restricted Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 19,027,241
Total Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 29,050,612

For our latest financial information and regulatory filings, please visit:
globalhumanrights.org/who-we-are/our-financials



THE FUND IS COMMITTED TO

ACCOUNTABILITY | TRANSPARENCY | EFFICIENCY



81%
of expenses go to program services



THE FUND FOR GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

globalhumanrights.org

[f](#) @fundhumanrights | [in](https://bit.ly/fghr-linkedin) bit.ly/fghr-linkedin | [@](#) @fundhumanrights