

Threading Feminist  
Nets of Response  
And Resilience

**“The importance of a fund like Urgent Action Fund in Asia & Pacific (UAF A&P) is clearer than ever - we hope that its work in our region will enable activists who foreground marginalized feminist and women’s issues, which are critical yet ignored and under-funded, to continue their work and be strengthened.”**

SUBHA WIJESIRIWARDENA’S KEY NOTE SPEECH AT  
UAF A&P LAUNCH, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA | OCTOBER 2017

In this annual report, we have included observations and comments shared by activists from the region - we have chosen to keep their identities undisclosed to respect confidentiality.

As part of our efforts to be an environmentally conscious fund, we encourage you to read this report online.

#### ANNUAL REPORT CREDITS

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**1** EMPOWERING  
FEMINIST SISTERHOOD

**2** THE WEBS OF  
RESILIENCE WE WEAVE

**3** THE FISSURES  
AND FRACTURES

**4** WE ARE THE URGENT ACTION  
FUND ASIA & PACIFIC

**6** SUPPORTING ACTIVISTS AND  
STRENGTHENING MOVEMENTS

**11** FORGING NETS  
OF SAFETY AND CARE

**13** RESOURCING  
RESILIENCE AND CAPACITIES

**15** THE WARPS AND WEFTS  
OF COLLABORATION

**17** THE THINKERS  
AND DOERS

**18** CONNECTING  
THE DOTS



# EMPOWERING FEMINIST SISTERHOOD

We have come a long way since our first consultation with women human rights defenders from Asia and the Pacific in Shillong, North East India, on June 2015. Together, we charted a pathway for establishing Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights for this vast area of the world. The need was urgent as the demand from the regions' defenders for Rapid Response Grants was disproportionately high. It was a proud moment on October 2017, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, when we launched Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific (UAF A&P) during the celebration of 20 years of Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (UAF WHR), our founding Sister Fund.

Keenly aware of the huge geographic span and the complex diversity of Asia and the Pacific, we decided to take on an organisational model that reflects – rather than denies – this reality: a co-directorship for our executive body. We are proud of the dedication and work of Mary Jane Real and Virisila Buadromo, our two Co-Leads, in this challenging start-up phase of our organisation. Jane operates from Philippines, her home country, and Virisila from hers in Fiji, and their able team works from around the two regions in virtual and face-to-face settings.

The volatile political environment of our two regions has compelled us to take steps that build not only the resilience of defenders and movements on the ground, but also that of the organisation itself. To this latter end, we decided to register in three countries, beginning with the Philippines and Australia. The third country will be decided at a later date in line with our strategic priorities. Accordingly, in addition to our Regional Board, we have two country-based boards to ensure compliance with the respective national laws. Alignment across these governance bodies is achieved through overlapping memberships, sequenced annual meetings, and regional convenings. We are grateful for the solidarity and commitment of our sisters in the Philippines and Australia towards building a regionally grounded,

responsive and accountable organisation by being part of our country-based boards. Their names are listed in this report, alongside the members of our Regional Board.

In order to sustain our contribution to the protection, strengthening and sustainability of defenders in Asia and the Pacific, we must secure support and resourcing from within the region. The kind of philanthropy we need requires a strategy of engagement that can change the culture of giving, in a region that is growing in economic power. We are starting by building relations with women philanthropists.

In this first year, we also strived to become an active and responsible member of the network of Sister Funds, empowering our sisterhood with UAF Africa, UAF Latin America and the Caribbean; and UAF WHR. We sought out collaborations with organisations working for the protection of women and human rights defenders in our region and joined the international network of women's funds, Prospera. Our Co-Leads have put us in a strong position to actively contribute to the broader system of support and protection for defending human rights.

We have had a big learning curve in Year One of our existence. It has been full of challenges and unanticipated developments, as well as excitement at the new opportunities and possibilities before us. Allow me to express our deep gratitude to all those who have supported us in this crucial year: our sisters in the women's movement, fellow defenders in the human rights movement and our donors. We are stronger together in the face of increasing and deepening threats facing women and non-binary defenders of human rights in Asia and the Pacific.

***Kamala Chandrakirana***  
***Chair, UAF A&P Regional Board***



# THE WEBS OF RESILIENCE WE WEAVE

2018 was a year that saw virulent backlash against human rights defenders across Asia and the Pacific, and coincidentally, also the first year of our operations. The need for strengthening the resilience of movements to bounce back from risks is imperative—now more than ever. As a small, new player in the Asia-Pacific philanthropic circle, we explored strategies to innovatively make grants, and mobilise different kinds of resources to grow adaptive capacities for the resilience of activists and movements we work with. At the end of year 1, we reflect on what we have begun:

**Grant-making centred on empathy and a feminist ethics of care:** In 2018, we gave a total of 36 rapid response grants amounting to around US\$138,000, across 11 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Since we are cognizant of the inequality in power and resources, we consciously adhered to feminist ethics of care, and tried to build relationships of empathy with applicants and grantees. We strived to keep our own preconceptions and projections aside, while trying to understand the contexts of risk that they face. We wanted our grants to encourage good practices of caring, or *mature care*, that strike a balance between caring too little and caring too much, both for oneself and for others.

**Co-creating webs of safety and care grounded in solidarity economy:** We began the process of collaborating with activists to co-create their webs of safety and care. What we dream of are holistic systems of protection and support for activists rooted in their communities. These are systems that can transform into safety nets for activists, for we are aware that grants cannot sustainably help them brace against continuous or intensified attacks. You will read about the needs assessment tool that we developed in consultations with activists in the Philippines later in the report. We are now poised to work with activists' organisations and communities across other parts of the region to model these systems. Through these webs of safety and care,

we want to strengthen a *solidarity economy* that builds on growing social capital and communal relationships, anchored in feminist ethics of care and solidarity, instead of competition and individualism. If we are able to harness collective power by encouraging communities and beyond to cooperate and collaborate to share resources, then we will be able to ensure overall safety and care for activists.

**Mobilising resources by activating philanthropy and changing the culture of giving:** We began our mobilisation efforts by expanding the definition of resources to beyond funds to encourage different forms of giving and sharing. It led us to convene the Women of Courage Asia and Pacific, that you will read about in the subsequent chapters. With the help of enterprising women leaders, we want to tap into other forms of assets, as diverse as safe houses for grantees relocation or places to go for rest and respite, or even developing potential markets for goods and services produced by activists' communities to bolster their livelihood and economic sustainability.

Our team has also internalised the culture of giving and sharing. Our team members volunteer or donate their time or resources to support activists—it was a proud moment for us when one member invested her month's salary towards an activist's medical needs that could not be supported through our grant. We also practice 'gifting gratitude' at the year-end party – a letter of gratitude written to a team member randomly chosen to evoke a sense of being valued and appreciated and part of a caring team.

**Developing a system that builds on emergent learning:** We are building this fund to be a learning organisation—the more responsive and adaptive it is, the more it can contribute towards building resiliency of activists and their movements. We are building a monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning system on a framework centred on emergent learning. We hope that it will help improve outcomes in adaptive situations by tightly linking

data and insights gathered into actionable hypotheses that can be tested on the ground. We are developing an alternative MEAL framework that contributes to feminist critiques, that differ from existing systems embedded in patriarchal notions of rationality and measurability. We are tracking not only quantitative outcomes, but also paying close attention to qualitative outcomes. We hope to be able to share stories and narratives that resonate with activists' communities.

**Building resilience through co-leadership and innovative work arrangements:** When we were setting up UAF A&P, we realised that the backlash against human rights could also potentially affect our operations. As preventive measures, we established a virtual office, and diversified countries of registration to brace against increasing restrictive regulations across many countries in the region. We adopted a co-leadership model, that does not default to traditional hierarchies, but practises co-responsibility. We strive to walk our talk, by internalising feminist ethics of care in how we relate with each other; contributing towards a solidarity economy by supporting social enterprises, including co-working spaces.

**Mary Jane Real and Virisila Buadromo**  
Co-Leads, UAF A&P



# THE FISSURES AND FRACTURES

We live in troubled times.

Threats facing women and non-binary human rights defenders in Asia and the Pacific are on the rise. We are witnessing widespread backlash against human rights in several countries. The ascent of misogynist leaders and dominance of authoritarian governments have constricted the advocacy for women's human rights, and resulted in the shrinking of civic space. Civil society is under threat even in countries, where governments claim to uphold democracy.

Governments in China, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Pakistan and many other countries in the regions have enacted restrictive regulations, and tightened regulatory controls over civil society. In October 2018, Amnesty International reported that Pakistan's Interior Ministry had rejected the registration applications of 18 international NGOs without sufficient grounds.

Abuse against lesbian, transgender and other non-binary activists continue not only in Indonesia as religious fundamentalist groups gain power in mainstream politics, but even in Mongolia where a strong homophobic culture prevails. There have been several pervasive and systemic attacks against

indigenous communities and land rights and environmental activists resulting in a heavy death toll in countries, such as Cambodia and the Philippines.

In Papua New Guinea, there has been an alarming rise reported in gender-based violence – sexual violence in particular. There is widespread criticism that the government had failed to budget for and implement legislations that safeguard young girls and women from violence. The growing nexus between global corporates interested in extracting rights have resulted in rising armed conflicts and resistance to indigenous women's rights organisations, particularly in the remote regions rich in oil and gas.

In Sri Lanka, despite the end of civil war in 2009, little has been done to make wartime perpetrators accountable. There has been little meaningful state engagement about addressing past human rights abuses, which has resulted in palpable fear among rights' advocates about the return of war time perpetrators of human rights abuses during the war in positions of power. They fear for the safety of those that have spoken out against past violations.

## WHAT ACTIVISTS AT THE FRONTLINE ENDURE

- ✧ Arbitrary arrests and/or detention of activists, judicial and physical harassment during elections and electoral campaigns in Cambodia.
- ✧ Rise in authoritarian approaches to governance; shunning of human rights activism as 'Western conspiracies' and 'obstructing justice' and crackdown on dissent as seen in India, and Philippines among others.
- ✧ State-supported ethnic cleansing of indigenous communities and minorities such as Rohingyas in Myanmar.
- ✧ Killing and/or enforced disappearances of activists fighting for community, indigenous peoples' or minority rights across Asia and the Pacific.
- ✧ Incommunicado detention of activists in unknown locations without sufficient legal grounds in China.
- ✧ Internet trolling and intimidation to curb activism through social media and blogging, including passing of several internet-related legislations in Bangladesh, Malaysia, India, Pakistan and Thailand.
- ✧ Use of repressive and antiquated legislations to restrict abilities to mobilise across several Asian countries.
- ✧ Minority rights activists targeted by religious extremist groups and right-wing politics in a targeted and personal fashion.
- ✧ Death threats, office raids and physical attacks by state and non-state actors on defenders working on LGBTI rights in Indonesia.
- ✧ Abuse and violations against women under charges of witchcraft and sorcery in several countries of the Pacific, especially Papua New Guinea.

The situation across Asia and the Pacific makes it imperative for feminist funds to ensure that activism for realising human rights is not hampered. In our first year of operations, we embarked on a journey to explore innovative grantmaking rooted in values of feminist care, and to mobilise diverse resources that could strengthen adaptive capacities among the activists and feminist and social movements we work with and are part of.



# WE ARE THE URGENT ACTION FUND FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS, ASIA AND PACIFIC

We are a regional women's human rights and feminist fund that protects, strengthens and sustains women and non-binary human rights defenders within the two regions at critical moments. Since 1 January 2018, UAF A&P has set up operations, hired a committed team based in different countries, and established operational policies and practices for an innovative virtual working environment.

Our mission is to resource the resilience of women human rights defenders (WHRDs)

by strengthening and sustaining webs of safety and care.

We intervene quickly when activists are poised to make great gains or face serious threats to their lives and work.

We use online, text and mobile funding applications to respond to requests from women and non-binary human rights defenders, and ensure to have funds on the ground within 10-15 working days.



## WHAT WE DO

We build resilience of women and non-binary human rights defenders and their movements by:

- ✦ **Providing them rapid response grants**, which are grants of up to US\$5,000.
- ✦ **Supporting advocacy and alliance building**, by leveraging our power as a funder to advocate for their protection and support.

**We encourage grant applications in any language on any day of the year and guarantee a response within 72 hours.**

## THE GRANTS WE PROVIDE

### *Security and Well-being Grant*

- ✦ Supports women and/or non-binary activists or women and/or non-binary organisations experiencing a threat or an urgent need.
- ✦ Covers time-urgent needs for well-being, such as medical assistance, psychosocial counselling, treatment for trauma.

### *Resourcing Resilience Grant*

- ✦ Supports women and/or non-binary activists or their organisations to implement an initiative to create systems of protection, which could be an unanticipated opportunity too.
- ✦ Aims to contribute towards resourcing resilience for human rights activism.

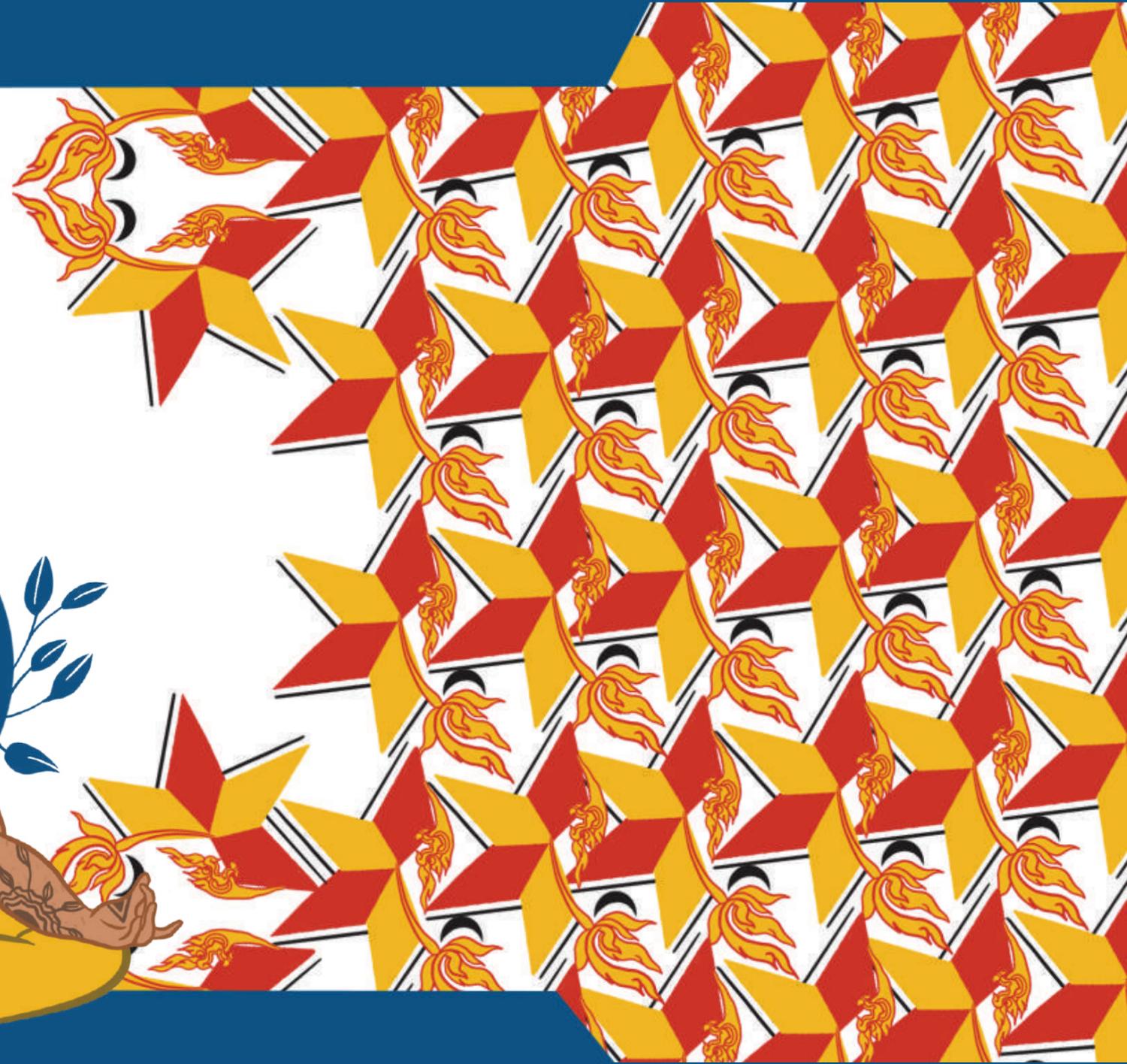


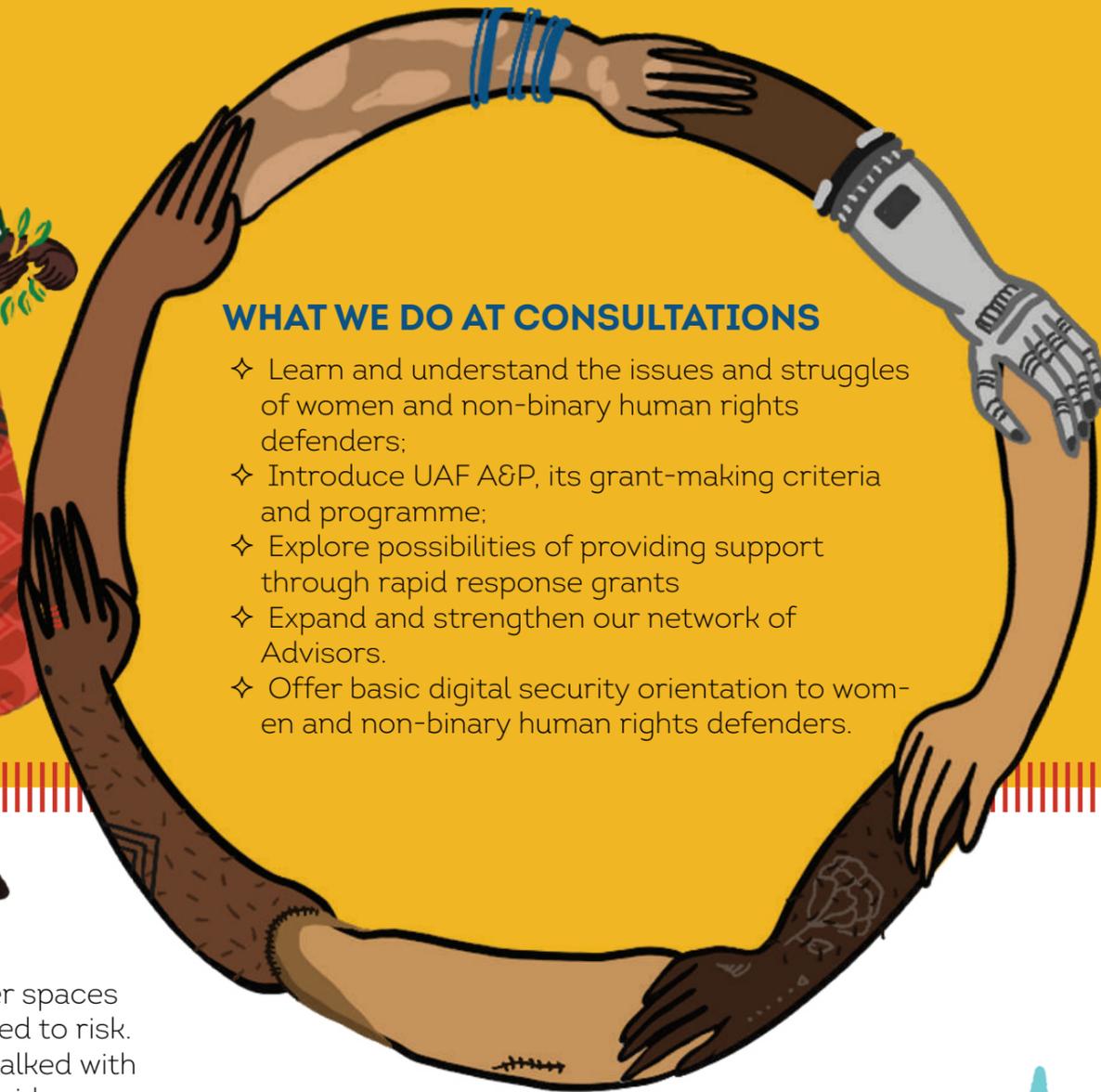
# SUPPORTING ACTIVISTS AND STRENGTHENING MOVEMENTS

In January 2018, our Rapid Response Grant Making (RRG) team began the process of transition of grant applications received by our sister-fund in the United States of America. The process began with reviewing grant requests from the Philippines and Indonesia and soon moved to include 14 new countries. Women and non-binary activists and organisations in Bangladesh, China, India, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka received rapid response grants for the first time from UAF A&P.

## WHO ARE OUR TARGET GROUPS?

Groups or communities that have been precluded or restrained from participating in and realising their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; and minority groups based on ethnicity, language, location, or religion, or the legally and/or socially disadvantaged such as people living with disability and sexual and gender minorities.





**We conducted consultations with activists and WHRDs across Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Sri Lanka**

## EXPANDING ACROSS ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### Sri Lanka Consultations | 4-10 December 2018

*UAF A&P currently has a Sri Lankan board member and now has twelve advisors and four peer donors based in the country.*

*In 2018, 11% of our grantees were from Sri Lanka. UAF A&P currently has a Sri Lankan board member and now has twelve advisors and four peer donors based in the country.*

In Sri Lanka, our meetings with activists occurred at a time of political upheaval, which saw the brief return of Mahinda Rajapakse, who served as the President of Sri Lanka during the final years of civil war. With political shifts at the national level, WHRDs we met said they, including their families, experienced increased surveillance of their activities by state mechanisms. Particularly affected were those working with and raising issues of families of disappeared persons, land rights, and gender-based violence.

Activists who were at the forefront in courtrooms and other spaces demanding for accountability of past abuses also felt exposed to risk. We met activists in Colombo, Batticaloa, and Vavuniya and talked with several others from neighbouring districts. We discussed a wide range of topics, including civil and political rights, Muslim women's rights, rights of people with disabilities, rights of sexual minorities, violence against women, and those championing the causes of families of disappeared persons.

Many activists raised the dearth in funding for them to carry out their work: for example, they do not have enough resources to implement programmes for their constituents; or they only receive project funds that do not cover their operational costs such as wages. Therefore, we realised that it is essential to create collaborative efforts with other networks and peer donors to provide them holistic support and protection.

### WHAT WE DO AT CONSULTATIONS

- ✦ Learn and understand the issues and struggles of women and non-binary human rights defenders;
- ✦ Introduce UAF A&P, its grant-making criteria and programme;
- ✦ Explore possibilities of providing support through rapid response grants
- ✦ Expand and strengthen our network of Advisors.
- ✦ Offer basic digital security orientation to women and non-binary human rights defenders.

**“Security only is not enough. Livelihood, and sustainability of that livelihood is important”, commented an activist.**

## THE NETS OF SUPPORT

**152**

APPLICATIONS  
RECEIVED AND  
PROCESSED

**34**

APPLICATIONS  
FOR RESOURCING  
RESILIENCE

**98**

APPLICATIONS  
FOR SAFETY AND  
WELL-BEING

**07**

APPLICATIONS  
FOR WELL-BEING  
SUPPORT

**36** GRANTS  
TOTALLING **USD\$137,620**

**89%**

SECURING SAFETY  
AND WELL-BEING  
OF WOMEN AND  
NON-BINARY HRDS

**17%**

SPECIALLY FOR THE  
WELL-BEING OF  
GRANTEES

**11%**

RESOURCING  
RESILIENCE  
GRANTS

**57%**

INDIVIDUALS

**43%**

ORGANISATIONS

Fighting for human rights, specifically for women and non-binary rights, entails multiple issues. We found that 53% of our grantees who are from marginalised communities – such as Indigenous Peoples, Land Rights Advocates, Ethnic and Religious Minorities, Peasant and Rural Women, Environmental Justice, and Health Rights Advocates – were in need of relocation and evacuation, including psycho-social support for themselves and their families.



## OUR GRANTEES ARE SPREAD ACROSS



"The funds provided by UAF A&P's grant allowed us to have a safe temporary workplace, secure communication methods, timely and necessary safety training, timely backup of information in each platform."

"With the grant enabling me to continue human rights work while in sanctuary, it allowed me to reach out to local and international human rights and peace advocate groups and individuals to seek support for myself, as well as for other rights defenders-at-risk."

## HOW WE FARED IN 2018

- ✦ Set up a secure application portal on our website.
- ✦ Doubled the number of advisors and peer donors to 94 and 19, respectively.
- ✦ Facilitated support to more marginalised groups.
- ✦ Reduced time taken to process grants from 15 days to 10 days.
- ✦ Created a referral system for co-funding with peer donors, such as Frontline Defenders, Dignity and Lifeline.
- ✦ Ensured that our applications are available in more languages than English. Translation to Filipino has been completed; translations into Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepalese and Tok Pisin are underway.
- ✦ Produced two short audio-visuals. Of these, one video was specifically produced to help guide activists and organisations with the grant application process. We realised that short films help explain processes more easily in contexts where language is a barrier.
- ✦ Conducted several digital security orientations to support the use of secure modes of communication among applicants, advisors, and grantees.



## WHAT WE LEARNED WHILE GRANT-MAKING

Bolstering security was the top reason for seeking grants. 17 of our grantees used funds to evacuate or relocate to safe places due to threats to their livelihood and/or the need for wellness treatment and self-care. Others used it for activities required to guarantee safety, such as general security training and development of security infrastructure, digital security and legal assistance.

Primary human rights violations identified by women and non-binary activists and their organisations include: gender-based violence, attacks on life, bodily and mental integrity, physical and psychological deprivation of liberty, attacks against persons and reputations, legal provisions and practices restricting social, political and economic justice.

Advocating for human rights, specifically for women and non-binary rights, entails multiple issues. We found that 53% of our grantees who are in marginalised sectors – such as Indigenous Peoples, Land Rights Advocates, Ethnic and Religious Minorities, Peasant and Rural Women, Environmental Justice and Health Rights

Advocates – were in need of relocation and evacuation, including psycho-social support for themselves and their family.

State actors are main perpetrators of violations: Activists across both Asia and the Pacific pointed to state actors and agencies as the main perpetrators of violence.

Building a grant-making process and system that is centered on securing data and information shared by our applicants, grantees and advisors: required shifting of mindsets and habits of our team, partners, applicants, grantees and advisors. They had to be apprised of the risks and threats that occur when using unsecured digital tools or platforms.

We received few applications from young women and non-binary activists and their organisations; and activists living with disability and their organisations. This indicates the need to improve our access and increase our reach across both regions.

**“It’s the first time someone is asking about our personal needs as an activist”, disclosed an activist during our consultations.**



## FORGING WEBS OF SAFETY AND CARE

In addition to providing immediate assistance through rapid response grants, we realised that activists need a systems approach to create a sustainable environment of safety and care, amid hostile political contexts that affect their activism. Based on an initial draft developed by Kamala Chandrakirana, we began consultations with activists to discuss and develop a framework.

### THE FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS

28-29 August 2018 | Philippines

The participants at the workshop affirmed the relevance of developing a framework to facilitate self assessment of existing systems of protection and support for activists. They were also keen to explore possibilities for collaboration with other service providers and stakeholders to address gaps in support and protection for activists.

We created a needs assessment tool that helps to: identify threats faced by individual activists, their organisations and their communities; assess existing systems of protection and support in responding to these threats; and take steps to address gaps in these systems of protection and support for women and non-binary activists at risk.





## FRONT AND CENTERING SAFETY AND CARE

What guides the Enabling Defenders programme?

Safety and care were affirmed by the activists as the central lens from which to examine four key aspects for their protection and support: **health and well-being; legal and political protection, social and cultural support, and economic viability and sustainable livelihood.** We developed a series of questions for documenting aspects of responses **pre, during and post crisis** across **individual, relational and contextual levels.** It also has specific questions for the **individual, organisation and community.**

The collective approach with the participants in developing this tool has allowed it to evolve as not just as a guide for UAF A&P's Enabling Defenders programme, but also resulted in participants taking collective ownership of the tool. They are eager to test it to assess systems of protection and support in their organisations. We will be rolling it out in other countries and contexts to develop models.

How does the webs of safety and care system work?

WHRDs need to feel safe, not just physically but also mentally, legally, socially and economically. Apart from being WHRDs, they straddle multiple other identities, such as mother, sister, employer and social worker. They are also complex, thinking human beings at a personal level. Their activism impacts and is impacted by these other identities. So for them to feel completely safe, all these complex identities need to feel safe. They require a system that addresses not only the immediate crisis they face, but also also takes a long term approach towards addressing anticipated risks and threats. We hope to ensure that this approach considers the unique local context WHRDs work in and the relationships they have developed at all levels.

# RESOURCING RESILIENCE AND CAPACITIES

Over 2018, we focused our efforts on activating philanthropy by building alliances and partnerships that shift the culture of giving and harness new resources for women & non-binary human rights defenders. As part of our Diversification of Resources campaign, we gathered ideas on how communities view resources.

## WHAT DO WE VIEW AS RESOURCES?

**Funding** - donations and/or grants

**Networking** - ability to connect with women's, non binary human rights, feminist and social movements and networks

**Partnerships** - that help national and regional fundraising and those that can be joint funders or network partners

**Volunteers** - including advisors and board members who can help in communications, fundraising and governance

**Professionals** - who can be part of our webs of safety and care; such as lawyers, doctors, social workers

**Expertise** - women human rights defenders and non-binary human rights defenders lived experiences

As a result, we began working on realising our priorities, which included:

- ✧ Setting up the Women of Courage Asia & Pacific network.
- ✧ Developing a better understanding of philanthropy in Asia and the Pacific through research and consultation - who resources what, where & why?
- ✧ Collaborating with national and regional women's and non-binary human rights funds to innovatively harness resources to activate regional philanthropy.
- ✧ Identifying more and increasingly diverse funding resources for the sustainability of activism.



In 2018, we successfully mobilised resources to the tune of USD 1.2 million from foundations. While the bulk of the grants were to cover our general operating costs, we have also received grants to increase access to resources for WHRDs living with disability, to strengthen our sister funds coordination and functioning as well as to establish robust monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning frameworks. We also received donations from individual grantees.

Going forward, we seek to tap new sources, including the private sector, individual and bilateral donors and fundraising events. We hope to work in collaboration with other actors in the space and test new ways of

engaging with resources outside of conventional sources of support, including high net worth individuals and impact investors.

To better understand regional philanthropy, UAF A&P, in collaboration with the Fiji Women's Fund, commissioned a scoping study on philanthropy in Fiji and Papua New Guinea. The study will map the types of resources that are currently available, or which can be mobilised in these countries for gender and social justice; who are investing and why they invest. The study will also make recommendations on how we create and sustain support for activism; it will also try to broaden the definition of resources beyond money and amplify the culture of giving and sharing that already exists in the region.

The Women of Courage network is an experimental initiative that attempts to activate investment from Asia and the Pacific for UAF A&P. By engaging with high net-worth individuals, senior business executives and entrepreneurs, we hope to influence the flow and redistribution of resources. We also hope to connect the network with frontline defenders, to help them establish sustainable livelihoods.

UAF A&P hopes to initiate conversations that help define resources needed by communities and the role we could play in this co-created ecosystem. In 2018, we organised face-to-face dialogues in January and in June, where the resource mobilisation team strategised with two members of the WoC at the Asia Venture Philanthropy Network Conference.

## THE PATHS WE TRAVERSED

- ✦ Asia Meeting of the International Women's Funds Network, Prospera, Mongolia
- ✦ Gender, Disability and Development Institute's WILD-Asia program, Sri Lanka
- ✦ Pacific Human Rights Conference, Fiji
- ✦ Urgent Action Fund Sister Funds Retreat, Fiji
- ✦ Urgent Action Fund Sister Funds ED and Communications retreat Retreat, Mexico
- ✦ Human Rights Funders Network conference, Mexico
- ✦ Asia Venture Philanthropy Network Conference, Singapore
- ✦ Internet Freedom Festival, Spain
- ✦ Forest Defenders Conference, Thailand
- ✦ 8th Asian Regional Human Rights Defender Forum, Indonesia
- ✦ Human Rights Defenders World Summit, Paris



## FOSTERING A WOMEN OF COURAGE NETWORK

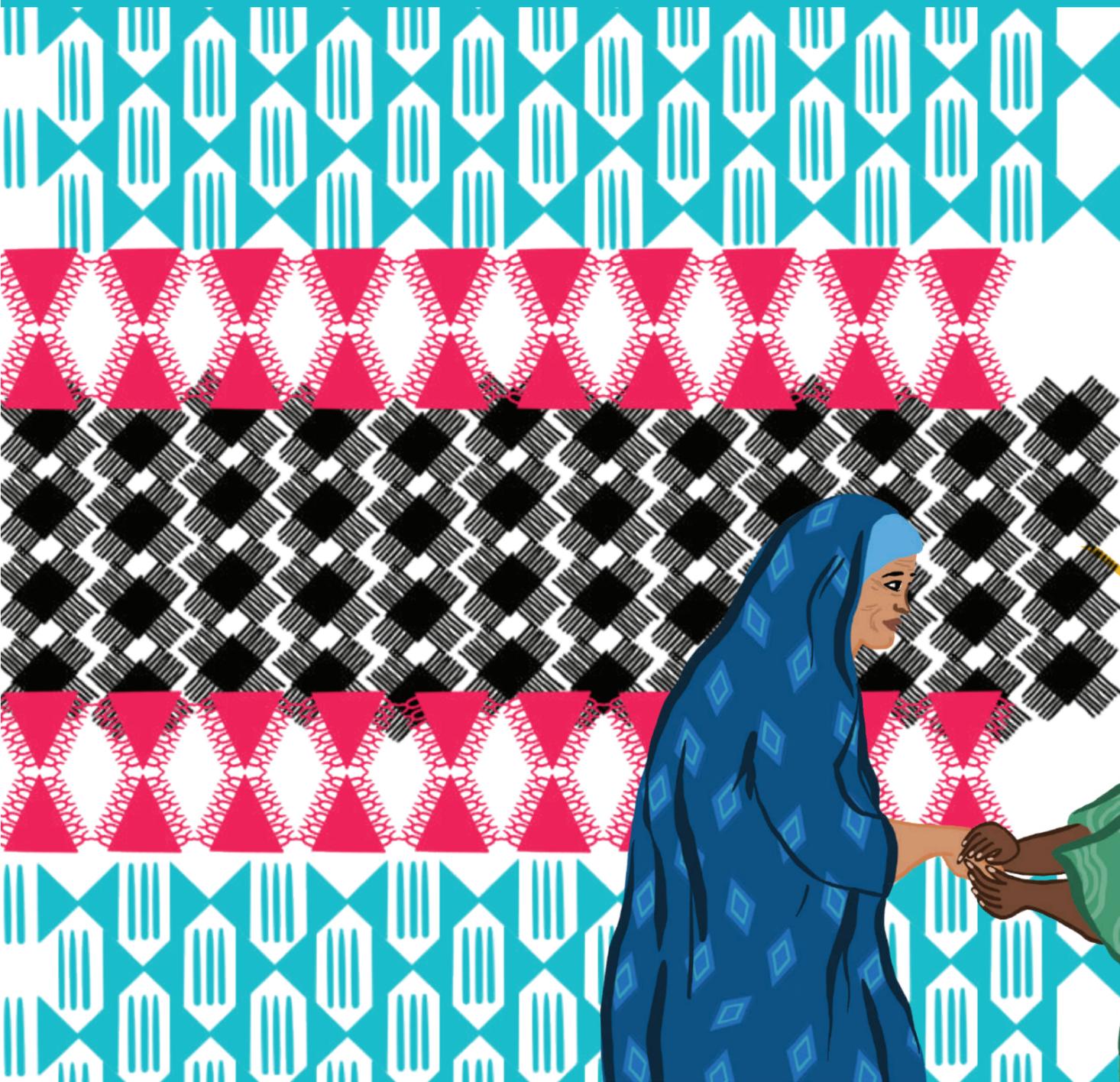


## THE WARPS AND WEFTS OF COLLABORATION

The network of Urgent Action Funds – Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and US are striving to build their global visibility through a shared vision, provide a supportive peer network, and enable each individual sister fund to carry out advocacy relevant to all. The learnings from the work we lead and innovations we practise are also shared.

### ASSESSING THE MODELS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

With a collective agreement in place, efforts are being to ensure that the Sister Funds are equipped to take up increasingly coordinated joint projects in communications, evaluation and learning and in resource mobilisation. In 2018, to better assess the sister funds model and more deeply understand the key elements of such an association, what works and what can be improved. Work has begun on finding research partners who can document the Sister Fund model while also offering an analysis of the model's key strengths and weaknesses.



## UAF SISTERHOOD PRINCIPLES

In May 2018, the communication teams of the four sister funds, evolved a set of joint principles '**UAF Sisterhood Principles**' to guide our internal and external communications.

### **Collective Visioning & Learning**

Embrace the power of collective visioning, reflection, learning and experimentation.

### **Power Sharing & Co-Responsibility**

Share power, co-create, share responsibility, practise democratic decision-making and participation.

### **Respect & Value Diversity**

Recognise, respect and value our differences and diversity.

### **Trust & Transparency**

Work to develop trust, work with transparency and integrity, and support each other.

### **Working with a Soul**

Practice meaningful solidarity; commit to collective and self-care as a political act and sustainability strategy for our movements.



## CO-CREATING MECHANISMS

### **Communication**

The four sister funds are trying to co-create communication mechanisms that enable an internal learning circle on the "culture of giving" for each region. It aims to put into practice the principle of acknowledging our differences, while also advancing the political education culture of our sisterhood.

- ❖ A common brand identity and landing page – Work began in November 2018 towards creating a common brand identity for the sister funds
- ❖ Fundraising page – It was proposed that dedicated pages to contribute to the work of other sister funds be created on the website of UAF WHR, so that donors can give directly to the regional fund of their choice.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning**

UAF-WHR is currently leading the implementation of a work plan spread across two years that focuses on a monitoring evaluation and learning (MEL) plan that includes:

- ❖ developing a collective theory of change for shared Sister fund strategies, including for rapid response grants and convenings
- ❖ developing a shared MEL framework and workplan with common outcomes & indicators;
- ❖ exploring a common platform that centralises and stores data in one place, keeping in mind security and confidentiality concerns; and
- ❖ exploring common software solutions for qualitative and quantitative tracking and analysis of data.

# THE THINKERS AND DOERS

*The feminist visionaries who guide and inspire us.*

## OUR REGIONAL GOVERNANCE BOARD

Chair: Kamala Chandrakirana,  
Ambika Satkunanathan  
Georgia Mathews, (resigned December 2018)  
Roshmi Goswami  
Xiaopei  
Devi Leiper O'Malley  
Ofa Guttenbiel Likiliki

## OUR PHILIPPINES BOARD

Chair: Angela Villalba  
Judith Pamela A. Pasimio  
Kamala Chandrakirana  
Andy Yentriyani  
Marla Alcazar Barcenilla

## OUR AUSTRALIAN BOARD

Chair: Charmaine Rodrigues  
Elizabeth Cox  
Georgia Mathews (resigned December 2018)

## OUR TEAM

Mary Jane Real, Lead, Programs and Innovations  
Virisila Buadromo, Lead, Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation

Grants team  
Grants Facilitator: Joana Palomar  
Enabling Defenders Facilitator: Jebli Shrestha

Finance Team  
Finance Facilitator: Elvira Colobong  
Strategic Finance Facilitator: Fareen Jalal

Communications & Learning Facilitator: Deepthy Menon  
IT Support Facilitator: Esther  
Resource Mobilisation Facilitator: Noelene Powell



# CONNECTING THE DOTS

Our total income received was USD882,293. The focus of 2018 was establishing ourselves as new feminist rapid response fund in the Asia and Pacific regions, and to continue to take over rapid response grant-making for women and non-binary human rights defenders in our regions, from Urgent Action Fund, Women's Human Rights based in Oakland, USA.

Our Regional Board set a target of USD150,000 for grant-making in its first year. The team partnered with women and non-binary human rights defenders in Asia and the Pacific and tried to make their lives and communities safer through 36 grants totalling USD137,620. This amounted to 16% of our budget. We also supported our rapid response grant-making

efforts by establishing our Enabling Defenders Programme and developing our Webs of Safety and Care framework; establishing our Activating Philanthropy programme and undertaking out-reach activities and missions in Philippines, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea. These Programmes cost USD442,540 which attributed to over 50% of our total budget.

Our administration costs in 2018 included overhead expenses, such as insurance, rent, equipment, as well as legal and financial charges associated with registering offices in Australia and the Philippines; most of which are one-off in the year of setting up operations. Our total expenditure was USD293,978 which was 33% of our overall budget.



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Bank Accounts  | 673,824 |
| Current Assets | 2,349   |
| Fixed Assets   | 7,589   |
|                | 683,762 |

### LIABILITIES

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Current Liabilities     | 30,045  |
| Donations In Advance    | 645,248 |
| Non-Current Liabilities | 133     |
|                         | 675,426 |

### NET ASSETS

8,336

### EQUITY

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Accumulated Funds     | 181   |
| Current Year Earnings | 8,155 |
|                       | 8,336 |

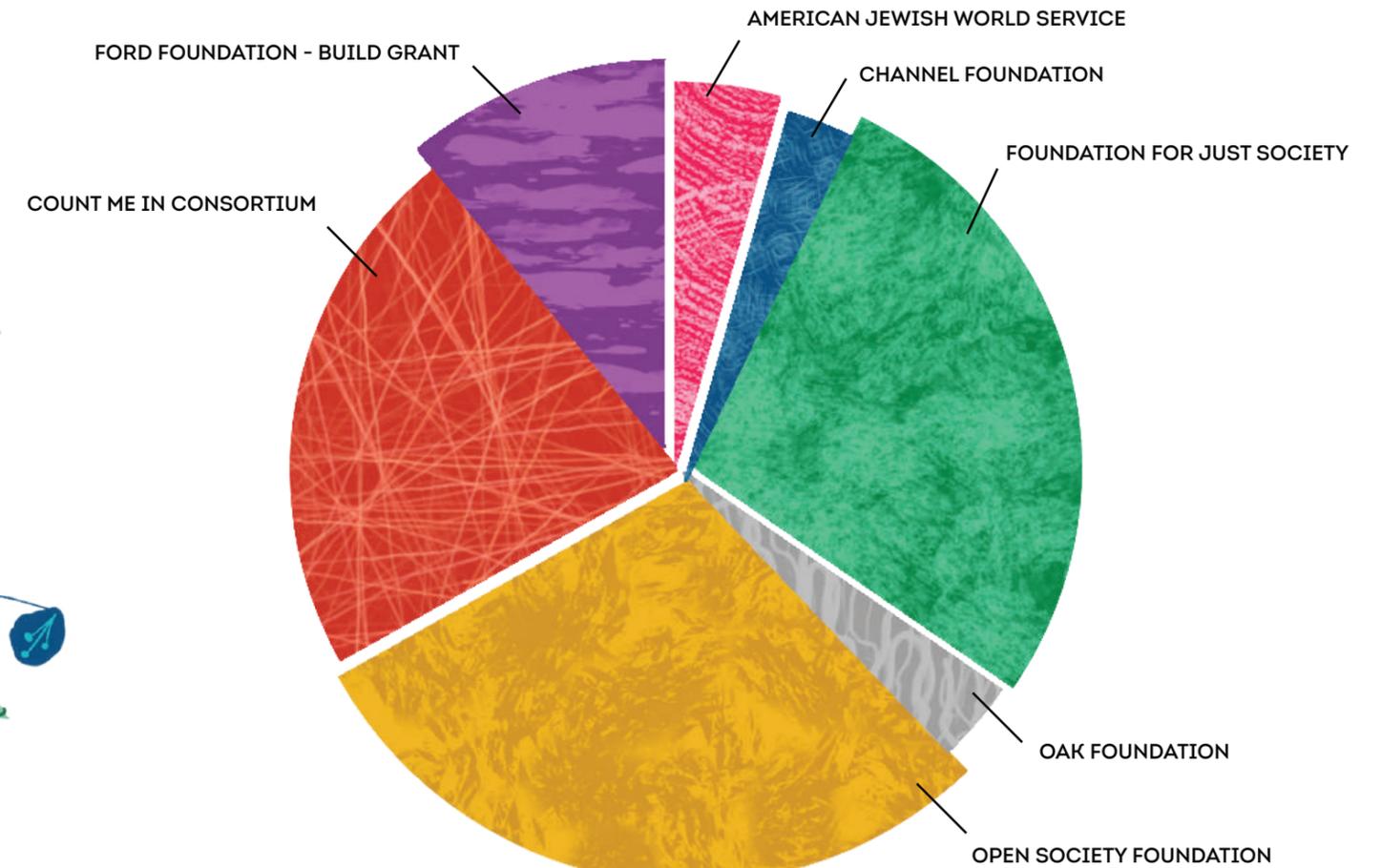
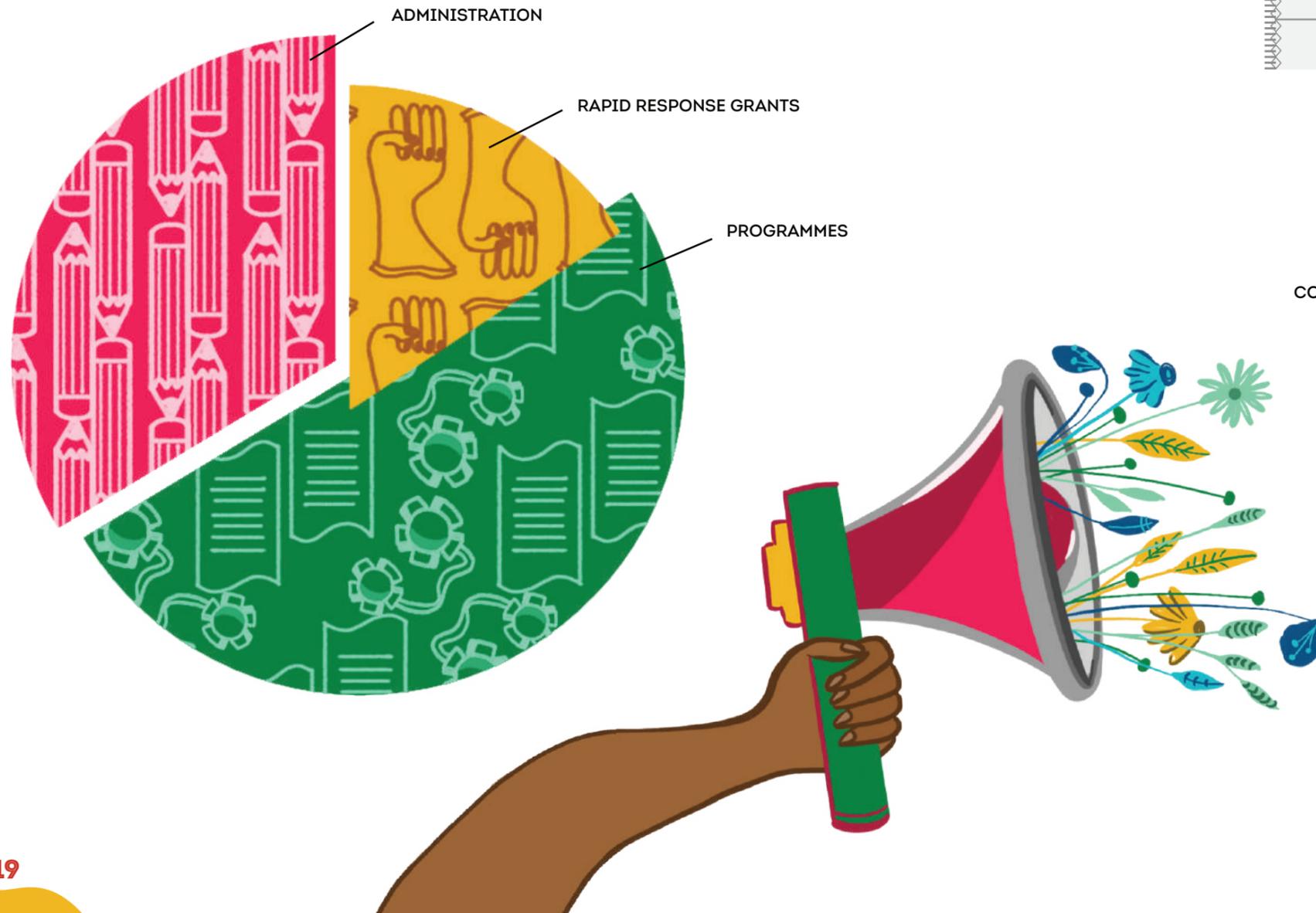
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|--------------------------|---------|
| <b>INCOME</b>            | 882,293 |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>       |         |
| Rapid Response Grants    | 137,620 |
| Programmes               | 442,540 |
| Administration           | 293,978 |
| <b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b> | 8,155   |

## THE FOUNDATIONS THAT DIRECTLY SUPPORTED US

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| American Jewish World Service | \$40,000  |
| Channel Foundation            | \$25,000  |
| Foundation for Just Society   | \$250,000 |
| Oak Foundation                | \$30,000  |
| Open Society Foundation       | \$264,000 |

*We were also supported by donations that we received via the Urgent Action Sister Funds consortium*

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Count me in Consortium       | \$202,000 |
| Ford Foundation- BUILD grant | \$100,000 |





# URGENT ACTION FUND FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ASIA & PACIFIC

 [uafasiapacific](https://www.facebook.com/uafasiapacific)  [UAF\\_AP](https://twitter.com/UAF_AP)  [uaf\\_anp](https://www.instagram.com/uaf_anp)  [www.uafanp.org](http://www.uafanp.org)

*UAF Asia and Pacific would like to thank our supporters for showing solidarity with our mission*

Ambika Satkunanathan  
American Jewish World Service  
Charmaine Rodrigues  
Cheryl Saunders  
Count Me In Consortium  
Channel Foundation  
Elizabeth Cox  
Ford Foundation  
Foundation for a Just Society

Global Fund for Community Foundations  
Kamala Chandrikarana  
Likusoka Buadromo  
NoVo Foundation  
OAK Foundation  
Open Society Foundations - OSF  
Peter Schnatter  
Roshmi Goswami  
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

