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In Memory of Tatiana Cordero

We honor our colleague, friend, guide, and Executive Director, Tatiana Cordero, who passed on in April 2021. Joy washes over us as we remember the seed she planted in each of us, all the lessons she left us, the trust she placed in us as individuals and as a team, the conversations, the magic of working in a team, the importance placed in the collective and in listening to others, the tranquility of being able to share opinions and certainties, and to follow our intuition, roots, the strength of spirituality, and the ties to our ancestry.

Tati taught us to take pause when facing an emergency and to place Care at the Center of everything we do, interweaving and rooting ourselves in the South and the collective. Today, we feel her presence with strength in those daily tasks that are guided by the heart, confirming our desire to continue paving UAF-LAC's path forward, using everything we learned from her. We miss her infinitely and her departure is an ongoing process of unexpected mourning, but our hearts will always hold her warmth and our voices will express her spirit, as we continue to contribute to our region's resistance by promoting more sustainable, care-based, and enjoyable activism.

Fly high Tati and thank you for the 'buen vivir' we shared!



"The heart of the Fund is care." Our identity at UAF-LAC is care."

-Tatiana Cordero V.

Injustice, inequality, discrimination, criminalization, extractivism, and the systematic violation of human rights are not new phenomena in 2020 for Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates the crises, showcasing the current system's effects on the lives and bodies of women, trans, and non-binary people. Regardless of the country, we saw how lockdown, prevention, and COVID-19 response measures were accompanied by the use of force, an increase in state control over people's lives, surveillance, and militarization, as well as increasing violence against women.

In many countries, the measures sought to contain the virus, but many other aspects were ignored. Our conversations with activists showed us that the health crisis also directly impacted their communities, homes, bodies, and emotions. They referred for example to long work hours, having to respond to a changing and uncertain context, a shift of most of activities to digital spaces—oftentimes with connectivity challenges—in addition to increased care work; also, the constant fear and risk of becoming ill, the loss of loved ones, the permanent collective mourning, and

indignation in the face of injustices were causes for even higher levels of exhaustion amongst activists.

For UAF-LAC, 2020 was a year full of challenges and lessons. We were called to expand our reflections on productivity, work balance, and care for ourselves and others, and to keep in mind the importance of taking breaks, listening to our body, and embracing the uncertainty. And without knowing it, it was a year that would prepare the entire team and Board of Directors for important changes and transitions.

Tati left to be with her ancestors in April 2021. This report is an invitation to not only learn about what we did this year, but also to share lessons and challenges, and in particular to celebrate Tatiana's journey and legacy arising from her eight years as Executive Director, her vision for the Fund, and the mark she left on everything we do each day.

As a team, we take care of each other and we want to share our experiences with the organizations and networks that we support.

Maria del Rosario Mina Rojas
-President of the Board of Directors

Laura, Terry y Lorena -Colectivo de Dirección

UAF-LAC's Response to 2020's Challenges Call Buckey

Direct and Timely Funding

More Flexible and Broader Criteria

In March 2020, given the crisis produced by the COVID-19 pandemic, we talked with over 50 organizations to identify new needs and challenges and decided to expand our grant criteria to better respond to the context. For example, making our criteria more flexible allowed us to approve Rapid Response Grants (RRGs) for actions to produce and deliver food and personal protective equipment to activists and their communities.

In the context of the Women and Territories Program, resources that at first were planned for in-person events or other face-to-face activities were allocated to expand the number of Strategic Grants (SGs) and strengthen grassroots organizations during this complex context. We also decided to make reporting dates more flexible given the organizations' increased workload, the need to adjust the initial timelines, and the bureaucracy of the region's banking system, which may be the greatest challenge to deliver resources to the organizations in a timely and safe manner. Also, many of the supported organizations modified their strategies due to governmental restrictions, which is why it took them longer than originally planned to implement their actions. During this year full of uncertainties, these changes and

adjustments were made possible because we listened closely to and actively supported the organizations that we finance. Acuerpamiento (solidarity in action and spirit) was a key component to sustain the efforts and resistance of women defenders and trans and non-binary activists in a variety of contexts and emergencies.

RRGs Trends

1. Strengthening protection initiatives and measures

Amid the pandemic and the changes that it produced, women defenders and activists faced new digital and physical risks in their local contexts. These risks increased under government-decreed lockdown measures. To confront these risks, the organizations carried out actions to strengthen digital protection and security, for example, with trainings on the safe use of ICTs and by establishing safe communications plans. Collective and community-based protection efforts, such as campesinas rounds or guards, were strengthened in the regions as physical protection measures. Activists' homes and organizations' offices were physically reinforced as increased security incidents took place in these locations during the lockdown. This was carried out by installing cameras and doors or reinforcing ceilings and windows.

2. COVID-19 response

In the context of the crisis unleashed by the pandemic, multiple strategies were supported in response to the effects of lockdowns and other government measures. Among these actions, we supported communications efforts to share accurate information on the health situation. Often, this information was translated from Spanish into indigenous languages and was shared using alternative media, such as communityradiostationsorcommunityloudspeakers. Several organizations acted to respond to the exacerbated violence during lockdowns by providing training and accompaniment. Among the pandemic responses, we also supported efforts to recover traditional knowledge and strengthen communities as a way to increase protection. Additionally, by relaxing our grant criteria, we were able to support the sustainability of movements so that they could respond to the pandemic's effects using strategies such as community gardens and kitchens and the purchase of personal protective equipment.

3. Strengthening collective care initiatives

We supported diverse collective care and acuerpamiento initiatives and actions for activists and their organizations in response to the fatigue and wear generated by lockdowns and exacerbated crises. Although these actions could not be carried out in person, using virtual tools made it possible to

reach other activists and defenders in different areas and it created a collective connection that went beyond borders. To implement these initiatives, it was necessary to support activists' and defenders' connectivity, especially in rural contexts where internet connection is intermittent.

SG Trends

1. Support for agro-food initiatives

To strengthen food sovereignty and highlight traditional planting knowledge, protection of native seeds, preparation of typical recipes, and efforts to collectively work the land, sustainable agro-ecological practices such as agro-ecological gardens and reforestation initiatives based on agro-food diversity were promoted. Women defenders planted spices and medicinal plants in their communities, which were also a part of disease prevention and response protocols in the context of the pandemic. Advances in campesinas, indigenous, and Black food sovereignty initiatives prior to the pandemic made it possible to guarantee healthy food for families and communities during the crisis. The communities continue to work on their productive systems, as they foresee a prolonged economic crisis that will outlast the virus.

2. Support for internet connectivity for collective care and protection in the era of isolation

In the face of challenges to come together and maintain customary collective work, it was essential for women's organizations to have digital communication tools. Also, given the lack of spaces for peers to dialogue, listen, and carry out acuerpamiento and support processes, the organizations prioritized their care, support, and collective protection initiatives using digital platforms, which were complemented by in-person spaces following COVID protocols in each case.

3. Flexibility for primary support in the crisis

It was essential for women defenders to include emergency measures in their action plans for Strategic Grants so that they could respond during the first months of pandemic and strict quarantine. The fact that it was impossible to work, travel, and transport their products to market under safe conditions led to increased vulnerability, requiring collective actions to distribute food, medicine, and personal protective equipment that could produce relative calm to rethink the organizations' other activities. Solidarity-based initiatives were important to maintain a minimum of individual and collective well-being, in particular for older women and single mothers. On the other hand, due to the increase in violence

against women during quarantine, the organizations had to adapt their accompaniment efforts to respond to situations of risk and violence and to file complaints.

Reflections on Support for Collective Care

The context of urgency in the region and for women defenders of territory has become even more complex due to both new risks related to the pandemic and an intensification of previous issues. Collective care strategies responded to situations of risk and violence faced by women, trans, and non-binary people through accompaniment, acuerpamiento, shelters, etc.

Cumulative exhaustion due to the lockdown and psychoemotional fatigue led activists and women defenders to strengthen healing and care processes using ancestral and collective practices, in most cases led by women, trans, and non-binary people. Growing medicinal plants, developing recipes that strengthen the immune system, providing support to the communities' most vulnerable individuals, and conducting rituals were among the actions carried out by the organizations from their different worldviews and cultures to fightthevirus, preventit, or heal from its impacts. Even though





they are responding to diverse situations, care practices are related to each other and other actions to respond to the emergency, territorial defense, and their ways of life. Hence, they correspond to the collective protection of the body-territory in a holistic manner. The organizations have also developed processes to create collective agreements based on the perspectives of women, trans, and non-binary people on care, generating inter-generational dialogues focused on the recovery of ancestral and grassroots knowledge regarding health, language, cultural identity, etc.

Reflections on Accompaniment for Organizations

In March 2020, the Rapid Response Grants Program began receiving requests to respond to the pandemic. Based on a constant dialogue while processing the requests, we were able to find out how the activists were doing, support them to adapt strategies or budgets according to their identified needs in times of constant change, and propose that they

include collective care actions to accompany the strategies they would implement during an urgent action. For many organizations, the RRG team's accompaniment helped them to think about and carry out new care activities in response to the context; for example, when receiving requests to accompany survivors of violence or when reinforcing refuges or shelters, we discussed the exhaustion and fatigue that team members were facing, inviting them to propose care actions that would allow them to take a break or respond to the needs of their own collective.

On the other hand, during the initial months of the pandemic, when there was still limited information on what was happening and the impacts began to be felt differently on a familial, community, and organizational levels, our Women and Territories Program, communicated with about 20 organizations of women defenders of the territory who have received our Strategic Grants. Checking in on them, sharing the experiences of women in other territories, and





reaffirming our support as UAF-LAC in these circumstances were actions that were valued by the organizations as a way of showing solidarity and support amid the anxiety and uncertainty. Based on these conversations, we systematized the main challenges faced by women defenders of the territory given the intensification of health, economic, and social crises. We focused on making project implementation more flexible in terms of timelines and possible adjustments

to activities, given the impossibility of in-person activities. We provided the closest accompaniment to the organizations with whom we were already working, and we managed to triple the number of Strategic Grants for women defenders of the territory in a critical moment for traditional and rural communities.

Rapid Response Grants (RRGs)



207 GRANTS PROVIDED

87 Opportunity120 Protection and Security

Compared to 2019, RRGs increased by 52% in 2020

We provided 71 additional grants compared to the previous year.

Grants delivered to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: 120 grants

Transformation Story RRGs

Brazil - Ayomidê Yalodê Black Women, Holistic Protection Practices

Every day, Brazil's black population faces diverse types of oppression, exclusions, and even systematic genocide in their communities, all of which are intensified by the lack of public policies. This is particularly evident in the lives of women, black activists, and non-binary people. Amid this reality, which was aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Collectives of Black Women Ayomidê Yalodê in Salvador de Bahía were able to establish care and protection networks that strengthened physical and digital security at the organization's shelters. Through its shelters and in close coordination with networks such as Associação Afrocultural Casa do Mensageiro and Coletivo Feminista Filhxs do Sol, it was possible to provide a safe and equipped space to address the needs of activists and women human rights defenders, and reduce the impacts of Covid-19. Also, a variety of digital security workshops were held on communications strategies for the defense of LBTIQ+ youth rights and to establish safe communication channels for the orientation and support activities.

The organization also provided psychosocial support and accompaniment on sexual, reproductive, and non-reproductive rights, as well as strategies to face the pandemic. These initiatives were both in-person and remote, which made it possible to provide assistance to people in other states of Brazil, mainly in rural contexts. Additionally, they delivered basic baskets and hygiene kits to LBTIQ+ defenders, as a food and nutritional safety strategy to reduce the risks of infection, face the crisis and confinements. With the implementation of these strategies, the organization was able to incorporate its reflections and learnings into their actions to have a greater reception capacity for both activists and their families, in addition to having added spaces for trans people. The actions also generated community awareness and as a result, other families were willing to open their homes as an extension of the shelter's network, thus strengthening the social fabric and community networks.

"Currently, the organization is more structured, with tasks divided among the members, we opened spaces for trans people, including trans men, because we began to understand that our struggles needed to come from a collective perspective and that within Black feminism we can't discriminate by gender."

Strategic Grants (SGs) 42 GRANTS PROVIDED

Compared to 2019, SGs increased by 175% in 2020.

We provided 30 additional grants compared to the previous year.

Also, we managed to add 5 more countries to the list of eligible countries where we provide this type of support.



Transformation Story

Women of the Leco Indigenous People in Search of Revitalizing Their Local Agro-food Culture

The situation of indigenous peoples in the Bolivian Amazon was already quite complex, with a lack of guarantees for their rights in the face of advancing illegal mining. During the pandemic, State abandonment became more visible, with scarce medical attention and a high number of COVID-19 deaths in indigenous communities. In this context of intense adversity, the women of the Leco indigenous people found the strength to continue as a collective. With support from UAF-LAC, they strengthened actions to recover and revitalize their culture. They identified some women guardians of ancestral knowledge and, with them, prepared a plan to transfer that knowledge to the communities' youth using their own language, as a way to recover and preserve their language, culture, and knowledge of the territory and medicinal and food plants.



The agro-food systems also reduced the pandemic's impacts on the community's families.

At the same time, the women created an intimate space to talk about and reflect on cases of gender-based violence in the community. "As an organization of indigenous women, we have strengthened internal collective protection and care practices. We have an internal protection and care system that arose out of self-care and thinking about the collective, being attentive to the situation of other women and mutual support because we know that this is the only way we can feel safe." In the process, the women's organization has been strengthened, with greater involvement and leadership in community activities. Where there was a belief that only men

could lead, women have brought their energy to propose and lead initiatives that monitor the entire community's well-being and their ability to remain in the territory. The women of the Leco indigenous people are also strengthening their capacity to use and manage social media.

We invite you to visit their themselves run.



page, which they





Amid the multiple exacerbated crises in 2020 and due to the lockdown, we engineered ways to stay close to the activists and movements. We were attentive to individual and collective rhythms, and we called for awareness of our digital bodies' need to breathe amid the 24/7 hyper-connection that was normalized in our daily life. In March, the entire UAF-LAC team took part in contacting and talking with women defenders, allies, and activists to find out how they were dealing with the lockdown, what their needs were, and what they prioritized as urgent to move forward amid the crises so that we could update our response and accompaniment strategies. In the face of this new global situation, we continue discovering opportunities for personal and collective care and other ways to keep listening actively and opening our hearts.

Online Conversations

The Sustainable Activism Program participated in two online public conversations to share our vision of care and protection. The first space was convened by LIMPAL Colombia and their partners and friends in the region, and the second Facebook Live was framed in a series of dialogues promoted by Corporación Casa Amazonía. Both were spaces to share experiences of coping with the impacts and effects of activism, as well as

of mutual aid and celebration practices. We offered ideas on alternatives to be and feel well amid the pandemic and the new structure of organizational and community life, positioning an ethic-politics of care to carry out sustainable activism.

Guide to Identify Alternative Protection Plans

We undertook our first online training on capacity building among activists, with the *Platforma de Incidencia Política de Mujeres Rurales Colombianas* (Political Advocacy Coalition of Rural Colombian Women). During 13 online sessions, we facilitated a process to identify alternative protection plans from an ethical-political position of care. From our experience in this area, we proposed a methodology of questions that lead participants to recognize their needs, practices, ideas, beliefs, wisdom, and their personal, familial, or organizational experiences.

Dominican Republic + Costa Rica Virtual Outreach

During 2020, we carried out our "Outreach Visit" virtually due to the pandemic. Between December 4th and 16th, we met with a total of 36 organizations and collectives from the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica to talk about advances, setbacks, and the initiatives they are a part of in relation to the rights of women, trans, and non-binary people in their countries. We also discussed the defense of territory and shared with them opportunities to receive UAF-LAC support.

Find the complete note on these visits HERE.





RightsCon: Working in Restricted Civic Spaces in Central America

Wewerepanelists, representing the Count MeIn! Consortium in an online panel during RightsCon, organized by CIVICUS along with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Costa Rica. JASS, HIVOS, Both ENDS, and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD Honduras) participated. The aim was to present the challenges faced by civil society organizations in contexts of democratic crises, closing of spaces, and movement actions to address these challenges. UAF-LAC presented the challenges and risks for women defenders and feminist activists, which have increased during the COVID-19 crisis, and some of the main strategies on funding, accompaniment, visibility, and the strengthening of the networks of UAF-LAC and CMI! Consortium to support them in this context.

Voices

"The Alternative Protection Plan is about the physical and emotional integrity of the 65 organizations we accompany. It goes beyond a mere protocol, it is something that can be felt on the inside and out and covers, for example, how to implement it in a decision matrix for displacement"

-Participant from the Plataforma de Incidencia Política de Mujeres Rurales Colombianas "Our deep gratitude for the continued accompaniment and for the invaluable accompaniment during the month of July to celebrate the Day for Afro-Latina, Afro-Caribbean, and Diaspora Women"

-Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora

"To see how far we can get, to say that and see what is holding us back.

To measure the temperature, examine our internal and external selves, conspire, construct and deconstruct what is affecting us"

-Participant from the Plataforma de Incidencia Política de Mujeres Rurales Colombianas "I am a total fan and pupil of UAF-LAC. They shared so much wisdom at #CADF2020. There were really great recommendations for donors on care and protection"

-Lariza Fonseca

"Our activism is sustainable thanks to our collective acuerpamiento and the sorority among all those who defend our rights and the rights of other women"

-Griselda Lupi (Red contra la Violencia de Choluteca y Red Nacional de Defensoras) "During 2020, the support that we received from you was huge. Thanks for your warmth and for walking with us in this journey. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to work together again in the foreseeable future. A warm hug."

-Paî Tavyterâ Jopotyrâ

"Their presentation, 'Recommendations for Donors on Care, Protection, and Movement Sustainability in Times of COVID and Beyond,' was a key component of this year's agenda. A forum the scale of CADF is strengthened through meaningful conversations with leaders from organizations in the region like theirs, which is why we are so grateful that they have shared their knowledge and tools with our audience"

-Seattle International Foundation

"We do not have words to express our thanks. The project has had a major impact, and this was thanks to the support from the UAF-LAC team. Mainly, their level of active listening in each step we took, their resolve to fulfill mutual commitments, and their warmth and respect have been, and are, a sacred space in this support that is part doing and part being. As well as the experience of learning that it is possible to work in a healthy environment, both in person and, in this case, online"

-CONAMI

"UAF-LAC, their support, and the project's content have granted us an in-depth understanding of the importance of having our own space as women in the organization, and they have invited us to take on the important challenge of building that space with our male colleagues. Our reflection is that we must create a way to have reflections and practices with a gender perspective as a structural part of our struggle. We learned to have courage and trust our own capacity building initiatives because we often let other organizations do this for us because we don't have the knowledge or aren't experts on the subject, but we have initiated a reflection process based on our questions and challenges"

-Asoquimbo

"UAF's support is a lifeline for women's organizational initiatives, making it possible to strengthen and expand feminist struggles and to defend the territory. It is important to think about the continuity of certain projects that could have a two- or three-phase plan, to advance efforts that originate in the territory and as a way of materializing women's dreams within social and economic efforts. We used to associate self-care with a protection strategy that responds to a violent incident, but now we see self-care as a set of elements that should be strengthened on individual and collective levels and which involves the body in all its aspects: emotional, social, spiritual, physical, and even economic."

-Movimiento en Resistencia a la Minería y el Extractivismo del Carmen de Chucurí



LBTIQ+ Training Processes

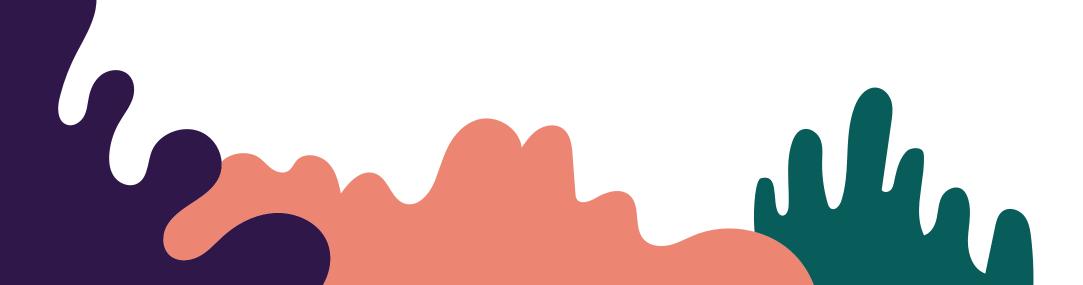
During the first half of 2020, UAF-LAC's entire programmatic and administrative team was invited to a training process to expand their knowledge, build closer ties, and broaden their perspectives and capacities to analyze the current realities of lesbians, trans people, and sexual and gender dissidents in four specific territories: Brazil, the Southern Cone, Central America, and the Caribbean. As a political focus, we prioritized updating our funding strategies for lesbian women and trans people and actively listening to the movements during four webinars held between January and May. The process was methodologically oriented by Ana Lucía Ramírez from the organization Mujeres al Borde and Rosa Posa from Akahatá, who included the voices, experiences, and knowledge of ten lesbian feminist, trans, and transfeminist activists in these educational spaces. We offer our deepest gratitude to AnaLu, Rosa, Altamira, Viaviane, Michele, Magdalena, Daniela, Numa, Bryam, Nayeline, Alana, and Vivian as their contributions were decisive to expand our understanding of these movements' needs and goals and to collectively address the initial months of the lockdown.

"The Fund is truly and effectively recognizing sexual and gender dissidences, and not only the diversity of women"

- Rapid Response Grants Team

Reflections on Collective Care

Each year, we seek out ways to expand our team's collective care practices. In 2020, these were essential to take the pulse of the team and reflect on and share the challenges and impacts of the lockdowns and policies adopted in the different countries where we have team members. Thus, in August 2020, with support from Catherine Pulecio, we had two Care Sessions. These were spaces to share tensions, concerns, feelings, and emotions, allowing us to work on strengthening care and internal communication during the pandemic.



Internal Adjustments and Practices

The Care Sessions also allowed us to adjust some institutional practices to respond to the team's needs. At that time, the reflections from our Executive Director, Tatiana Cordero, were essential. She invited us to recognize that our work rhythms and timelines could not be the same in the context of the pan-

demic and lockdowns, and that it was important to be even more intentional about our work and personal life balance. That is why we made the workday more flexible and began to think about support sessions for team members in 2021, which complement the existing collective spaces.





The social and health crisis forced many defenders and activists to move their organizational initiatives, work, and advocacy to digital arenas, which generated physical and emotional exhaustion in the face of excessive connectivity. At the same time, there was also an increased risk of facing an attack related to these technologies. So, during the year, our knowledge production was centered on the creation of documents and publications that allowed us to share some of our experiences, reflections, and lessons as a virtual team, as well as some tools we have developed within the Sustainable Activism Program.



TIPs for collective digital care



TIPs for emotional care



Systematization of Relocations

Also, in response to the changing context, which has a differential impact on the people supported and accompanied by UAF-LAC, we decided to rethink and reconsider several of the products that we were working on. Therefore, in collaboration with Latin American journalists, we produced a special piece on indigenous women. Additionally, we were able to systematize COVID-19's impacts on the life of activists and defenders globally, together with the **Urgent Action Sister Funds**.



Special on Indigenous Women



COVID Systematization



Recommendations for Donors



Rooting CARE



Advances: Global Research on Care

Finances

Financial Growth

Despite the context, in 2020 UAF-LAC was able to maintain its financial growth, achieving a

27.56% increase compared to 2019.

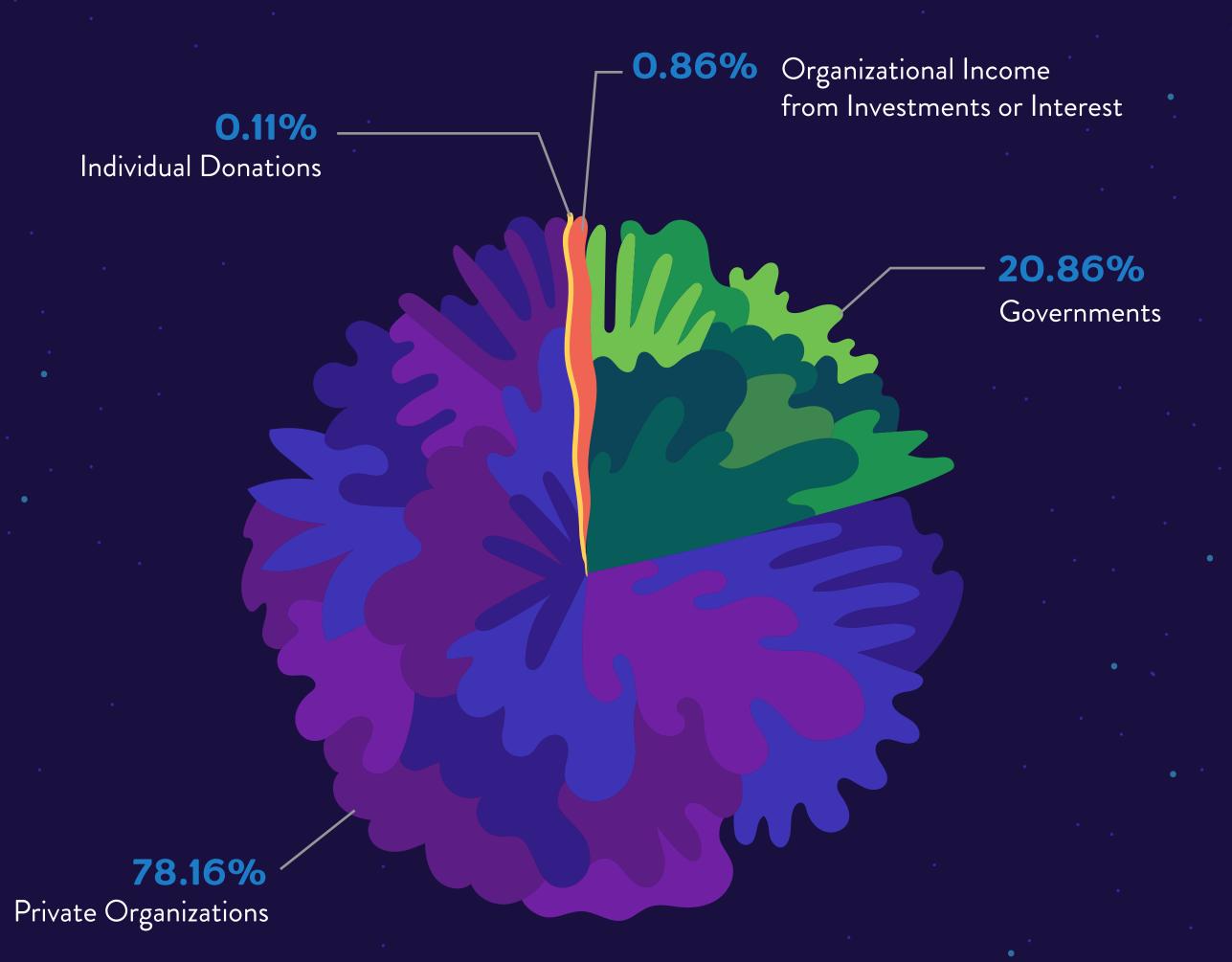
2019

2020

In total, 2.863.369 USD was executed.

FUNDING

Our funding came from:



BUDGET DISTRIBUTION

How was the budget distributed? (USD \$2.863.368)



USD \$204.675

USD \$2.563.595

Funding, Accompaniment, and Capacity Building for Organizations





Activists and Women Defenders

We thank all the activists, women defenders, organizations, groups, collectives, and networks that, in spite of 2020's constant challenges, found alternatives to continue their resistance, organizations, and struggles, and maintained collective care networks that are stronger than ever, saving lives, embracing uncertainty, and building new possible worlds.

Allies

To our allies for accompanying us, sustaining us, and supporting us during this global COVID-19 crisis, and for holding us with affection and solidarity upon the loss of our Executive Director, Tatiana Cordero. We received your messages of support and solidarity during these difficult times, and we felt united despite the distance, joined by our hearts. Thank you!

Donors

We are especially thankful for our donors' flexibility, will, and understanding amid the crisis that the world is facing due to the pandemic and the multiple crises exacerbated in Latin America and the Caribbean. Thank you for contributing, through UAF-LAC, so that the transformative power of women, trans, and non-binary people can continue to grow in the region.

