

Weaving hope, resisting through care: 15 years of UAF-LAC

**DIGNITY &
REBELLION**





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Presentation

We open this report with a collective gesture. We wove this report together during our face-to-face meeting in 2025, when the seven members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Co-Directors wrote together—based on a string of letters—a text that strung together poems, memories, and dreams. The tapestry of voices shared below reminds us that we walk together, that memory is strength, and that the future is sown with hope.

This new cycle is a motivation to keep moving forward despite the pain, seeking joy along the way, where we all laugh, dream, and enjoy ourselves. We are living in very difficult times in the world, and every day we rise, rise, and rise. The world wants us down and under, and yet we rise.

The force that drives us pushes us to rethink our struggles, to feel cared for and loved, to renew ourselves and to stand together as one body. Even if they try to clip our wings, we will still fly.

May words sprout where embraces grow, with the gift of our ancestors and the knowledge woven with new generations, to overcome the internalization of the oppression that has denied us ancestral knowledge.

In 2024, we renewed ourselves, reflected on our memories, recognized our journey, and imagined a different future. This cycle taught us valuable lessons about our internal and external work. It taught us the importance of flexible grantmaking, because as circumstances become more unpredictable, it is essential to have funds that can be quickly allocated.

We also learned that responding to emergencies in the context of ongoing crises requires more than resource mobilization; it also requires paying special attention to the emotional and physical well-being of activists. We supported the organizations' own strategies for creating spaces for healing and emotional support, and we saw the importance of strengthening the networks we have woven so far.

Thus, this collective creation is an invitation to read this 2024 Annual Report as a living narrative. A report that tells the stories and actions we accompany, from the struggles and beating hearts of a Latin America and Caribbean that continue building themselves from resilience.

Simone Cruz
Chairperson of the
Board of Directors

Terry de Vries y Sofía Marcía
Co-Executive Directors





Introduction



The year 2024 was particularly significant for the Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean (UAF-LAC). We celebrated fifteen years of walking alongside those who uphold life, dignity, and hope in this deeply unequal region, where polycrisis are exacerbated by violence and impunity arising from authoritarian regimes and fragile democracies. Reaching 15 years of age invited us to not only look back and recognize the lessons learned, the struggles, and the resistance we have accompanied, but also to project ourselves into the future with a renewed image that reflects the ongoing transformation of our work.

In the face of the adverse circumstances we are living, we believe it is an act of dignity and rebellion to celebrate, with righteous anger, these years of continuous work alongside the social and feminist movements of the region. We are celebrating our fifteenth anniversary in a year marked by a deeply critical context. Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, structural violence—fueled by drug trafficking, corporate interests, and States—is endangering the lives of those who defend life and rights. To name a few cases, repression intensified in Nicaragua;

the armed conflict in Colombia worsened; in Brazil, authoritarian policies advanced alongside extractivism and the criminalization of communities; and, in countries like Argentina and Chile, the climate crisis and extractivism intensified the forced displacement and expulsion of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.


And although the right wing, fundamentalism, and militarization are advancing, the movements have not given up. Movements continue to create, to hold on to hope, and to care for one another. And, UAF-LAC has been there, embodying (*acuerpando*), responding urgently, and placing care at the center of our actions.

Our Rapid Response Grants (RRGs) are, and have always been, a vital tool for the safety, comprehensive security, and Collective Care of movements; Strategic Grants—which in 2025 were reborn as “Apoyos de Cuerpos y Territorios” (Grants for Bodies and Territories)—allowed us to accompany more sustained processes; the new Regional Grants opened up avenues for strengthening collective action in the face of common challenges

experienced in different territories across the region; and the Caracola Grants provided us with insights into how to make activism sustainable by placing care at the center of organizations.

This report recounts that journey. Fifteen years of history, reached in 2024, reaffirms that our work goes beyond funding: it is also a political practice of care, of listening, of presence, of collective care. We continue to walk alongside those who, even in the most adverse contexts, never stop sowing life. Because **embodying is resisting, and caring is also transforming.**





The systematization and analysis of our Grantmaking, allows us to read the context faced by social and feminist movements. We observed that 2024 was a year marked by repression and criminalization in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Through persecution, censorship, harassment, and violence against activists and human rights defenders, various governments implemented processes that led to the exile and elimination of rights in Nicaragua, the repression of defenders of the territory in Mexico, the harassment of feminist and human rights movement in Argentina, and to criminalization and surveillance in El Salvador.

The thematic category most supported by UAF-LAC in 2024 was “the entrenchment of authoritarian and repressive policies that criminalize social protest and the work of activists and human rights defenders”; in view of this, movements are responding with strategies laden with knowledge, hope, and solidarity.

For example, in Mexico, we support a collective that defends its territory against the construction of the Interoceanic Corridor of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, a railway project that seeks to connect the Pacific Ocean with the Atlantic Ocean, crossing ancestral and indigenous territories. Out of dignity and love for their territory, the members of this collective held a sit-in protest that lasted over two months. By providing them with a grant, we accompanied their physical and digital security and their legal defense.

In Argentina, the authoritarian context and economic crisis have placed movements on a permanent state of alert. Among other actions, we supported the convening of meetings of women farmers who coordinated strategies for mutual support and the defense of rights in the face of criminalization. We also supported key actions that reclaimed memory, truth, and justice in light of the discourses that glorify dictatorship.



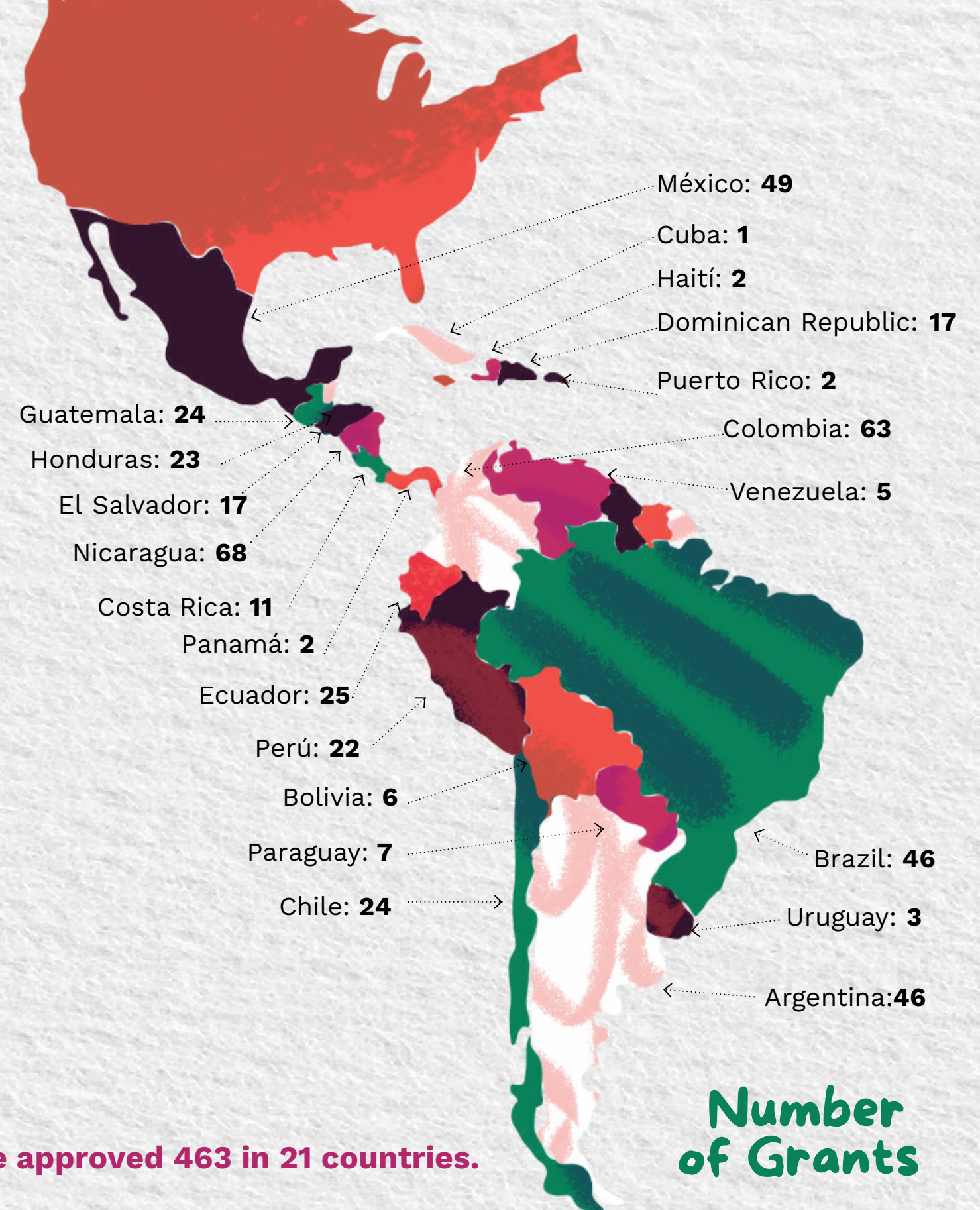
Our essence: timely funding

Our Grants

Over the course of 15 years, we have listened, learned, and reflected alongside the social and feminist movements that have allowed us to accompany them. This journey led us to flexibilize and adapt our criteria and expand our grantmaking modalities. In 2024, we saw another of our bets come to fruition: that is **accompanying the weaving of cross-border initiatives**.

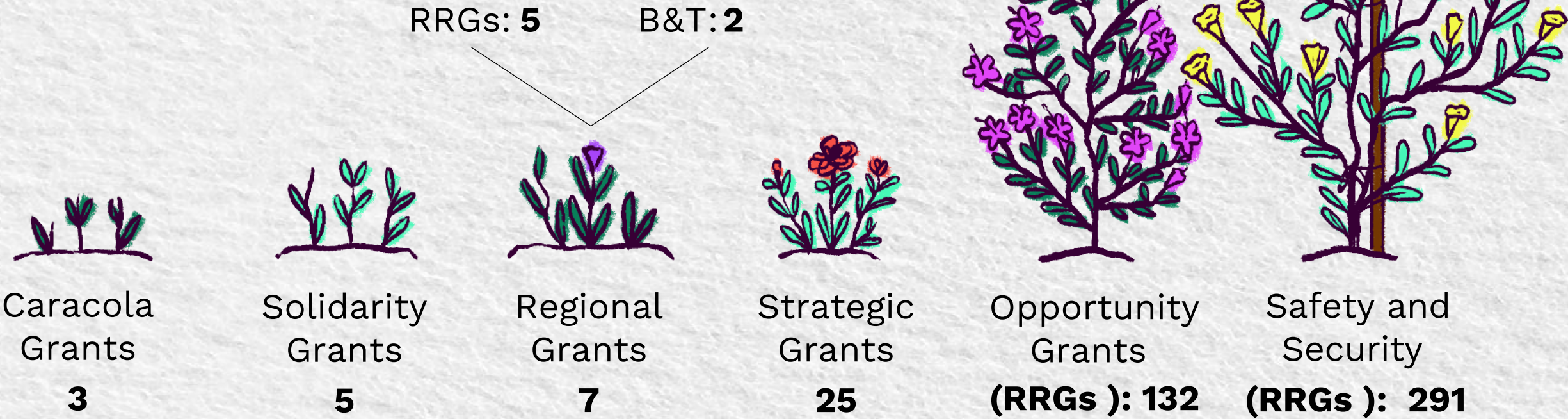
During this time, and with the purpose of providing closer accompaniment, we incorporated various methodologies into our direct funding modalities to movements, such as bilateral conversations, collective evaluations, narrative and financial reports, face-to-face meetings, and spaces for accompaniment. Through this process we identified the wear-out, grief, and challenges that organizations face, which in turn allowed us to understand the interdependence between the personal, the collective, and the territorial in each context.

In 2024, we received a total of 872 applications, of which we approved 463 in 21 countries.



This is evidence that our efforts respond largely to crises in the region and embody the strategies of safety, comprehensive security, and collective care promoted by the movements, defenders, and activists themselves.

Type of Grants: 463



Populations supported

In 2024, we supported organizations and actions led by women and sexual and gender dissidents who self-identified as: urban 107; forcefully displaced persons 69; LBTIQNB+ 69; indigenous persons 60; Afro-descendants 41; rural persons 42; farmers 28; youths 23; persons in detention 8; sex workers 7; people with disabilities 6; environmentalists 5; and Afro-indigenous persons 2.



Strategies that inspired us in 2024

This year, we were inspired to see how, despite repression and criminalization, movements continue to resist through collective care strategies, territorial defense, and political coordination, promoting agrarian reforms, consolidating safety networks, and rebuilding communities in the face of dispossession and violence.

Economic crises were particularly severe in some countries in the region, yet alternatives were developed through solidarity and networking. We provided grants to organizations that underwent government budget cuts, the elimination of public policies for groups in conditions of great vulnerability, and cuts in public budgets. Our grants were used for actions like the payment of salaries, while activists devised long-term strategies for their sustainability. Soup kitchens were organized to provide food to people with limited access to food, and to generate collective discussions on food emergencies, strengthen community ties, and create political advocacy strategies in response to needs.

Our Collective Care Grants


One of our strongest bets is our commitment to care. Over the course of the last 15 years, we have recognized that there is no single recipe or proposal, only processes that are not linear and are part of the fabric of life. Our Grantmaking allows applicants to request additional funds for collective care actions. Among the applications approved this year, 297 included collective care strategies. **63% of approved applications incorporated at least one action of this type, a higher percentage than in previous years.**

We are pleased to see that the inclusion of Collective Care Actions in all our grants continues to increase. The most supported collective care strategy in Rapid Response Grants (RRGs) was psychological and psycho-emotional accompaniment or therapy, which accounted for 20% of all actions, followed by meetings between members, spiritual strengthening and protection, and healing processes.

As for Collective Care actions in the Grants for Bodies and Territories, the organizations attached priority mainly to:

rest areas, strengthening bonds, and recreation. Training in care, digital security, emotional management, feminist self-defense, and comprehensive safety. And, days for self-care, healing, and stress relief.





Socio-environmental struggles face the expansion of extractivism, militarization, and repression. Communities and peoples defending their territories are subjected to control and violence linked to illicit economies. Through the applications, we learned that in countries like Ecuador, Colombia, and Brazil, this disproportionately affects women, sex and gender dissidents, activists, and racialized populations in the region.

In these contexts, during 2024, movements led relocation, safety, and emotional support initiatives, as well as comprehensive security and safety strategies and access to rights, strengthening the resilience of communities affected by armed conflict in the region and the complexities of the contexts, brought about by organized crime actors.

In Ecuador, the declaration of a state of emergency due to the internal armed conflict under the government of Daniel Noboa intensified militarization and violence. We supported a collective of family members of persons deprived of their liberty in care facilities; a transfeminist organization in the development of security strategies; and women from disadvantaged neighbourhoods with legal workshops and emotional support to cope with the context of terror and violence.



Accompanying from a distance, but also up close

Our bet on close accompaniment has grown stronger over the last 15 years. We have expanded our methodologies and spaces, while preserving our essence. We have long known that being present allows us to put our body and heart into our work and recognize ourselves in others. In this regard, face-to-face meetings proved pivotal not only for supporting organizations in their reflections and processes, but because it allowed us to learn firsthand about their care practices, organizational strategies, and the reality in their territories.

These spaces have proven essential for strengthening trust, generating collective agreements, and empowering mutual learning between organizations and activists. In addition, they have allowed us to identify better logistical strategies for transferring funds, ensuring that disbursements are timely and do not pose risks to organizations. During 2024, we had the opportunity to organize and manage spaces where we established that connection.

AcuerpaFAU

In view of the crisis in Argentina with the arrival of Milei and the exponential increase in the number of grant applications, we decided to organize AcuerpaFAU. The south of the region is seeing rights being cutback, the closure of ministries, increased violence, and hate speech. In this context of extreme precariousness, where activists and organizations had to triple their efforts to survive, we decided to move into that territory.

The convening brought together organizations from different provinces, providing activists with the opportunity to politicize care, strengthen their networks, acknowledge their emotions, and reaffirm a transfeminist pact. This was our second AcuerpaFAU, an initiative through which we materialize international solidarity and contribute to the sustainability of movements, providing respite in a context of crisis.



Convening on Climate Justice and Gender

This was an in-person event that took place in Colombia in May. This gathering marked the culmination of a process that took place virtually throughout 2023. The Learning Group on Climate Justice and Gender, as we called those who accompanied us on this journey, was made up by 13 territorial organizations led by women and gender and sex dissidents from across the region. In early 2024, the group reorganized to collectively define the objectives, topics, and methodologies of the in-person gathering. The event allowed us to deepen our reflections and collective care practices and processes, as well as strengthen our network of affection and struggle for our bodies, territories, and nature. It also led us to dream more joint projects to continue creating collectively.

Caracolas Meeting

We traveled to San Andrés Islas, Colombia, from October 2 to 4, 2024, where we met with those who received

Caracola Grants during the pilot phase. This space was in response to the need they expressed for a physical space for celebration, exchange, and mutual recognition.

In this ancestral land with a large Black presence, we reflected on the lessons learned and challenges faced by Caracola Grants, reaffirming personal and collective care as the central axis of movements and generating profound reflections on the sustainability of activism. Participating organizations shared some of their key lessons with us, such as the importance of saying no, prioritizing rest and pleasure in activism, and recognizing the energy of collective care as the flow of giving and receiving.





Our bet in support of weaving strategies across borders

Regional Grants

After fifteen years of traveling this road, we broadened our perspective. Our ongoing accompaniment showed us that regional embodiment is a key strategy for strengthening collective responses in crisis situations. Coordination maintains an active presence and generates networks of solidarity that amplify the impact of our actions. For this reason, in 2024, we awarded seven Regional Grants.

One of the Regional Grants that filled us with hope was managed by Colmena Cimarrona, who began by creating multimedia guides on Caribbean farming for liberation, through exchanges in several Caribbean countries.

Our Finances



Knowledge Management and
Production **54.280 USD - 1%**

Strategic Communications
38.211 USD - 1%

Strengthening knowledge
and practices **177.649 USD - 3%**

Building and Sustaining
Partnerships **323.508 USD - 5%**

Organizational Strengthening
2.150.996 USD - 34%

Direct funding to organizations
3.645.582 USD - 57%





What these numbers reveal

How were funds executed in 2024?

Total: **USD 6.390.225**



Administrative
expenses:
USD 261.122



Internal
strengthening:
USD 374.675








Program expenses, partnership
building, communications,
and advocacy geared to the
philanthropic community:
USD 1.931.198



Direct and timely funding
earmarked to organizations,
accompaniment, and strengthening
organizations:
USD 3.823.231



Where does our income come from?

-  Private Foundation Donations - **58,3%**
-  Bilateral Donors - **33,3%**
-  Women Funds - **7,8%**
-  Non-Governmental Organizations - **0,4%**
-  Others (Individual Donors) - **0,1%**



In 2024, hostility against historically vulnerable populations also intensified. Hate speech escalated in various countries in the region, driven by ultra-conservative sectors and backed, in many cases, by government decisions.

Against this backdrop, in 2024 we provided accompaniment to mobilization, advocacy, and protection processes in response to legislative attacks, setbacks in public policy, and direct persecution of activists and organizations in Peru, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras.

In Peru, following the Supreme Decree issued by the Ministry of Health, declaring transsexuality, transvestism, and homosexuality as mental disorders, contradicting international mental health standards recognized by the WHO, we supported awareness-raising actions and campaigns in response to the wave of attacks that have been unleashed against the LBTIQNB+ population.

We supported the launch of a communication strategy on the WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD) and its impact on trans women, providing leaders in three cities with tools and accurate information about the ICD and its impact. In addition, safety and security workshops were proposed prior to the sit-in protests, as well as artistic and activist interventions in public spaces in Lima, under the banner of “Alfombras Rojas” (Red Carpets).



Acknowledgments



We would like to acknowledge and thank all the defenders and activists who have accompanied us during these 15 years of continuous work, for sharing their stories with us, and inspiring us to continue building other worlds. We want to continue providing accompaniment from close by and embodiment.

We also acknowledge and thank the UAF-LAC team for bringing our vision and mission to life through their effort, enthusiasm, and dedicated work. In 2024, the team was made up by 29 persons from across the region: Sofía M, Terry, Erix, Alejandra, Sofía A, Luz Stella, Lorena, Morgan, Sheila, Natalia, Pilar, Dirce, Ber, Yanina, Maite, Marina, Sazu, Itzel, Anaiz, Paola, Juliana, Yolanda, Adriana, Luisa, Patricia, Yamile, Magnolia, Michelle, and Pilar.

We extend our special thanks to our network of donors and partners for allowing us to continue furthering our mission, as well as to all those who support our daily work through logistics, consulting, interpretation, and specialized advice. We acknowledge their contribution to continue building collectively a philanthropy and networking effort with care at the center.



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Latin America and the Caribbean**



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