



A Year to Meet Each Other Again

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Annual Report 2022

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To our allies, defenders, donors,

We extend our heartfelt gratitude as we invite you to explore our 2022 annual report. We wish to share with you the hope and inspiration driving our efforts to construct alternative worlds in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are grounded in our collaborative work and the trust vested in us by women's, trans, feminist, and non-binary movements as UAF-LAC.

We are filled with gratitude and joy to present this report, which illustrates the invaluable lessons and challenges we faced amid deepening economic crises, political violence, racism, fundamentalisms, hate speeches, climate change, and the exploitation of territories, alongside issues such as drug trafficking and democratic crises. These multiple crises have disproportionately affected the individual and collective bodies of women and gender dissidents.

Throughout this year, activists and defenders have continued to defend life and their territories by becoming more and more rooted in care, strengthening movements that continue to show us through

collectivity the importance of coming together and continuing to build sustainable activism.

As we look ahead to 2023, we are enthusiastic about redesigning our new Five-Year Strategic Plan. Simultaneously, we are fortifying the Co-Executive Direction and extending a warm welcome to new members of the Board of Directors. We eagerly anticipate the steps we will take to reinforce our role within philanthropy and uphold our strategic-political responsibility as UAF-LAC, both regionally and globally.

Thank you for your unwavering support of our mission and your dedication to promoting equality and justice.

Lydia Alpizar

PRESIDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sofia Marcía & Terry de Vries

CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Introduction

After 2 years during which we learned to navigate uncertainty, grief and loss, 2022 was a time to think about a new moment of collective construction. It was a moment in which all of us who make up the Fund reorganized ourselves to continue responding to the demands of women, feminist, trans and non-binary persons,' movements in the region – a region in which economic crises, violence, racism, fundamentalisms, hate speech, climate crises, the exploitation of territories, drug trafficking and democratic crises continue to deepen.

We reaffirmed the importance of continuing to accompany diverse movements that continue to find diverse ways to confront and propose alternatives despite facing multiple crises. These movements continue to show us through collectivity **the importance of supporting one another.**

It is through our support – the mobilization of resources, strategic alliances and the search for justice in access to financing for the global south – that we continue to accompany these commitments, with support that allows organizations to carry out their strategies safely while putting reflections on care at the center.

During this time, it was important to continue learning from the movements what collective leadership means. We began to put this into practice in the Fund with the formation of an Co-executive Direction. In addition, through our support, we continue to reflect and transform the ways we accompany and sustain protection, security and collective care, in order to continue rooting ourselves in care and continue dancing the revolution.



Our Support

For the Urgent Action Fund of Latin America and the Caribbean, it has always been a priority to accompany organizations, networks, collectives and groups of women, trans and non-binary people with agile and timely support. The reflections, experiences, proposals and learnings that activists and defenders have shared with us have allowed us to expand our financing modalities, as well as (re)think the requirements, formats and procedures to apply for support. We want to respond to the context and support feminist movements that place care at the center of their activism.

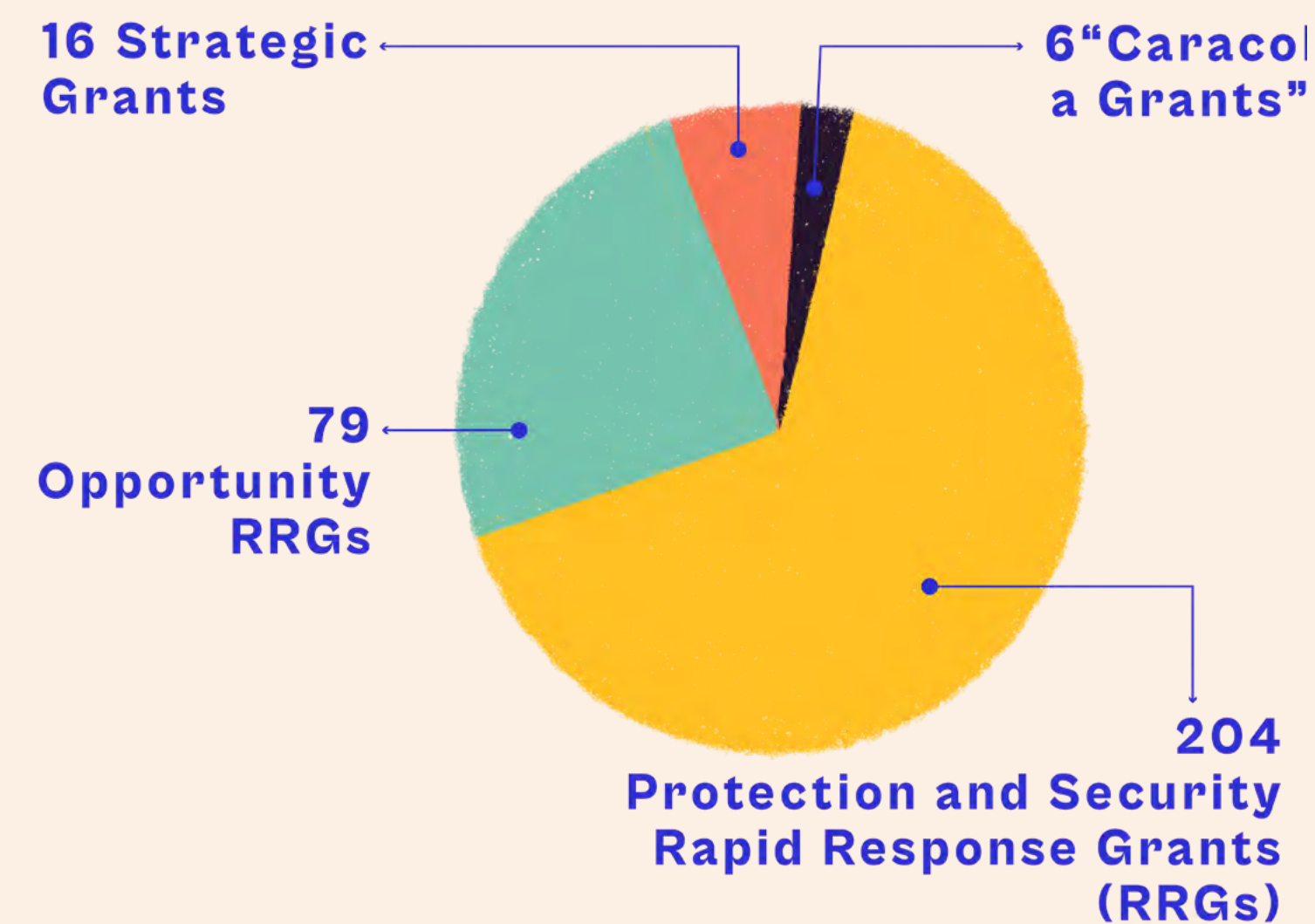
Making effective transfers to the organizations that we support implies an effort to understand and permanently adapt to the fiscal and banking dynamics of the different countries of the region, as well as NGO laws and other restrictions faced by the third sector. Such restrictions represent a closure of space for civil society organizations to act and continue operating.

During 2022, we supported women's and feminist movements in the region through three support modalities. Our analysis of proposals and actions that have been carried out allows us to look at trends in terms of the threats and risks faced by women and gender dissidents in the defense of human rights. It also allows us to identify ways in which these processes of struggle and resistance are carried out.

This year, we granted a total of **305 grants in 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean** – 22% more than in 2021. Over the 14 years in which **we have been operating as the UAF-LAC, we have supported more than 1,586 organizations and groups in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

Below we share in more detail how this support was distributed in 2022, as well as the populations to which the resources were allocated.

TIPO DE APOYO ENTREGADO



305 GRANTS GIVEN IN 18 COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN 2022



**58% of the Grants
given include
Collective Care
strategies**

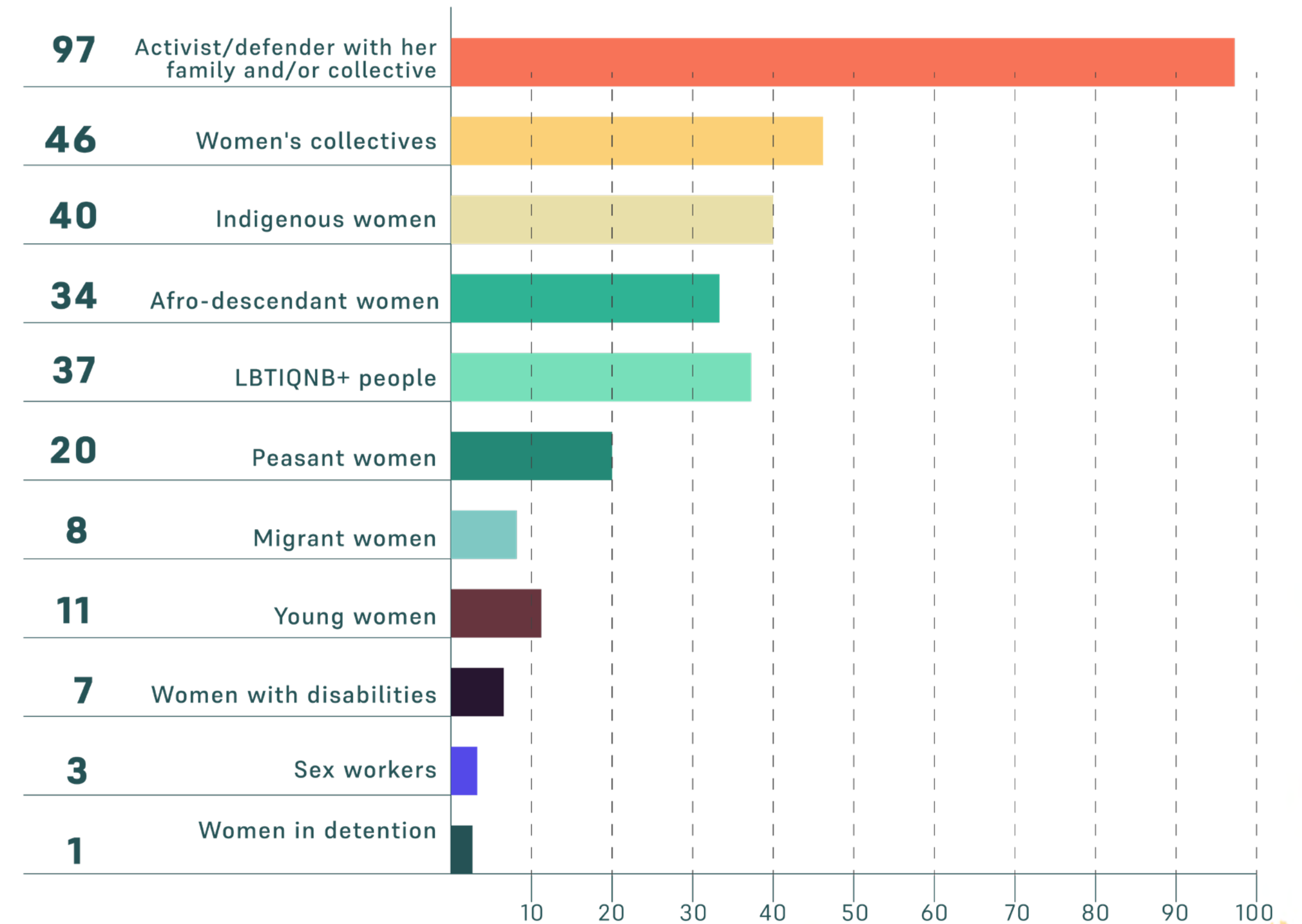
MAIN THEMES

- * Criminalization of social protests and work of activists and defenders of human rights
- * Environmental justice/defense of territory, nature and common goods
- * Armed conflict and peace initiatives
- * Civil and political rights

MAIN STRATEGIES

- * Temporary relocation for the defender and/or their nuclear family
- * Collective/community protection measures
- * Individual and/or collective healing processes to counter the effect of attacks; medical treatment/psychological or spiritual accompaniment
- * Social mobilization (occupations, marches, performances, etc.)

POPULATIONS WE SUPPORT





Rapid Response Grants

Our Rapid Response Grants (RRGs, or ARR according to the Spanish acronym) continues to be our way of supporting struggles and resistance in the context of permanent urgency that exists in Latin America and the Caribbean. Throughout 2022 **we processed 494 applications**. Of these, **283 were approved**, 79 of which were Opportunity Grants and 204 Protection and Security Grants. 55% of the total support given included collective care strategies.

Through these requests, it becomes increasingly evident the way in which political struggle, protection and security strategies and the resistance of collectives, organizations and movements are complemented, nourished and strengthened with **connections to ancestors, spirituality, music, art and culture**. This invites us to **broaden our view of what protection means in each specific context**.

The most notable thematic category was the criminalization of social protest, related to which we received 64 requests. This is in response to the

repressive and regressive context of human rights in several countries in the region, despite the turn to the left in countries such as Honduras, Peru and Colombia, among others.

We also provided financing to those who work on environmental justice issues, specifically actions related to the resistance and permanence of defenders in their territories where they face contexts of energy mining extractivism, the presence of organized crime and large-scale agribusiness projects. We supported the development of expert reports to demonstrate the historical right that women have over their lands, legal resources to defend themselves against criminalization and feminist caravans to unite struggles.

We also want to highlight actions of activism in contexts where fundamentalist groups that attack human rights are present, as well as support for legal guidance services for women who suffer threats in electoral campaigns and for issues of immigration regulation as a human right.

Strategic Grants

Strategic Grants, coordinated by our Women and Territories program, seeks to enhance territorial defense processes from women and activists related to protection, communication, advocacy, and organizational and community strengthening.

In 2022, the following were delivered 16 Strategic Supports in 6 countries: Mexico (7), Bolivia (5), Paraguay (1), Peru (1), Brazil (1) and Guatemala (1).

We also launched an open call for Ecuador and Colombia, in which we selected 10 proposals that would be carried out during 2023.

Accompanying defenders of territories and common goods has left us with profound learnings about the climate crisis that is having increasingly acute socio-environmental effects. From advocacy for the mobilization of resources to the delivery of support, the territorial perspective nourishes, locates and affirms the team in one of its founding areas of work.

As a Feminist Fund **we are called to strengthen our analysis of what it means to support the financing of local initiatives that move towards climate and gender justice.**

One of the challenges that the Women and Territories program has had over the years and that was present during 2022, is the difficulty of supporting urban territorial contexts, where territorial rights and community processes are experienced differently than in rural areas. In such areas the conditions and consequences of extractivism and different types of dispossession are manifested in different, perhaps less direct, ways, and are related to historical structures of dispossession, displacement, racism and impoverishment.

In general, the Strategic Grants provided represented support for paths that organizations were already building to try to reduce the injustices experienced in their bodies and territories. The grant was balanced between confronting megaprojects (through analysis, monitoring, advocacy and protest actions), internal strengthening (political training, workshops, convenings and strengthening of knowledge and culture) and care and protection actions (healing practices, risk analysis and safety plans, collective care reflections and workshops and convenings to enjoy and recharge). With Strategic Grants, organizations were able to visualize a means to strengthen the struggle, as well as to create, dream and take care of themselves in the midst of situations of extreme precariousness of their organizational and living conditions.

All Strategic Grants included **additional support for collective care**. This money allows some organizations to ask themselves how to include this perspective in their activism for the first time, while others allow themselves to deepen reflections that they previously had only in words. Those that already had this internal perspective more present see this support as **an incredible opportunity to move their plans from ideas to practice**.



Caracola Grants

During 2022, we carried out the first pilot of Apoyos Caracola, a category of support that is part of our Sustainable Activism program and that is another way of materializing our political commitment to putting care at the center. The Caracola Grantst pilot was carried out with 6 organizations in 4 countries (Guatemala, Venezuela, Bolivia and Paraguay) and 2 additional supports for collectives with regional actions. In the second phase of the pilot in December 2022, 20 new organizations were invited to participate. Of these, 13 grants will be selected to conclude this final stage of piloting.

Through these actions, we continue to contribute more and better resources to strengthen movements from the UAF-LAC's ethical-political commitment to Sustainable Activism.

“We have matured through the passage of crises and by coping with conflicts.”

Feminist Movements: the Heart of the UAF-LAC

Our commitment is from the South. We want to expand the visibility and agency of organizations, collectives, networks, and groups that are changing and modifying the systems of injustice and inequality they face. Through their activism, we learn about the context, their experiences and the strategies they develop to connect with other ways of inhabiting the world.

In 2022, the grants we provided allowed us to learn more about the realities faced in various parts of the region. We want to highlight a few.

Trends

THE WORSENING OF THE CRISIS IN NICARAGUA

In Nicaragua we supported 61 applications during 2022 – the most supported in any country – due to the deepening of the socio-political crisis. The arbitrary cancellation of organizations' legal entities was the greatest challenge that organizations faced. We supported the hiring of specialized technical accounting services, specialist lawyers and notary services so that organizations could comply with ministries and banks' requirements. This scenario implied another level of alertness for defenders, adding to the psycho-emotional impact it caused, where several defenders were left without employment and without their life projects.

Women defenders in Nicaragua and their families continued to suffer persecution, attacks, robberies, threats and repression by the regime and its sympathizers. We celebrate the continuation of actions of psychological and psycho-emotional support and various types of therapies to continue rooting care and making activities more sustainable despite the context.



HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN COLOMBIA

The Colombian context continues to be one of humanitarian crisis due to the persistence of the internal armed conflict. Despite the peace agreement and the historic change of government to a left-wing candidate, during 2022 no positive changes were seen in favor of the life and integrity of defenders and activists. Among the actions that were carried out were exchanges of experiences and strategies to improve access to abortion in the region given the advances in Colombia in this matter; mobilizations of trans women to be recognized as direct victims of the internal armed conflict; and meetings of women with functional diversity in different regions of the country to discuss a bill on personal assistance and basic income and to promote their participation.

In Colombia, women defenders and activists continue to be stigmatized, threatened, persecuted and sexually violated for their work in defending their rights, for their leadership against patriarchal structures in their own communities and for defending land and territory in contexts of mining, oil and energy exploitation.

ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDAMENTALISMS AND THE INCREASE IN ORGANIZED CRIME IN ECUADOR

At the beginning of 2022, the government of Guillermo Lasso began a discussion in the National Assembly regarding the Law that Regulates Access to Abortion in Cases of Rape, which activists warned would be a major setback for human rights and particularly sexual and reproductive rights. Three of the grants provided by the Fund confronted this context through actions such as: national mobilizations of women and LGBTIQ+ people, feminist political advocacy and protection, security and digital care actions.

Another aspect of the Ecuadorian context that is important to highlight is the increase in conflicts between illegal groups for control of drug trafficking routes close to the border with Colombia, which has particularly affected women in their communities. One of the organizations we supported **held workshops to implement community protection measures and strengthen care networks and community ties.**

VIOLATIONS OF INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA

This year we supported **defenders of the Mapuche people in Argentina to respond to violations of indigenous rights.** Indigenous communities faced an increase in territorial control by drug trafficking, resisted extractive projects and suffered evictions with the collusion of the state. Faced with a case of violent eviction that resulted in the arrest of seven Mapuche women, a delegation made up of 15 ancestral authorities received a grant to meet with Alberto Fernández in Buenos Aires. Through this activity, the president committed to open a dialogue to deal with the conflict.

Shared Experiences

SUSTAINING COLLECTIVE CARE THROUGH ANCESTRAL SPIRITUALITY

Collective Care as an ethical and political commitment from the Fund cannot be reduced to a definition or a set of practices, but rather is linked to much deeper processes and ways of seeing and living life that are diverse throughout the region. For this reason, it is important to us to continue sharing experiences and voices from indigenous territories and particularly from the perspectives of women that continue to nourish our reflections on Collective Care. One of the indigenous organizations that we supported in Colombia, shared their experience of support through the Fund with us:

“The main change was the strengthening of spirituality, since the fulfillment of the rituals of harmonization and protection allowed one to better energize one’s own protection and self-protection strategies; that is to say, it is from the practice, experience and fulfillment of ancestral medicine that women have advanced in processes of political participation and assumed leadership roles within the organization of the Cabildo... The difference was marked in the possibility of building measures and strategies that were guided by the Spirituality of our people...”

VOICES OF FEMIDISCA RESISTANCE

During 2022 we updated “Femidisca Mapping”, an effort to identify the multiple femidisca resistances that exist in Abya Yala. This process left us with deep reflections on the urgency and specific access needs for activists and defenders with disabilities in the region.

During this period, we were able to support the Self-Care Subcommittee of the 35th Pluridissident Meeting in Argentina and thus contribute to ensuring care conditions that supported the attendance of women and dissidents with disabilities at the meeting. They shared the following with us:

“The multitude of meetings contributes to the difficulty

of mobility and accessibility of people with functional diversity.... The (support of) the UAF-LAC was significant for the pluridissident meeting because we managed to agree on collective actions with political implications for the social militancy of women and dissidents. The material expenses related to organizing ourselves have an impact on our lives of precariousness and vulnerability, due to patriarchal capitalism that affects us... It was a significant challenge to be able to organize the meeting in San Luis, Argentina, since we did not have the financial resources to manage a massive meeting, and because it was urgent to make visible the problems of systemic violence that we experience every day and for which women, lesbians, transvestites, trans, intersexuals and non-binary people fight daily in all spaces and sociocultural areas.”

THE EXTREME RIGHT AND ITS EFFECTS IN BRAZIL

Given the magnitude of the conflicts experienced in rural regions and ancestral territories, the amount of Strategic Grants the Fund provided in urban contexts was much smaller, which is why we want to tell the story of a group that we supported that left us with important lessons.

Gamboa de Baixo is a black, historically impoverished neighborhood in Salvador de Bahía. Its people are fishermen by trade and live off fishing as a means of food and economic support. In 2019, when the organization began receiving Strategic Support from the Fund, a massacre occurred where 3 young people died during a military operation. This was not the first time that an act like this had occurred, and the community fought to ensure that these deaths would not remain unpunished like many others.

A group of women organized to confront this situation and other types of injustice experienced in the neighborhood, which despite being an urban territory is also a territory of historical black resistance since the times of slavery. Living there is an act of resistance, especially so because it is located in the historic part

of Salvador de Bahía, one of the most touristic areas of Brazil, where the impoverished black population has been removed because they are not attractive to tourism.

Faced with these historical and present circumstances, the women's collective has made cooking an act of permanence and resistance. **With Strategic Support, they have built a community kitchen where they sell traditional dishes, while also offering food to neighborhood families.** Following their process has been an experience of ups and downs, of sharing achievements and also sadness. Flexibility, listening and solidarity were our starting point and roadmap.

We Learn and Weave Bridges

Convenings

As part of our capacity-building strategy and with the aim of continuing to learn and reflect with activists and defenders, we organized and carried out a series of convenings that allowed us to connect with movements in different ways.

“COMMUNICATION, ARTIVISM AND DIGITAL CARE” MEETING

This in-person meeting, held in Paipa, Colombia, was part of a broader joint project that we carried out with [IM-Defensoras](#) (IMD) and [UN Women](#). The space aimed to expand reflections and exchange of experiences on digital care.

Women and gender dissidents from Mexico, Colombia, Honduras, Bolivia, Guatemala and Brazil participated in this space and carried out varied workshops including collage, radio, design with free software, body movement and sustainable activism. This meeting allowed us to develop the objectives, audiences and key messages of the [“Less Screens More Connection”](#) campaign.

VIRTUAL CONVENING OF HEALERS

This process, which we have been weaving for a number of years in partnership with IMD, allowed us to recognize diverse ways and experiences of healing and care in the plurality of territories, identities, worldviews and spiritualities that enrich and expand questions for our internal processes and with whom we support and accompany.

In Mesoamerica and Brazil, the meetings took place territorially in Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua and Brazil, and included a diversity of women (indigenous, mestiza, afro-descendant, of sexual diversity, organized, autonomous, feminist). The dialogues organized by the UAF-LAC were developed along 4 body-territory axes (sex-gender dissidents, mestizas, indigenous women and afro-descendant women) and held in virtual meetings with allied organizations in the Andean sub-region and the Southern Cone:

- * Dialogue of afro-diasporic, afro-Latin American and Caribbean women and black women healers (27 participants, September 10 and 24, 2022)
- * Dialogue of LGBTIQ+ healers (14 people, September 16 and 17, 2022)
- * Dialogue of mestiza healers (23 people, September 17 and 24, 2022)
- * Dialogue of woman shamans and indigenous women healers (26 people, October 27 and 28, 2022)





We Share Stories

GLOBAL CARE RESEARCH: HOW CAN WE GROUND OURSELVES IN CARE AND DANCE OUR REVOLUTION?

In 2022 we concluded a long global research process to identify *How can we ground ourselves in care and dance our revolution?* This process is part of our joint work with the Urgent Action Fund Sisterhood and **is the product of a series of interviews with women and defenders in 36 countries.**

The official launch of our research was carried out through a virtual event with simultaneous interpretation and the participation of more than 150 people and ended with a concert of Colombian music.

We also designed a campaign on social networks that invites you to explore each of the elements that make up the website where the research is presented <https://rootingcare.org/>. We will continue to imagine ways to keep the campaign active and make these resources available in participatory spaces.

LAUNCH OF THE MEMORIAL TO TATIANA CORDERO

In the month of August, we launched a digital memorial to honor our Former Executive Director, Tatiana Cordero Velásquez. Through this virtual space we wanted to recognize and make visible her reflections, activism and all the work she did to consolidate the UAF-LAC.

You can see Tati's memorial at [this link](#).



We Finance and Work through Feminism

Supporting Collective Leadership

The consolidation and strengthening of the Executive Co-Directorship was an important challenge that we began in 2022. We are aware of the need for transformation, adaptation and innovation, not only of each of the co-directors but of the entire team, understanding that **there is no one magic formula for feminist or collective leadership, but on the contrary, that our learning path is just beginning.**

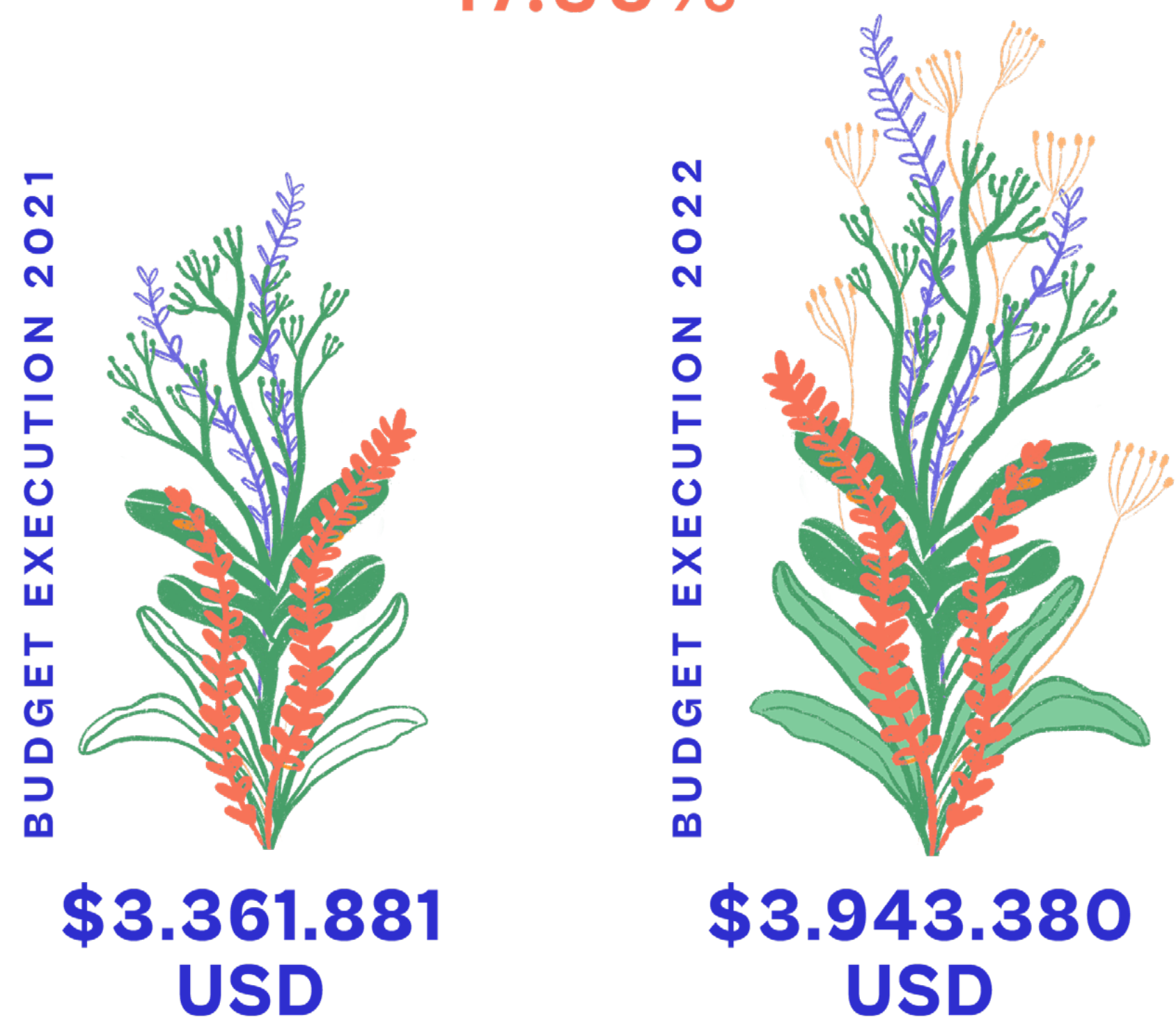


A Regional Team

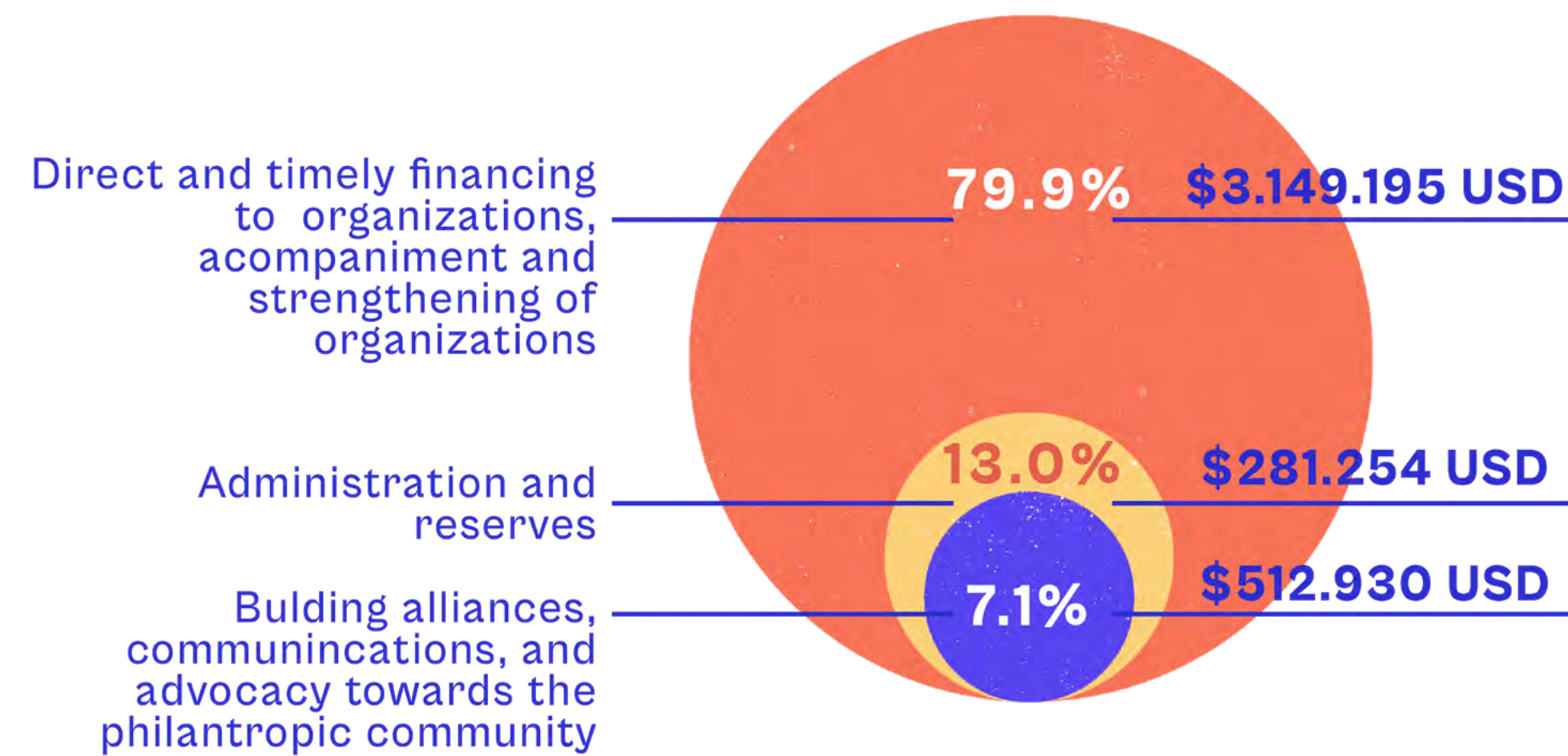
Our team continues to grow and expand its presence in the territories of Latin America. In 2022, our team was made up of 22 professionals of various nationalities from our region, rooted in their realities and, above all, with great capacity to contribute to the contextual discussions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

What the Numbers Tell Us

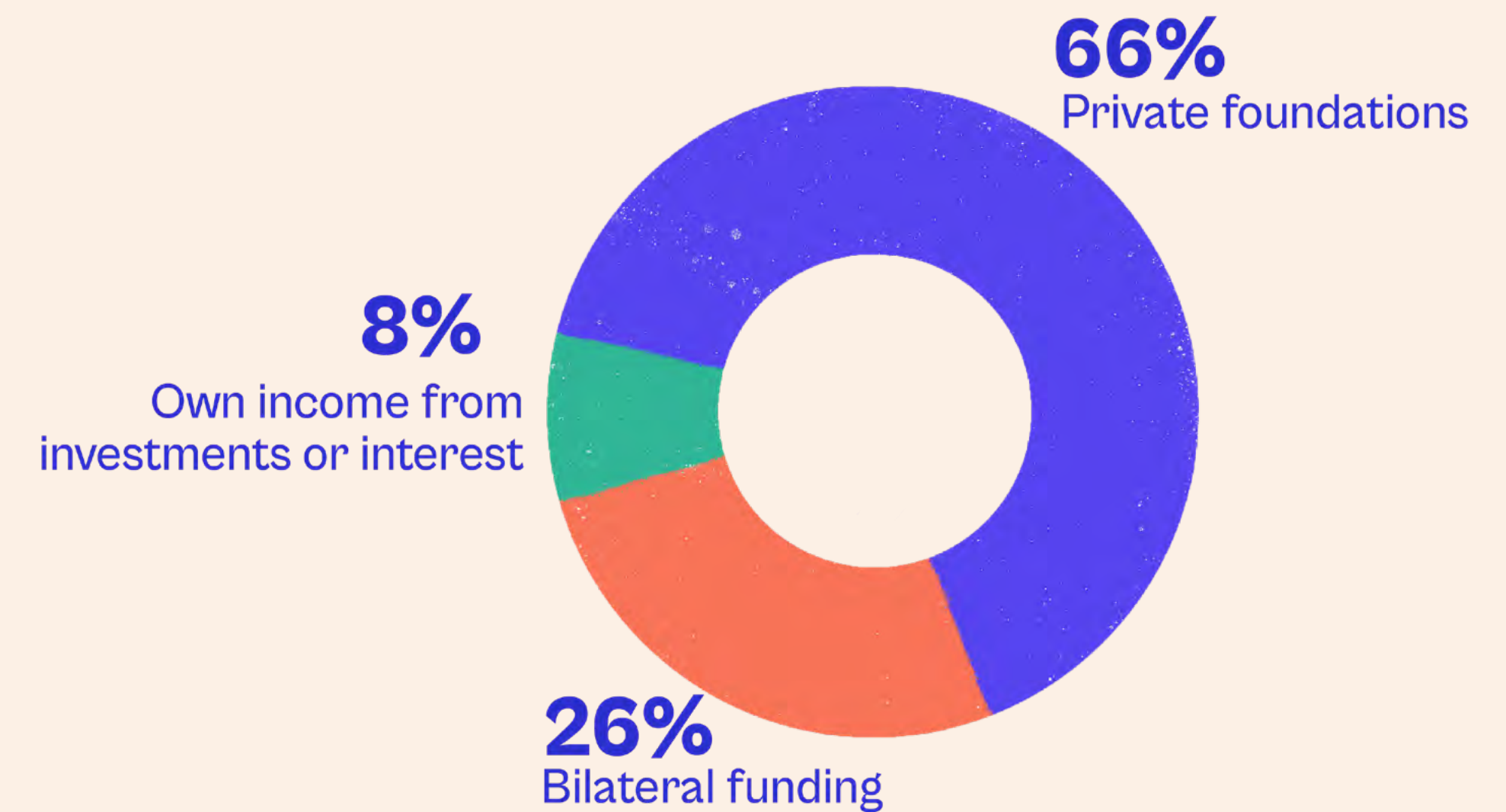
In 2022, in relation to 2021,
we experienced a financial growth of
17.30%



WE MOBILIZED 3,943,380 USD DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:



OUR FUNDING CAME FROM:



We Work in Partnership

As UAF-LAC we want to continue working together in partnership with networks, collectives and groups, nourishing ourselves with the reflections and learnings that are being built in the region. This is why we participated in collaborative spaces.

***Plurinational Meeting:** UAF-LAC participated in this meeting at an inter-programmatic level. As previously mentioned, support was provided to strengthen aspects of accessibility for participants with functional diversities. Participating in this meeting was strategic for the Fund given that it is an important political training space, and we were able to delve deeper into the needs of the movements to reflect on how we can better support them.

***RRGs Visit to Brazil:** In June 2022 we visited Brazil, which resulted in the expansion of our advisors and allies. As part of these efforts, we are promoting a network of funds and organizations to support human rights defenders in this country.

***"On The Right Track Latin American Meeting - Contributions to deepen democracies from social movements":** In November 2022 we attended this meeting in Santiago, Chile, in which we expanded

reflections on fundamentalisms and gender ideology and the contributions that social movements in each territory make to democracy.

***HRFN Global Conference 2022:** This was an opportunity for a post-isolation meeting to demonstrate that the call for care and collaborative practices from philanthropy are increasingly being named more clearly. It was also an opportunity to recognize that we have been part of the change through our practices and reflections over the past 14 years, and connect around both problems and alternatives to influence the flexibility of resources.

***Dialogue between women defenders and representatives of the donor community.** With the aim of creating a bridge of communication between those of us who make up the donor community and the movements in the region, we participated in these dialogues organized together with IMD and held in Oaxaca, Mexico at the end of the year.

Thanks to All those who Support Us

We recognize the work and resistance of the organizations, networks and collectives that found resonance in the work of the UAF-LAC and allowed us to accompany their struggles in moments of crisis and that were able to find a possibility to act in their contexts.

Allies, activists and defenders. We thank the defenders and activists, because without trust it would not be possible to continue learning together to carry out our mission.

To our donors who remain committed to supporting the transformative power of women, trans and non-binary people in the region; and with whom, over the past 14 years, we have made progress in consolidating our alliance to continue influencing the philanthropic community about the importance of putting care at the center of the response to crises and emergencies.





<https://fondoaccionurgente.org.co/en/>

