FAU LAC

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Accompanying the responses that sustain life

Letter from our Co-Executive Directors

Every urgency we have accompanied has taught us something about how to sustain life in times of crisis.

Working alongside movements and organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, we have learned that urgent responses begin long before a crisis hits. They are built on trust, care networks, collective protection, and organization rooted in the territories.

That has been our commitment from the start. Over the years, we have expanded the ways we accompany movements as they respond to the challenges they face. Today, beyond flexible funding, we support collective care processes, comprehensive protection, regional coordination, and organizational strengthening. We know that the most sustainable responses require much more than resources: they need organized communities and networks capable of sustaining themselves over time.

Throughout 2025, we witnessed that strength across the region once again. In a context marked by the closure of democratic spaces, rising violence, climate crises, and dwindling resources for civil society, organizations led by women and gender-diverse people continued to gather, support their communities, defend their territories, create care networks, and build collective responses.

In 2025, we reaffirmed a conviction that guides our work: the most lasting transformations emerge from the territories themselves.

When movements have resources, trust, and decision-making power, they can protect lives, defend rights, and sustain processes of change even in the most adverse conditions.

That is why we continue to strengthen a model of accompaniment that combines flexible funding, comprehensive protection, collective care, regional coordination, and shared learning spaces. Each of these dimensions helps movements respond to present-day urgencies while continuing to build alternatives for the future.

This report brings together experiences, learnings, and results that demonstrate the capacity of hundreds of organizations and communities to sustain life, defend rights, and open up new possibilities, even amid uncertainty. It is also an invitation to recognize that the deepest and most enduring responses come from those who know their territories, build community, and sustain change every day.

Thank you for continuing to accompany us on this journey and for making it possible for these transformations to continue with dignity alongside movements.

Terry De Vries

Terry De Vries
Co-Executive Director

Sofía Marcia

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Co-Executive Director

2025 in Numbers

486 support grants

delivered across **22 countries** of the region

USD 4.2+ million

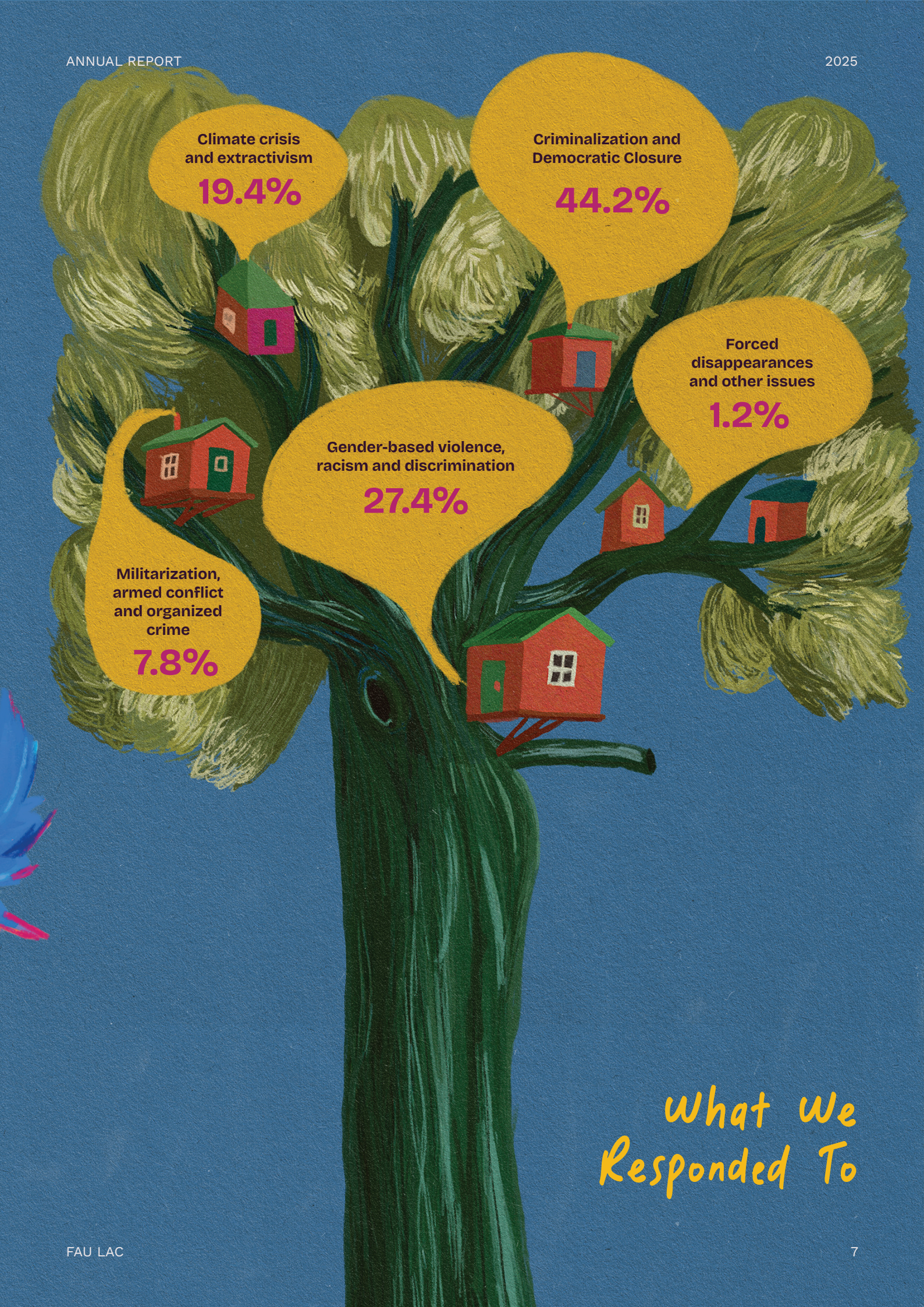
directly channeled **to organizations and movements**

298 support grants

delivered **for protection, holistic security and collective care**

81 emergency relocations

that protected rights defenders from imminent threats



What We Responded To

Grants by country

1. Mexico | 53
2. Guatemala | 14
3. Honduras | 14
4. Costa Rica | 15
5. Panama | 4
6. Colombia | 51
7. Venezuela | 9
8. Ecuador | 40
9. Peru | 25
10. Brazil | 56
11. Bolivia | 11
12. Paraguay | 3
13. Chile | 24
14. Argentina | 44
15. Uruguay | 5
16. Cuba | 5
17. Jamaica | 3
18. Haiti | 3
19. Dominican Republic | 19
20. Puerto Rico | 3

Situations Movements Faced and How We Responded

The nearly one thousand support applications that FAU LAC received in 2025 described displaced communities, organizations under surveillance, activists facing legal charges, and community networks sustaining their work amid precarity and violence.

Across territories in Latin America and the Caribbean, some governments advanced authoritarian policies, closed democratic spaces, and intensified various forms of persecution against people defending rights and territories. At the same time, Indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural, and coastal communities faced advancing extractivism, the militarization of their territories, and the worsening impacts of the climate crisis.

Even in that context, movements continued to build collective responses. They organized mutual support networks, sustained community spaces as isolation grew, protected defenders under threat, shared resources and knowledge, strengthened holistic security and collective care strategies, and seized key opportunities to influence decisions affecting their communities.

For 17 years, FAU LAC has accompanied these responses with direct, timely support so that those defending rights and territories can act when they need it most. Over that time, we have delivered nearly three thousand support grants, channeling USD 19.2 million directly to organizations, defenders, and movements in Latin America and the Caribbean. This experience has enabled us to respond with speed, trust, and flexibility, because we know that communities living through crises understand best how to confront them.

During 2025, FAU LAC supported these responses with rapid, flexible resources tailored to different risk contexts. This support enabled organizations to remain active, rights defenders to find refuge, and communities to continue organizing amid persecution, displacement, and climate emergencies.

Criminalization and Democratic Closure

44.2%

of the support grants delivered in 2025 addressed criminalization, surveillance, or restrictions on activism.

Authoritarian measures marked a significant portion of the applications received during the year. **A total of 44.2% of the support grants delivered in 2025 addressed criminalization, surveillance, or restrictions on activism.**

Across the region, governments and other powerful actors used state surveillance, judicial persecution, legal restrictions, digital violence, and threats to weaken organizational processes and prevent communities from exercising their rights.

In Central America, activists faced threats, arbitrary detention, and mobility restrictions, while foreign agents laws increased economic and administrative pressures on social organizations. Digital espionage and surveillance targeting activists and organizations also increased across multiple contexts.

In response, rapid action often meant protecting lives. In 2025, FAU LAC delivered 81 support grants

for the temporary relocation of defenders and their families facing imminent threats, political violence, and persecution. We also supported legal assistance, digital security, comprehensive protection, and psychosocial support that enabled organizations and activists to regroup and continue their work.

In Ecuador, Indigenous and social organizations strengthened their documentation, community communication, and legal defense practices in response to state restrictions. In Colombia, Mexico, and Ecuador, displaced activists gained access to temporary relocation and basic security. In Central America and Mexico, organizations strengthened digital security tools and protection protocols to counter surveillance and online attacks.

In total, 298 support grants included actions aimed at strengthening holistic security and collective care for organizations and communities.

Extractivism and Territorial Protection

19.4%

of the support grants delivered during 2025 addressed territorial conflicts, expanding extractivism, or the impacts of the climate crisis.

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Across the region, corporations and authorities advanced mining, energy, and agribusiness projects without ensuring meaningful community participation. The expansion of these activities, along with the militarization of territories, increased threats against Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and rural populations.

In Brazil, territorial organizations faced invasions, threats, and violence linked to the expansion of extractive industries and agribusiness. In Guatemala and El Salvador, communities mobilized against megaprojects related to water control and mining expansion. In Puerto Rico, organizations denounced the cumulative impacts of extractivism, the archipelago's history of military occupation, and the energy crisis on their communities.

FAU LAC supported responses that enabled collective work to continue in these territories. **More than USD 4.2 million was channeled directly to movements and organizations across**

the region to strengthen initiatives led by feminist, Indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural, and LGBTQINB+ movements, as well as training, political coordination, and organizational strengthening efforts.

In the Dominican Republic, organizations created coordination spaces in response to mining expansion and strengthened regional networks defending the rights of LGBTQINB+ communities. In Brazil, training developed alongside Indigenous organizations created spaces for dialogue on gender-based violence and femicide within communities.

In total, 486 support grants funded responses led by feminist, community, and territorial organizations, including social mobilization, public advocacy, and legal defense against criminalization and persecution.

Gender Violence, Racism, and Anti-Rights Offensives

27.4%

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Across the region, conservative sectors intensified hate campaigns, threats, and institutional restrictions aimed at preventing women, trans people, and other gender-diverse people from exercising their rights.

In Brazil, trans activists denounced coordinated campaigns of digital violence and threats. In Panama, violence against LGBTQINB+ people increased, and in Puerto Rico, legislative initiatives sought to restrict their rights.

Racism cut across many of these forms of violence, and 40 support grants accompanied responses to it, most of them led by Afro-descendant women and people. In Brazil, we stood alongside the Black Women's March for Reparation and Good Living, accompanying its National Organizing Committee through AcuerpaFAU and direct support grants.

Movements combined immediate protection with long-term strategies, while FAU LAC supported holistic security, psychosocial assistance, and organizational strengthening so they could keep working in increasingly hostile contexts.

Collective care also played a central role. **A total of 70.8% of the support grants delivered in 2025 included explicit collective care actions,** such as psycho-emotional support, care circles, community healing spaces, training in collective care practices, and the recovery of ancestral knowledge. Across different territories, organizations promoted spiritual ceremonies, ancestral medicine practices, and community gatherings that helped sustain organizational life. FAU LAC also supported efforts to redistribute workloads, strengthen internal dynamics, and create spaces for rest and recovery for activists and defenders.

Climate and Humanitarian Crises

8.4%

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A total of 8.4% of the support grants delivered during 2025 accompanied community responses to climate, humanitarian, and migration emergencies.

Historically marginalized communities experienced the effects of these events most intensely. Hurricane Melissa impacted various territories across the Caribbean, further increasing the vulnerability of populations excluded from official protection systems. In Mexico, organizations continued to sustain support networks for migrants in response to growing humanitarian needs and inadequate institutional responses.

Organizations responded quickly within their own territories. After Hurricane Melissa, collectives in Jamaica, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic distributed food, hygiene kits, and direct assistance to affected communities. In Jamaica, FAU LAC delivered its first support grants in the English-speaking Caribbean. In the Dominican Republic, this support made it possible to restore a community space damaged by the storm and sustain support for trans people impacted by the climate emergency. In Puerto Rico, transfeminist organizations strengthened agroecological initiatives, care networks,

and strategies for community autonomy in response to political and economic conditions. We also supported food sovereignty initiatives, environmental monitoring, and community responses to wildfires and other impacts of the climate crisis.

The responses supported by FAU LAC in 2025 show that, even amidst increasing political persecution and overlapping crises, **movements led by women and gender-diverse people** continue to be the first responders in their communities. They protect people, sustain collective bonds, develop territory-based solutions, and keep open the possibility of building more just societies.

Stories That Show *Impact*

Girls take part in an activity organized to learn about the characters of the Maroon Carnival and strengthen their connection to Afro-descendant cultural heritage.

Dominican Republic

Restoring a community space to sustain support

In the Dominican Republic, a storm damaged the infrastructure of an organization's multi-purpose hall, causing leaks and unsanitary conditions. The resources received made it possible to waterproof the roof, repair the walls, make structural improvements, and adapt the space, ensuring that the organization could continue its community work with girls and young women in safe conditions. Direct support was also provided to trans women who had lost their homes, including food assistance, psychosocial support, and community healing spaces. The resources received also made it possible to restore the community space, ensuring that the organization could continue its work in safe conditions and sustain this support after the storm.

A gathering of women from the organization to share knowledge and draw on their experiences and territories to build collective ways of sustaining life.

Brazil

Territorial Protection and Community Autonomy

An association of Black women and Afro-descendant feminists in Brazil, organized around territorial defense in fishing communities, was able, with FAU LAC's support, to reflect on the connections between economic autonomy and collective community care, envisioning new forms of sustainability rooted in community, care for life, and food sovereignty through actions that are simple and profound, while also taking a firm stand against dispossession and violence.

Argentina

Organizing to imagine the future again

In the west of the country, an organization of campesina[1] women responded to government cuts to policies for women and the expansion of extractive projects by strengthening spaces where women could gather, learn, and communicate across their communities.

With FAU LAC's support, the organization trained territorial gender promoters, bringing together 50 women throughout the process. Participants became more active in defending their rights and were increasingly recognized in their communities as trusted women who accompany those facing violence and organize collective responses.

The organization also sustained a radio program three times a week and a campaign on the right to food, broadcast through community radio stations across Mendoza. Through these spaces, campesina women brought their demands into public debate and connected directly with public officials and legislative candidates.

At a time when political decisions are pushing people away from collective action, coming together and rebuilding bonds allowed these women to recognize themselves again as part of something larger—and to imagine and build other ways of living and other futures.

1. Campesinas refers to rural women whose lives and work are closely connected to the land. Beyond agricultural production, the term conveys relationships to territory, community, and ways of life.

Strengthening Our Work in the Caribbean

During 2025, FAU LAC continued to strengthen ties with movements and organizations in the Caribbean.

The region faced particularly severe impacts from the climate crisis, structural racism, and economic exclusion, while community organizations led collective responses and regional coordination efforts.

FAU LAC delivered support grants in Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica, including the first support grants in the English-speaking Caribbean.

We also supported Afro-Caribbean coordination initiatives, as well as regional training and convening spaces aimed at strengthening feminist and anti-racist alliances.

56.5%

growth in support grants delivered in the Caribbean compared to 2024.

What We Learned in 2025

Collective care strengthens the capacity to act

Spaces for rest, emotional support, spirituality, and gathering provide the conditions for organizations to sustain their work, make collective decisions, and respond to contexts of growing uncertainty. Caring for those who sustain movements also strengthens their capacity to support others.

Urgent responses begin long before the crisis

When resources arrive late, many organizations are forced to halt their work, close spaces, or take on greater risks. At the same time, the experience of 2025 reaffirmed that the ability to respond quickly is built before an emergency occurs: through trusted networks, comprehensive protection, collective care, and strong organizations.

Crises demand comprehensive responses

Criminalization, gender-based violence, racism, extractivism, militarization, and the climate crisis no longer appear as isolated challenges. They overlap and rapidly transform the conditions in which movements work. Responding to these contexts requires a combination of protection, collective care, organizational strengthening, advocacy, and flexible funding, rather than responding to each crisis separately.

Strengthening our presence in the Caribbean is a long-term commitment

As a regional fund, FAU LAC recognizes the challenge of expanding and consolidating its work in the Caribbean. During 2025, we took important steps, including delivering our first support grants in the English-speaking Caribbean. However, strengthening that presence requires building trusting relationships with diverse organizations, developing strategies tailored to the region's varied contexts, and mobilizing more resources to accompany movements with the depth and continuity that this commitment demands.

Looking Ahead

Across different corners of Latin America and the Caribbean, organizations and communities continued to gather, support those at risk, and defend their territories even under profoundly adverse conditions.

They did so by sustaining collective spaces, creating care networks, and developing responses to dispossession, violence, and shrinking democratic spaces.

At FAU LAC, we will continue to strengthen the conditions movements need to respond to present-day urgencies while continuing to build lasting transformations within their communities.

When movements have the resources, trust, and the power to decide, they protect lives, strengthen democracy, and pave the way toward autonomy.

Our Finances

How did we allocate our resources in 2025?

By expenditure type, in accordance with our strategy

61%	30%	3.4%	2.6%	2.4%	0.6%
$4,219,931	$2,078,085	$238,816	$181,237	$169,801	$41,768
Direct funding to organizations and collectives	Institutional strengthening	Reflection and exchange spaces	Building and strengthening alliances	Knowledge management and production with organizations	Strategic communications

Where did our resources come from in 2025?

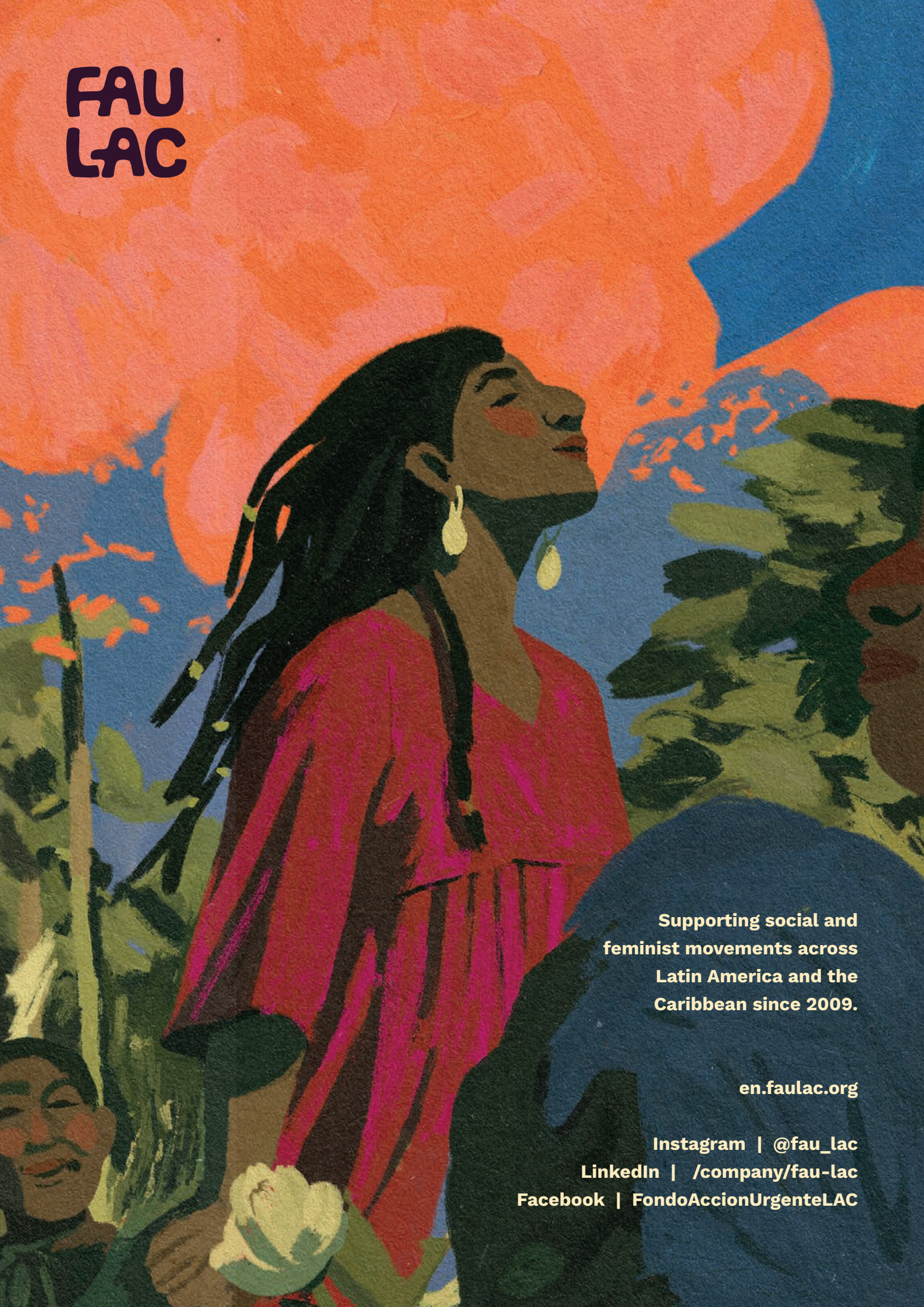
56.1%
Private foundations

43.8%
Bilateral and multilateral donors

0.1%
Individual donors

When movements have the resources, trust, and power to make decisions, they protect lives, strengthen democracy, and pave the way toward autonomy.

FAU LAC



Supporting social and feminist movements across Latin America and the Caribbean since 2009.

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