

# “ACUERPANDO LOS MOVIMIENTOS” EMBODYING THE MOVEMENTS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**FONDO  
DE ACCIÓN  
URGENTE**  
América Latina y el Caribe



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# 1. Letter from the Board of Directors

## To the movements that allowed us to support and accompany them during 2023

We completed another year of work and political commitment with feminist movements in Latin America and the Caribbean. A year that allowed us to reflect on our political commitments as a Feminist Fund that centers collective care in its strategies and the creation of a shared leadership model in the Executive Leadership.

From these reflections, we hope that this 2023 Annual Report can tell part of what it means for UAF-LAC to accompany and support women, trans and non-binary people, who not only resist the multiple crises facing the region, but also are committed to the regeneration of these contexts.

Our commitment is and will continue to be security and holistic protection, and the wellbeing and careful support of movements, placing care at the center. This allows us to continue building trust and to be there, supporting women, trans and non-binary people – who are most invisible in times of urgency – in a flexible and agile way, listening to their own voices, their needs, learning from their actions and strategies.

This year, we saw the profound impact of multiple crises in the region, including economic-financial crises and the need for comprehensive responses to these crises. This

requires not only better funding for organizations' strategies in the face of an increasingly adverse context, but also the possibility of coordination and learning that crosses country borders. In response to these challenges, we were called upon to reflect on the possibility of giving regional grants to support these connections and enhance the **power of the gathering and collective creation** between movements from different countries in the region, as well as to rethink new ways of supporting movements from their territories.

We are grateful for every moment we share with movements and with the team, virtual or in person. This approach allows us to have an up-to-date understanding of the context, which helps us to inform and constantly refine our criteria and funding models. In addition, it enables us to continue building bridges and alliances within philanthropy and social organizations and movements, and above all to continue imagining feminist ways to respond to crises and opportunities.

We reaffirm our commitment to continue supporting feminist, women's, trans and non-binary movements in the region from a close proximity and in their territories; taking into account the complex global context we face. In times of war, urgency and crisis, we will be accompanying and supporting people who are on the front line, raising their voices and proposing strategies to create other possible worlds.

Together we will continue to weave networks of resistance and hope, building a future where all forms of life are respected, where defending them does not cost lives and where activism is sustainable.



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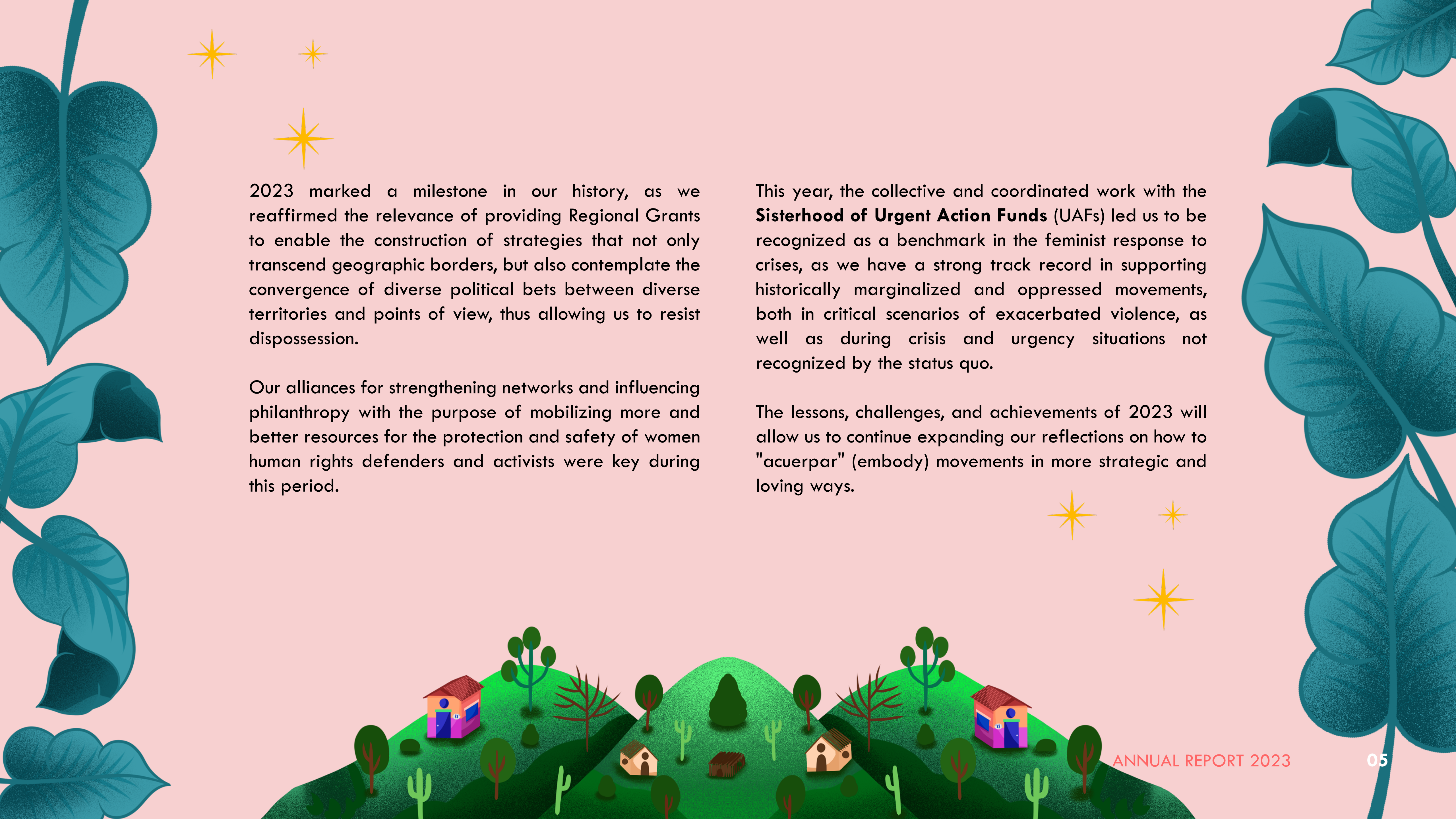
## 2. Introduction

For UAF-LAC, 2023 was a year of change and new beginnings, a year in which we strengthened our institutional bets. Doing so amid a year of profound political, economic, and democratic crises in the region was not easy. Globally, we faced a profound crisis of humanity with the genocide of the Palestinian people and the return to power of several right-wing governments that are impacting global economies and placing economic interests above human life.

Latin America and the Caribbean face various crises resulting from centuries of exploitation, dispossession, and vulnerability of the land and all the life that inhabits it. But, at the same time, our region continues being an example of resistance and regeneration. It was also a year of achievements and strengthening these struggles and resistanc.

This led us to expand our efforts to accompany feminist movements from their territories, supporting their struggles, and proposed ways of life for confronting the crises. We deepened our analysis of the effects of the climate crisis in the region and its impact on movements, activists, and communities. We have encouraged reflecting on supporting cases involving environmental disasters, **considering that the climate crisis is deeply linked to the historical dispossession and exploitation of territory in the region.** Thus, we recognize the need to accompany organizations and movements in their strategies to transform this reality, while facing the devastation and climate effects on their territories.



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2023 marked a milestone in our history, as we reaffirmed the relevance of providing Regional Grants to enable the construction of strategies that not only transcend geographic borders, but also contemplate the convergence of diverse political bets between diverse territories and points of view, thus allowing us to resist dispossession.

Our alliances for strengthening networks and influencing philanthropy with the purpose of mobilizing more and better resources for the protection and safety of women human rights defenders and activists were key during this period.

This year, the collective and coordinated work with the **Sisterhood of Urgent Action Funds** (UAFs) led us to be recognized as a benchmark in the feminist response to crises, as we have a strong track record in supporting historically marginalized and oppressed movements, both in critical scenarios of exacerbated violence, as well as during crisis and urgency situations not recognized by the status quo.

The lessons, challenges, and achievements of 2023 will allow us to continue expanding our reflections on how to "acuerpar" (embody) movements in more strategic and loving ways.





### 3. The heart of UAF-LAC: the movements

Throughout our history, it has been clear to us that our goal is to accompany feminist movements in the region during times of crisis, threat, or opportunity. From their territories, experience, and knowledge, they continue developing the tools that allow them to stand up to these challenges from their own perspective.

We have witnessed, thanks to the support we provide, how, in the face of intertwined crises, communities and movements build strategies that are based not on "intersectionality as an institutional quota" but emerge from multiple and diverse needs to address all forms of oppression, not just gender oppression.

Our accompaniment is not limited to simply processing grant applications or providing direct and timely financing; we also create spaces for exchange, dialogue, and analysis of information. It is through their sharing with us that we read the context in the region and identify the emerging challenges and issues that are becoming increasingly acute. To know about the present that is being modified little by little through their struggles and social resistances.

We share our reading of the Latin American context lived during 2023, a view that would not be possible without the information shared by collectives, organizations, networks, and activists.







### 3.1 A regional view of the context

Continuing the trend of previous years, 2023 was also a turbulent year for the region. While the economic, political, and climate crises -which now reek of history- worsened, democratic crises deepened and other looming crises erupted in several countries. National and right-wing governments consolidated in countries like El Salvador, Argentina, and Paraguay. In countries with allegedly progressive governments, such as Mexico and Honduras, the capitalist system had a notable impact on common goods and nature, and anti-rights discourses and the delegitimization of social struggles increased. In countries like Colombia and Nicaragua, violence continued to evolve, and in Ecuador, the scenario of conflict worsened due to the new configuration of global criminal networks.

Furthermore, inequality and violence have been exacerbated by the restructuring of drug trafficking and organized crime, which for some time now, have been reestablishing their cultivation areas, production, and trafficking, thus multiplying, and complicating political relations for the economic control of territories. In this context, **migration and forced displacement became an increasingly critical issue.**

Throughout the region, violence against LBTIQNB+ persons continued to exacerbate, especially in the face of democratic and political crises. In these scenarios, we recognize the importance of continuing to give visibility and support to vulnerable and marginalized communities.

**Democratic crises and resistance processes against authoritarian states and the advance of fundamentalisms in the region**








The various democratic crises and the consolidation of authoritarian states that occurred in 2023 had a direct and negative impact on the right to demonstrate and protest, as well as on the work of defending human rights. **The actions that allowed us to respond to this criminalization and judicialization** are the thematic category that we supported the most during this year.

These democratic crises are not just limited to right-wing governments, they also manifest themselves in **authoritarianism**. An example of this is the dictatorial regime installed in **Nicaragua**. In this country, criminalization and prosecution continued to be the mechanisms used for dismantling the movements. State strategies included the cancellation of the legal status of social organizations, constant surveillance (physical or digital), arrests, arbitrary imprisonment, and continuous harassment of women defenders and their organizations; many of these actions resulted in exile and forced displacement.




**Guatemala** experienced a political-economic crisis resulting from a government that was delegitimized by accusations of corruption and a conservative congress. It was the peasant and indigenous women who led "**The Silent Revolution of Women and Youth**", a process of organization at the polls during the electoral process, actions that were fundamental for respecting the people's decision.

The media play an important role in any crisis. Democracy at stake is no exception; in El Salvador, the alternative media were fundamental. The grants we provided in this country reflect the various impacts caused by the state of emergency decreed and the establishment of a regime with authoritarian practices.



**Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and campesino (peasant) struggles in the construction of proposals for life and demands for climate justice..**

 Violence against indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and campesinos (peasants) continues to be a central axis on which economic and social processes are structured in the region. **We approved 44 Rapid Response Grants and 21 Strategic Grants**, which allowed defenders and activists to respond to extractivist projects such as mining, hydroelectric, agribusiness, logging, and grileiros (land squatters), which are also supported by the States, mainly in Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, and Argentina.

As an example of the complexity faced by campesino (peasant) and indigenous struggles, we highlight the case of Brazil, where **the announcement by the new Federal Government of support measures for indigenous peoples was one of the factors contributing to the increase in violence.** Land titling, the

reestablishment of the functions of FUNAI (Fundação Nacional do Índio), the agency responsible for indigenous peoples, and the promise of new delimitations, caused squatters to act more aggressively on indigenous lands. To accompany the movement, we approved grants for preparing collective protection plans, risk analysis, temporary individual and family relocations, denunciation, improvements in physical security, as well as for participating in public advocacy actions.

The extractivist onslaught has interests over the common goods. For some years now, lithium has aroused special attention in several countries in the region, **Chile** being a clear example of this. In this context, we provided grants to support **Mapuche organizations in their historic efforts to recover their territories.** Actions included mobilizations to endangered sacred hills and lakes, filing lawsuits against the State, participating in international advocacy spaces, organization of assemblies, and health care.








In **Argentina**, the **vote for a constitutional reform that deepened the extractivist policy, especially for lithium**, provoked a popular uprising by several social sectors. The mobilizations faced strong State repression and violence, of which native women were the main victims. We supported the creation of a plurinational feminist delegation to embody (“acuerpar”) and support the territories in conflict, especially in Jujuy (in the north of the country), and the drafting of a report denouncing the Government's racist and patriarchal policies.

In **Mexico**, where there supposedly exists political stability, **the government seeks to nationalize lithium**, build megaprojects that will have a strong impact on the territories and will continue the dispossession of ancestral lands and communities to advance tourism and

extractive projects. All this amid a migration crisis that has harmed the most disadvantaged populations and criminalizes people in defense of human and land rights.

### **The expansive effects of the armed conflict, militarization, and drug trafficking**

 The third most supported issue during the year is linked to the armed conflicts, the expansion of drug trafficking, and the militarization of territories. In addition to the historic armed conflict in Colombia and the peace processes, we supported cases involving violence perpetrated by groups engaged in drug trafficking in Mexico, Ecuador, and Brazil.

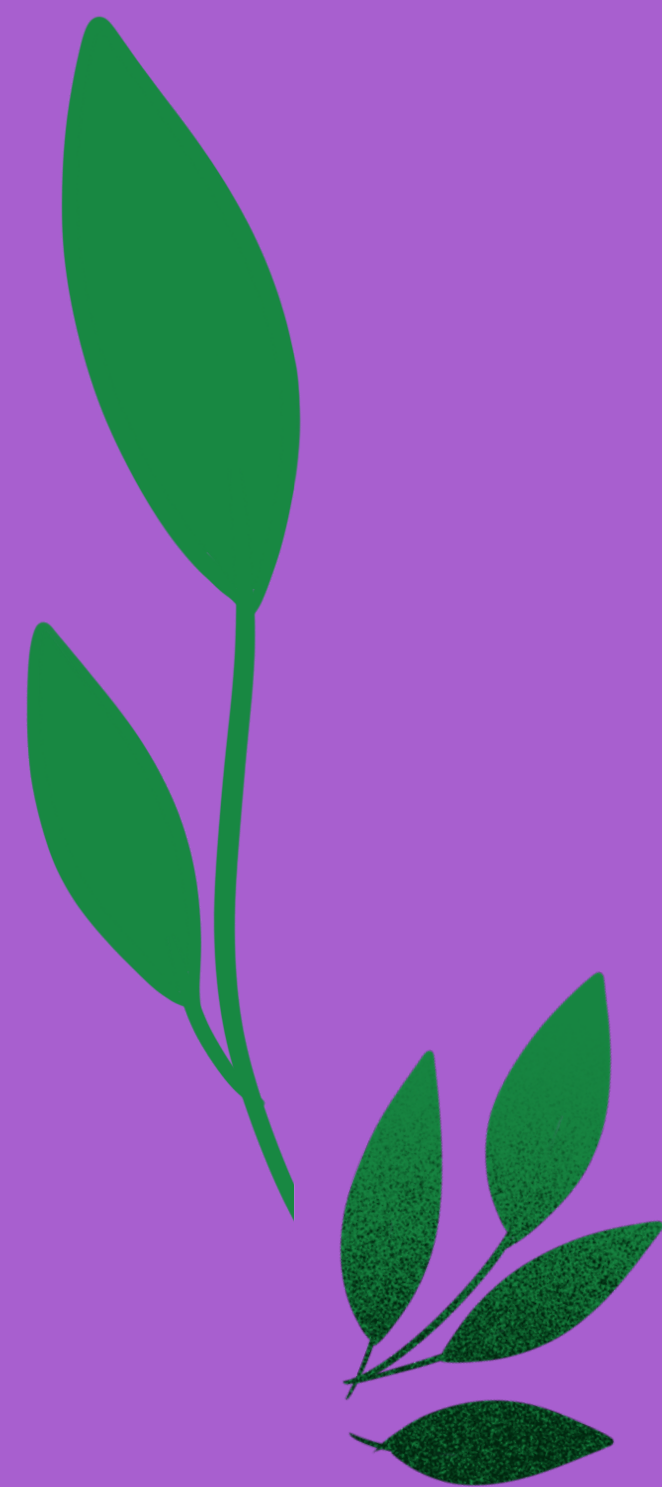






The total peace policy and the disarmament of the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) has led to the strengthening of armed insurgent groups in Colombia, especially in **settlements** ancestrally inhabited by indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, located in remote areas where the State has a limited presence, and along the border with other countries like Ecuador.

We highlight a **Regional Grant** for organizing a **meeting of Cofanes and Murui women with women defenders from Brazil and Honduras**, to exchange care strategies, build a care route for violence, as well as to perform healing rituals where they can talk about what they are going through in this context.



Illegal crops used in drug trafficking are expanding in countries like Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, causing the **forced displacement** of entire communities. Such is the case of the grant provided to an organization located along the border between Guatemala and Chiapas, for settling families expelled from their territory by the violence perpetrated by organized crime after installing a drug cartel in this territory.

Another impact of this problem on defenders and activists in the region is related to the **strengthening of security policies** that supposedly seek to apprehend criminal groups; however, they are used as a tool to **criminalize defenders**.






## 3.2 Feminist resistances to respond to crises

Latin America and the Caribbean face many crises, but there are many proposals, actions, and projects with which to respond to crises. By the same token, we respond in a feminist and creative way from joy, happiness, and care. Our Online Application System (SIGUEME) is nurtured by the ideas that are transforming contexts, all such ideas from a feminist perspective and construction.

To continue defending a dignified life in times of crisis, feminist movements deploy their strengths, their ancestral and community wisdom, and their visions of life. In each crisis response, we can also read processes of organization and coordination.

When analyzing the activities supported throughout 2023, we can highlight that one of the most supported actions was the relocation of defenders and their families, processes that, although they profoundly modify their way of life, allow them to take a breath and continue networking from a place of calm and not from fear.





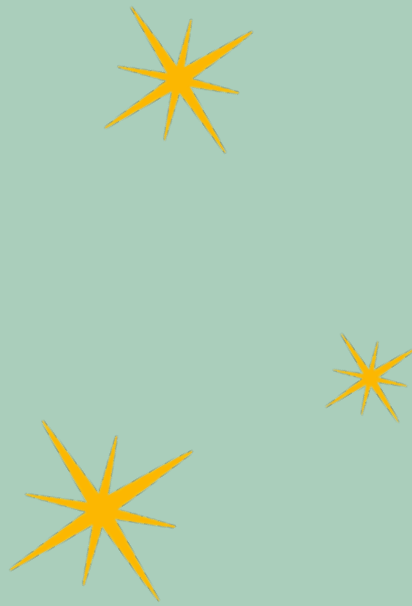
The **processes of protection, overall security/safety, and collective care are also among the most supported actions.** This reaffirms our institutional bet on Sustainable Activism. We recognize movements are strengthening their collective protection efforts from a spiritual and territorial healing perspective and with a view to sustainability, not only of their struggles, but also of their ways of life.

During the year we also had the opportunity to support crisis response actions by strengthening their organizational, training, and productive processes to assure the autonomy and power of women, trans and non-binary people in the face of the multiple oppressions experienced in their bodies and territories; to perform institutional political advocacy actions; and to implement practices of cultural appreciation and recovery.

For UAF-LAC, 2023 also marked a milestone in the possibility of providing regional grants to respond to key moments. This possibility arose after recognizing that **it isn't just that crises are connected, but also the forms of resistance and those who are part of these movements,** and that fostering these weaves through networks is betting on care and sustainable activism.

As a political bet, **Regional Grants** proved important when the advancement of fundamentalisms or dictatorial policies in our countries surpasses the notion of the State. That is, just as right-wing strategies expand in our countries, women's movements and feminist activism must have flexible and agile resources to facilitate connections between them beyond borders, multiply resistance strategies or come together to share contexts and strengthen protection and care networks in the region.





Over the course of the year, we provided five Regional Grants that enabled organizations and populations to face times of crisis in an embodied ("acuerpada") manner, two of which we wish to highlight. The first Regional Grant was provided in the context of the **coup d'état in Peru**, where we supported a regional feminist delegation made up of feminist, trade union, and human rights organizations, health professionals, alternative, community, and indigenous media, and sex-gender dissidence collectives from Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Honduras, who

embodied ("acuerpó") our colleague in Peru and managed to gather data on human rights violations. In Mexico, we supported a **meeting to coordinate the struggle against the mega-projects in southeast Mexico**: the Maya train and the inter-oceanic canal.

To confront and act in the face of crisis requires a forceful and coordinated response by multiple actors and widespread international solidarity.





## 4. We supported movements

Our funding has grown and diversified during our journey. We have integrated new forms of support based on the demands of the movements in the region, and we have broadened and flexibilized criteria in accordance with our reading of the context and the barriers and obstacles put in place by the banking and economic systems of each country, which are in themselves a reflection of the reproduction of a model based on privilege and the privatization of resources.

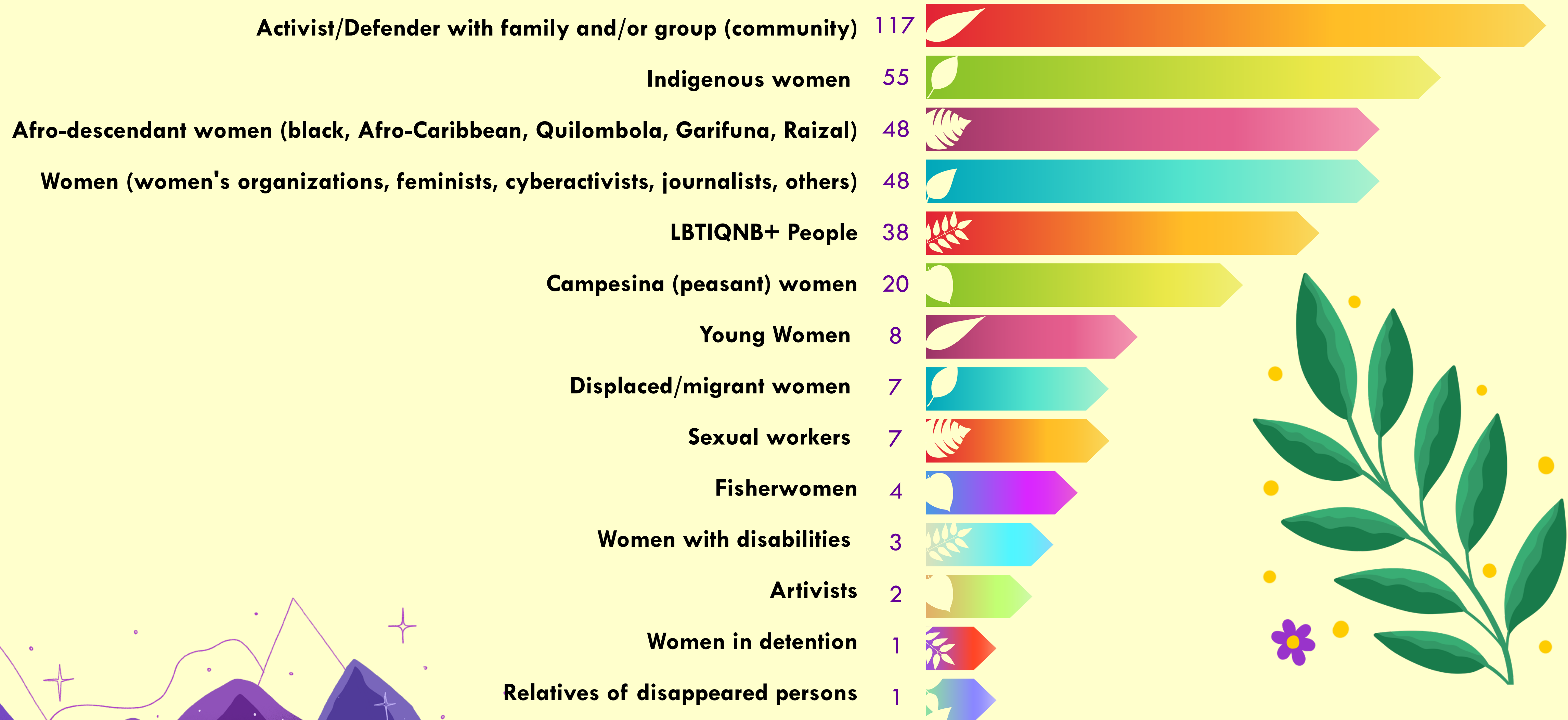
In 2023, for the first time, we added the Regional Grants to our three funding models (RRGs, SGs, and Caracola Grants). We also provided our first Rapid Response Grant in Puerto Rico, which allowed trans people to face the gentrification that increased dramatically and had a direct impact on the peripheral and vulnerable populations.

During the year, we processed a total of **694 applications**, of which **we approved 359 in 20 countries of the region**. Four territories accounted for 53% of approved applications: Nicaragua, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia. In coming years, we want to strengthen our presence and accompaniment. In the Caribbean, we are making progress alongside organizations in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, and we hope to continue to work hand in hand with the movements of the region with so many contributions to our Latin America.





# Population we support:





# Main thematic categories supported in 2023:

<b>Criminalization of social protest and the work of human rights defenders/activists.</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Environmental justice/defense of the territory, nature, and common goods</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Armed conflict and peace initiatives</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Gender-based violence</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Civil and political rights</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Sexual and Reproductive Rights</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>State violence</b>	<b>13</b>





## 4.1 Rapid Response Grants (RRGs)

We are approaching our 15th year of grantmaking, our support has enabled defenders and activists to access resources in a quick and agile manner when facing contexts of urgency, crisis, or opportunity. Our Rapid Response Grants (RRGs) are both a model shared with the Sisterhood of Urgent Action Funds (UAFs) as well as one of the most effective ways of materializing our bet on sustainable activism and other ways of inhabiting the world.

Our region was marked by multiple intertwined crises throughout 2023. Based on the RRG applications we received, we are experiencing the ravages of an environmental policy dictated by the most voracious capitalism, the strengthening of anti-rights, fundamentalist, and militarized policies that increasingly endanger democracy in our countries. The exponential growth of violence against territories and bodies in search of a dignified life.

The most supported strategies under this model were internal and external relocations, healing processes, social mobilization, collective or community protection measures, sustainment actions, physical security actions, actions to establish individual and collective protection plans/protocols, actions to establish legal precedents at the local, regional, or international level, and campaigns on social media or other means of information.

Although RRGs seek to encompass the diversity and plurality of feminisms, we would like to highlight that in 2023 there was an increase in requests for grants from specific populations, each facing specific contexts and needs. Such is the case of indigenous peoples, where there is increasing persecution of women leaders. Sex-gender dissidents continue to face a context of profound discrimination and exclusion. While Afro-descendant and Quilombola communities undertook protection actions involving physical, psychological, and digital security measures, such as the purchase of security equipment and held workshops on drafting protocols, analyzing risks, and mapping alliances.





This year, we observed that movements continue teaching us that protection, integral7comprehensive security, and collective care actions are context specific. There are no general measures or absolute prescriptions, only needs. We also learned to invite them to support themselves on their own knowledge and autonomy to concretize the actions they need thanks to our grants/support.

### **"Women journalists are no longer silent" in Paraguay**

The Network of Women Journalists and Communicators of Paraguay (Red de Mujeres Periodistas y Comunicadoras de Paraguay) is a subnational organization composed of women press workers and defenders of freedom of speech /expression. They requested UAF-LAC's support after six journalists were accused of defamation after reporting sexual harassment and coercion by the manager of the Albavisión group.

They faced the crisis by liaising with legal firms, organizing meetings with the Public Prosecutor's Office, presenting a play in public spaces, implementing self-care strategies, and generating high-impact communication materials on social media to alert the population. One of them was "Las periodistas ya no se callan" ("Journalists are no longer silent"), a series of graphic narratives narrating the pattern of behavior of the accused and the persecution he unleashed against the female workers. Thanks to the pressure they exerted, the accusation was filed. The support came at "a time of profound difficulty, of blows to the spirit of the sisters ("compañeras") on account of the violence, harassment, labor persecution, and a national political situation of evident retrogression in rights".





## 4.2 Strategic Grants

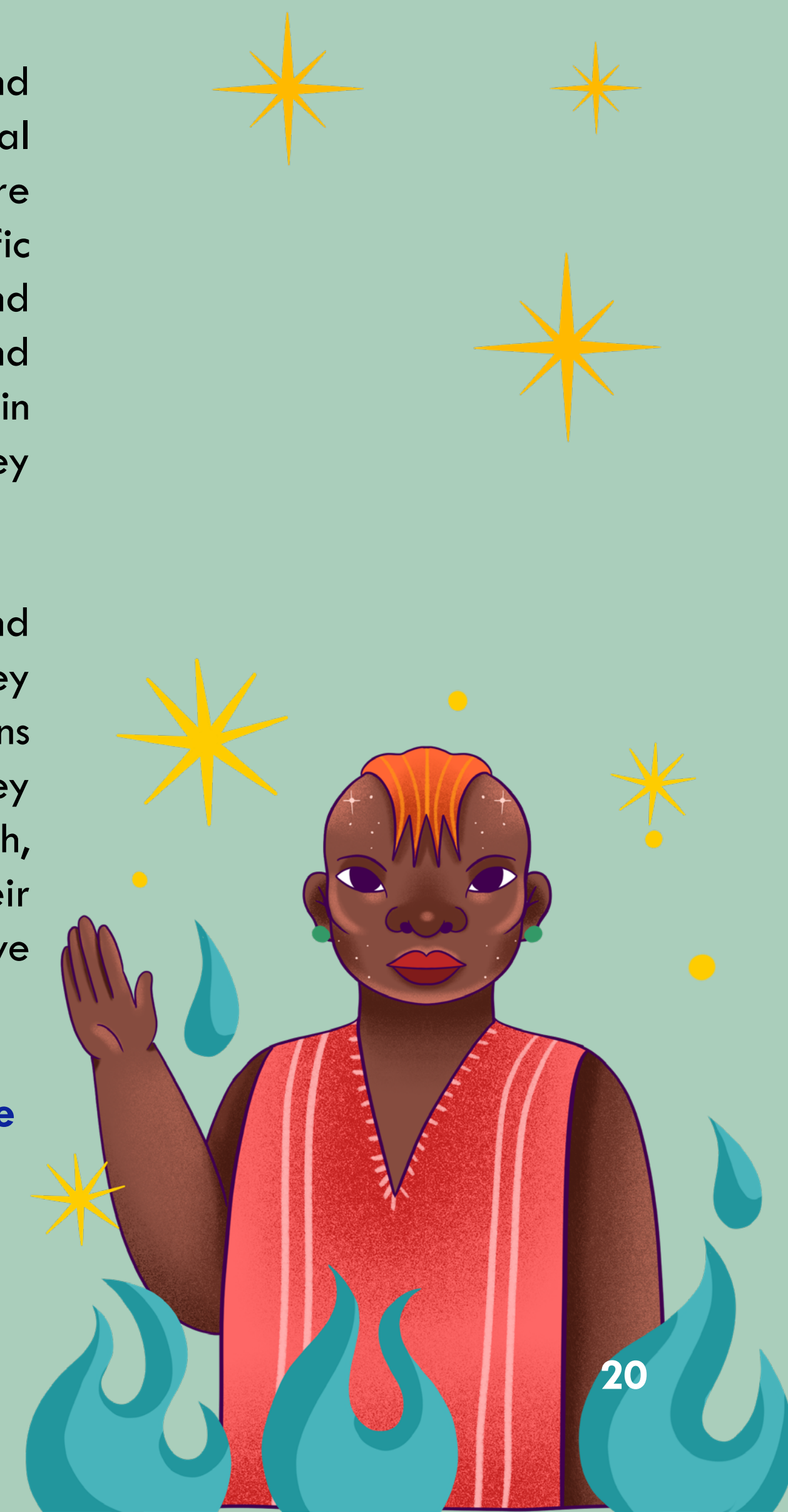
As part of the "Women and Territories" program, in 2023 we provided **21 Strategic Grants (SGs)** in an open call to organizations in Brazil and 2 grants in Honduras through a closed call. Likewise, throughout the year, we continued to accompany organizations and networks in Colombia and Ecuador, which received a SG in 2022.

The decision to launch an open call directed only to Brazil arose from the possibility of contributing to movements during the transition from the Bolsonaro government to the Lula government. During the 4 years of the extreme right-wing government, there were major setbacks in human, social, and environmental rights in the country, therefore organizations, groups, and movements needed space, time, and conditions to analyze and reflect on the conditions of the context and plan strategies for their political agendas.

Our Strategic Grants, allowed women, trans and non-binary organizations to strengthen their political participation in local and national scenarios where decisions that affect their territory, collective, and specific rights are discussed. These training, exchange, and coordination spaces, as well as the registration and documentation, allowed the organizations supported in 2023 to influence the government and other key stakeholders in different extents.

Our grants gave organizations the time, space, and resources to analyze their contexts and assess what they need to respond to them. We had close conversations where we opened the possibility of noting that what they needed could also be a moment of rest, a walk or a laugh, a therapy session, while they reflected on their denunciation, their advocacy work, their productive practices, etc.

**Moments of pleasure, rest, and care are part of the struggle and are a collective right vis-à-vis the defense of the territory.**





## Supported Populations – Brazil, 2023:



- 4 organizations of fisherwomen and shellfish gatherers (2 of them from black Quilombola fisherwomen communities).
- 4 organizations of “campesina” (peasant) women (1 of them of women and LGBT people)
- organizations of indigenous women
- 3 urban black organizations in defense of their territory and ancestral culture
- 2 organizations: one of youth and one LGBTQI+ organization affected by multiple megaprojects (mining, agribusiness, etc.)
- 1 organization supporting “campesino” (peasant), Quilombola, and fishing communities affected by an oil port complex with over 100 companies.
- Organization of urban women recyclers and an organization of women fighting for housing and urban food sovereignty
- organizations of black and Quilombola women

### Coletivo Mulheres Camponesas de Maranhão (Organization in Northeastern Brazil linked to the Movement of Landless Rural Workers - MST)

The “Colectivo de Mujeres Campesinas de Maranhão” (Maranhão “Campešina” (Peasant) Women's Collective) has 20 years of experience contributing to the strengthening of women's advocacy and organizational capabilities in over 40 Brazilian territories. Among others, they undertake actions aimed at food production and commercialization based on agroecology, agroforestry systems, and cooperativism. They also strengthen communities so they can undertake advocacy actions against agribusiness to protect the environment.

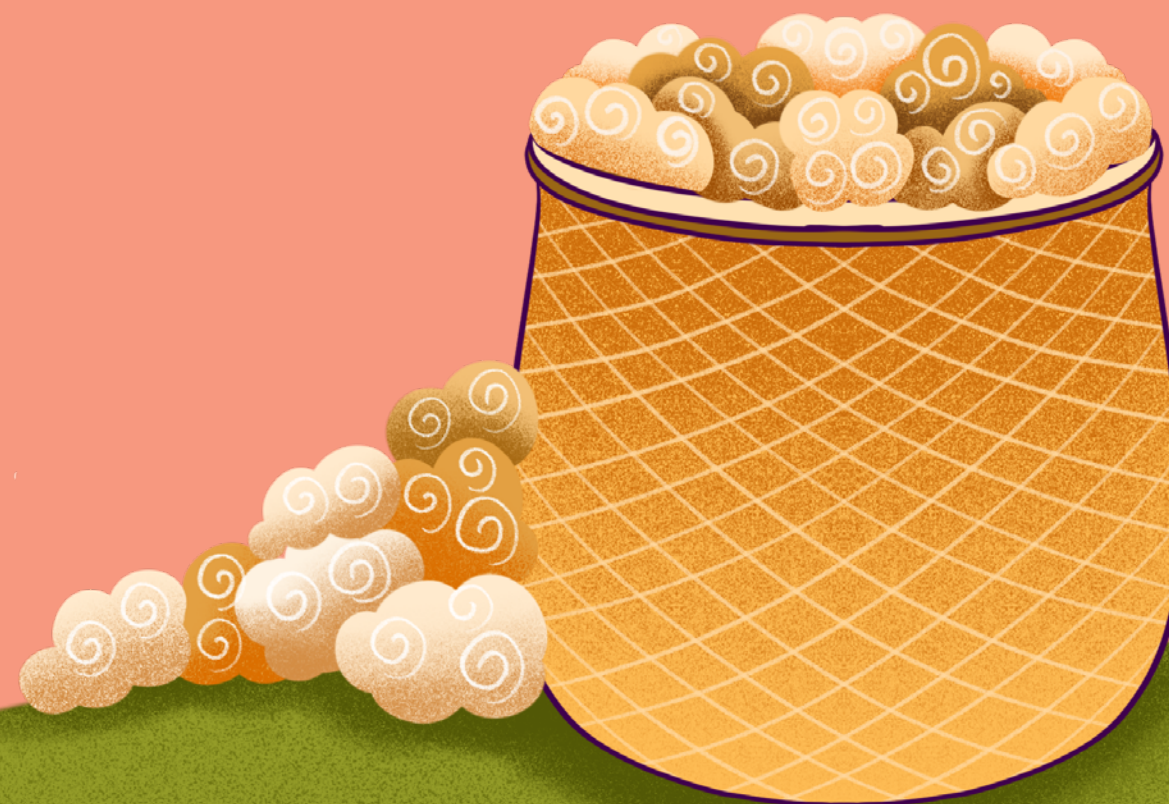






Their proposal "**Cultivating affection, fighting violence**" works in 15 "campesino" (peasant) territories in Maranhão, a state in northeastern Brazil characterized by agrarian conflicts and intense violence. **The project unites women's resistance to territories affected** by monocultures, agribusiness, and mining by strengthening self-management processes, that resulted in the construction of a plan that originated in a process of deep listening. In a dialogue with men and in the understanding that they too need to be part of this plan; and the territorial coordination for the construction of a care network that brings together public institutions, social support organizations, and the MST, which builds its own health practices.

This process is still underway, but there already exist many lessons to be learned. Perhaps the first of these is the fact that women are aware that they cannot naturalize the violence they suffer. This is a coordinated plan that, in the future, could be extended to all the settlement areas of Maranhão. There are many challenges along the way, but the proposal itself is a path towards the construction of a story of change.







### 4.3 Caracola Grants (CG)

The Caracola Grants are our most recent grantmaking modality. Caracola Grants are in a pilot phase and are provided by direct invitation. In 2023, they were present in several territories facing contexts that hinder full access to the rights of women, trans and non-binary people, as well as the movements they lead. A total of 12 grants were awarded in the second phase of the pilot (2023-2024) and 6 grants in the first phase (2022-2023).



The Caracola Grants contributed to review the internal crises of grantee organizations, collectives, and groups, to give them the time, resources, and space to internally strengthen their collective care and protection actions, in different and creative ways in accordance with each context. Collective care actions have allowed them to see the domino effect of the context, the decisions, and the state of the bonds they establish within their collectives, to reduce the wear and burn-out impacts, and to recognize the wear and burn-out of highly reactive systems, due to the realities in which they coexist and the powerful reclamations for which they are fighting. This involved reflecting on and seeking clarity about the more complex boundaries between work and activism.

Giving way to fear, breaking away from ideas and practices that celebrate unlimited courage and resilience, connecting with collective forms that traverse the body to learn to take charge of warnings and urgencies, without generating ruptures in the collective fabric, without damaging the self or creating ways to repair what is damaged in those moments.





Through the Caracola Grants we managed to support longer-term strategies to cope with crises in the region. These actions are focused on giving time, space, and resources to work on what is happening inside their organizations, such as internal transitions of growth, consolidation, grief, changes in leadership, as well as contexts, conflict management, internal communication, and recognizing their health issues, among others.

**In this regard, we highlight the following strategies:**

- ✦ Collective therapeutic processes and accompaniment
- ✦ Scenarios of in-person meetings and dialogue, strengthening networks and alliances for comprehensive protection and care.
- ✦ Creation of safe spaces.
- ✦ Processes for recognizing the body as territory, "being aware of what is hurting... muscles, bones, thoughts, bonds." And vulnerability as a key element of strength.

- ✦ Affirming the importance of rest, pauses, and disconnecting from work.
- ✦ Agreements on time management, as well as, sharing workloads.
- ✦ Recognizing their knowledge and collectivize it, which includes creating their own medicines for healing and care, to connect with ancestry and inspire spaces for spiritual protection.
- ✦ Possibility of creating their own epistemology based on "the purpose and the right to rest" that crosses the body, the territory, conversations, walks, meals, or doing nothing".

**The diversity of care strategies is as diverse as the organizations and territorial knowledge themselves.**

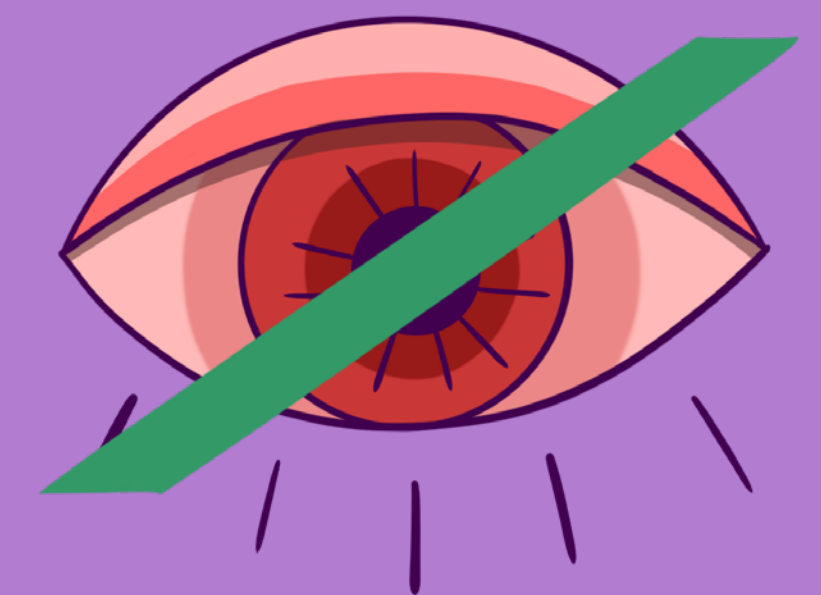


## Cybersafe (“Ciberseguras”)

A Latin American "network of meetings" "of wonderful people working on techno feminisms" and hacktivism that seek to build spaces where women and sex-gender dissident people can share reflections on technology, human rights, justice, and feminisms.

It was one of the six organizations with whom we began the 1st phase of Caracola Grants pilot. The call resonated and generated tools based on the need to accompany and support each other collectively in the face of conflicts, burnout symptoms, "-loss of- strength and focus (of) our collective, to be reactive". During this process of entering one's own nucleus, facing conflict, wear and burn-out, and the pain generated, the grant allowed them to recognize, listen, and manage their inner voices. They allowed themselves to be accompanied on this journey to z"see the inside" and **collectively create practical ways to connect with their bodies and needs.**

They also held their first physical meeting, which was the center of the action-healing. Recognizing quality face-to-face time, reflection, and pause as a resource, and friendship as a bond that needs complicity, limits from affection, physical contact, and agreement. To then give space to memory and to the joint creation of the path to follow.







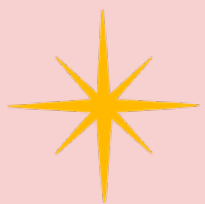
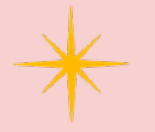
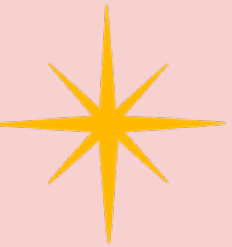
## 4.4 Care at the Center of our Grantmaking

Our ethical and political bet is on care, understood from its contexts, complexities, and even discomforts. Therefore, we seek to ensure that part of the grants we provide are allocated to care actions. **Over half of the requests approved to respond to times of crisis in 2023 included collective care actions**, we provided a total of 55% of all the grants requested.

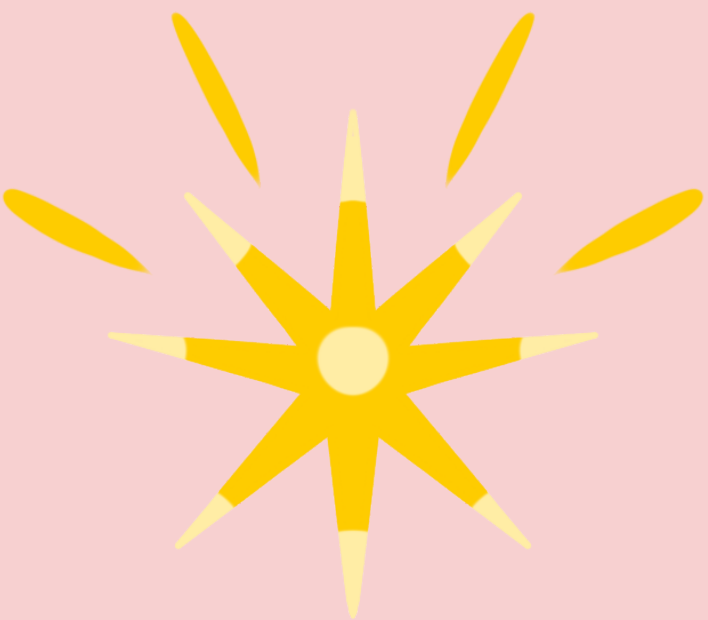
As to the RRGs, **77% of these actions focused on approved requests for protection and security, which shows how, even in emergency situations, collective care plays a key role in sustaining activism beyond the emergency context**. The most frequently used strategy was psychological support, accounting for 40% of the total number of actions.

Self-care workshops are an increasingly important strategy for creating safe spaces, mitigating internal tensions, and providing tools to deal with long-term crises collectively, thereby contributing to the sustainability of movements.

Since 2022, we have been reflecting on the importance of **supporting collective care actions in the framework of massive gatherings, such as national or regional meetings**, which goes hand in hand with the lessons learned from supporting post-pandemic gatherings. Organizing a large event has strong impacts on the organizers, and, therefore, we actively offered our support for care actions at these events, as was the case in the Plurinational Meeting of Diversities of Argentina in 2023.

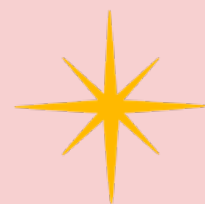
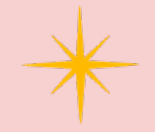
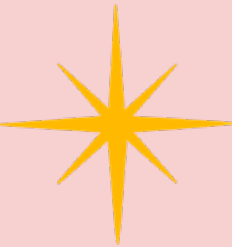






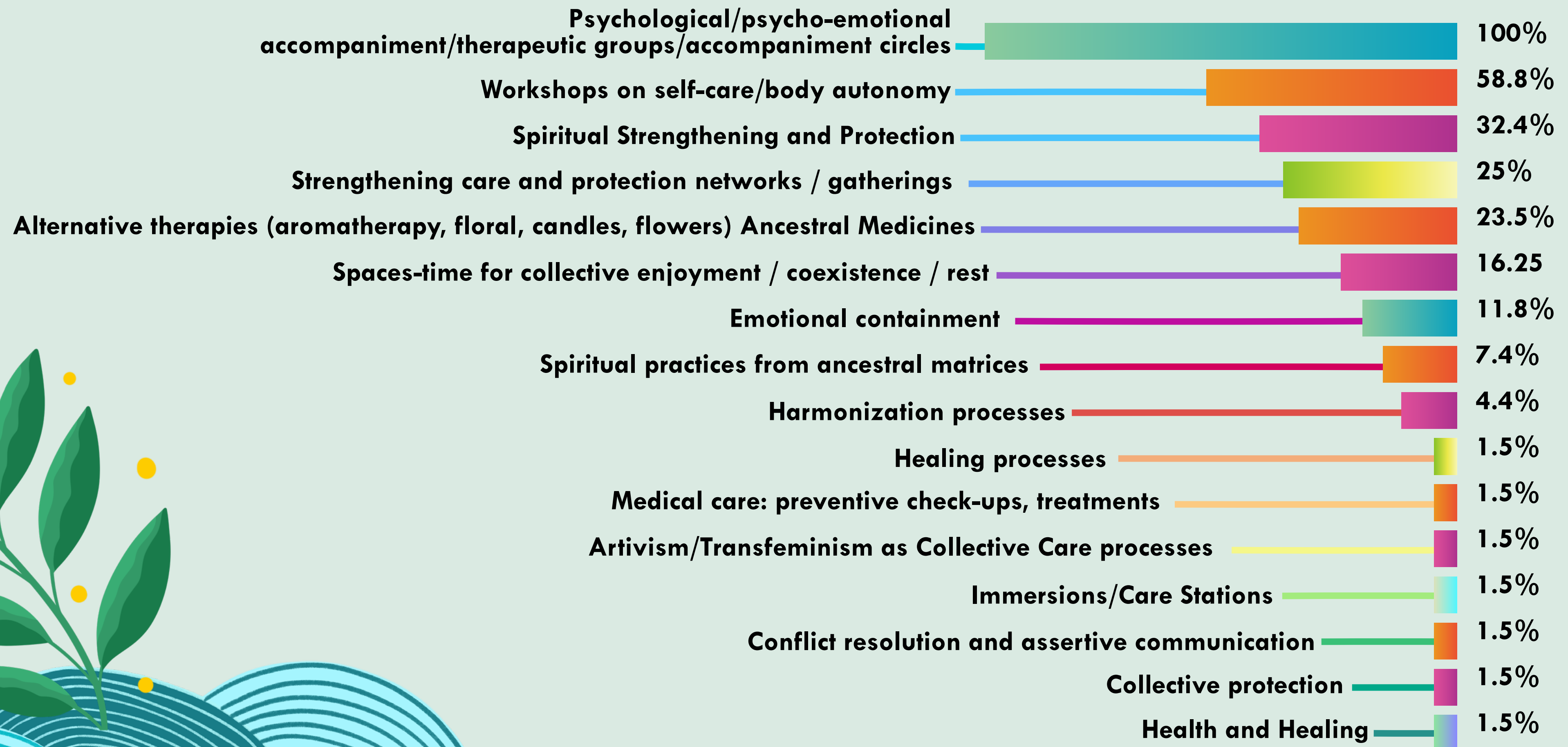
The collective care approach, based on territorial defense contexts, is related to various areas and elements that are part of the context and struggle of the organizations and collectives. **All the Strategic Grants provided in 2023 for this purpose included specific grants for collective care.** The main strategies implemented were spaces for rest, enjoyment, strengthening bonds, and celebration; building listening spaces; individual and collective therapy sessions; recovery, care, and development of ancestry and traditional practices (herbalism, rituals, knowledge bartering, Afro philosophies); art therapy, theater workshops, painting, games, dancing, holistic care, and other activities.

Collective care actions under the Caracola Grants allowed organizations to address conflicts, transitions or internal crises in an accompanied, safe, and constructive manner that otherwise would have been determinant in the non-continuity or sustainability of their collective, movement or organization, thus directly affecting the communities they support.





# Care strategies in Grants:





## ★ 5. We accompanied struggles and resistances

Being in direct contact with the organizations, the forms, channels, and formats through which we accompany the movement are diverse, ranging from direct communication through our platform [Sígueme](#), to in-person spaces and meetings.

During 2023, we upgraded our online platform to make it easier to use and to facilitate the submission of applications. We increased our support phone lines and adjusted our email address with the same purpose. Another way in which we have accompanied organizations has been by **building bridges with other funds and donors** so that they can access complementary funding for specific actions; this is discussed in more detail in the section on strengthening partnerships.

For the Strategic Grants, given the contexts that we know are being faced by the organizations defending life and territories, we did daily follow-up through messages and online dialogues. We have a WhatsApp or Signal group with each organization, where we exchange messages about contextual situations, we remind them of the deadlines for the submission of reports, and they can send us news about their territory, activities, photos, etc.





## 5.1 Gatherings

### - Gathering with the Garífuna people - OFRANEH

In January 2023, we held our annual planning meeting in Vallecito and Wagaira Le, two ancestral communities of political and spiritual relevance for the Garífuna people of Honduras. The intent of meeting in that country is part of our political bet to support the movements in their own territories, to know and feel what the historical experiences of defending the land and territory mean to the communities, how they have managed to establish strong grounding processes, the protection, creation of projects that sustain ancestry and spirituality, as well as the reproduction of culture and life. Projects based on the collective, the organization, and solidarity networks.

The visit to Vallecito, though challenging, gave us a different and profound reading of a community living in a very violent context of permanent struggle against actors such as the State, drug traffickers, palm oil entrepreneurs, and extractive companies that dispossess Garífuna communities in Honduras of their resources and territories. A reality shared by many other communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### - Meeting on How can we ground ourselves in care and dance the revolution?

Held in Santa Marta, Colombia, it was a celebration and a return to the Advisory Team and new partners in the global research "How to ground ourselves in care and dance the revolution?", which was created as part of the work of the Sisterhood of Urgent Action Fund under the leadership of UAF-LAC. During the meeting we allowed ourselves to imagine, based on what we learned, how to move forward, how to incorporate these reflections in our day to day. How do we see ourselves in 10 years' time? We delved deeper into the issues that are vital for the coming years, from each of us and from the power that we inhabit (individual and collective), to continue working around care as political and crosscutting to activisms.



## - Acuerpa FAU - México

For some years now, the context in Mexico has worsened in terms of territorial rights, as have the threats and attacks faced by those who defend the territory. Given this context, organizations expressed the need to find spaces to pause and come together to deepen their analysis of the context, as well as spaces for reflection, care, and protection practices in the face of threats and direct attacks, and the confusion and frustration in which many communities find themselves. Thus, in 2023, we held our first Acuerpa FAU.

We implemented a **collective methodology** where organizations participated by putting their needs and intentions for the space, as well as in the methodological planning and the facilitation of spaces during the meeting. This was a concrete exercise of sharing power with the organizations and including the diversity of knowledge and voices. The meeting allowed us to generate a collective analysis of the context throughout the Mexican territory, to share and strengthen strategies and alliances for action and, at the same time, it meant a space for healing, care, and rest where we discussed how to approach care and protection based on identities, ancestry, and the collective.





## 5.2 Accompaniments

### Accompanying the Movement of Indigenous Women and Diversities for Good Living (MMDIBV) in the Mapuche territory.

As part of the follow-up to the Caracola Grants provided to the Movement of Indigenous Women and Diversities for Good Living (Movimiento de Mujeres por el Buen Vivir “MMDIBV”), we knew there was a need for a deeper accompaniment. So, we went to Al Lof Pillañ Mahuitza, Chubut, Argentina, one of the Mapuche territories recovered in the south of the country. The community faces many risks derived from the Mapuche people's defense of their territory. The meeting generated the strength to connect with the mission of sustainable activism, from the work with the organizations as well as from the inter-programmatic, based on our potential and building collective, comfortable, and quiet places for accompaniment. It is important to recognize that the territory welcomed us, sheltered us, and lefts us with institutional and personal commitments to continue in solidarity.

### “Un apapacho para continuar” (A warm comforting hug to continue)

To close the year, we organized the meeting “Un apapacho para continuar” (“A warm comforting hug to continue”), with the purpose of connecting with exiled Nicaraguan women defenders and fostering in them conditions of personal and collective connection to strengthen - through pause, rest, and reflection - political proposals that reaffirm the meaning of life, of what they do, and strengthen affective support networks, based on their life experiences. The meeting allowed us to deepen our understanding of the experiences of women defenders in exile and to nurture our reflections on the possibilities of how to provide more and better support in this specific context.



### 5.3 Amplifying the voice of movements

Our communications approach also focused on accompanying feminist movements in LAC, using our networks and platforms as a bridge between local organizations, collectives, and networks and international and regional perspectives. During 2023, our bet was to continue expanding these alliances and allow the stories of resistance and hope to be told by their protagonists.

In commemoration of the Press Freedom Day, we worked with Brazilian journalist [Leandra Migotto](#), a woman with disability, and for the [Day against LGBTI-phobia](#) with the [Presentes Agency](#). Both collaborations resulted in a news story that tells the contexts they face from their identities. We also launched the video "[Narrating our diverse bodies](#)", directed by [Sandía Digital](#), who developed a collaborative scripting methodology with fellow women with disabilities from five Latin American countries.

We are proud to have collaborated with two collectives that create anti-racist content. Together with [Negrocentricxs](#) we commemorated July 25 with a video narrating their experience as black women and black dissidents living in Chile. In order to reclaim October 12 as a date to remember and memorialize our colonial wound, we forged an alliance with [Afrocollectiva](#), who created two visual materials explaining the role of coloniality in our concepts of gender and race.

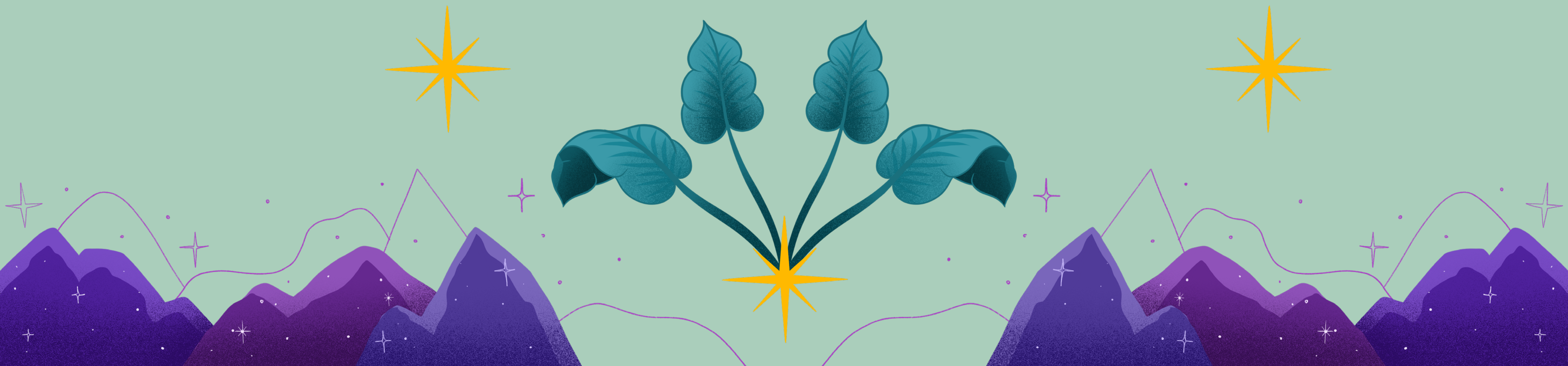






6. We fund and work from feminism

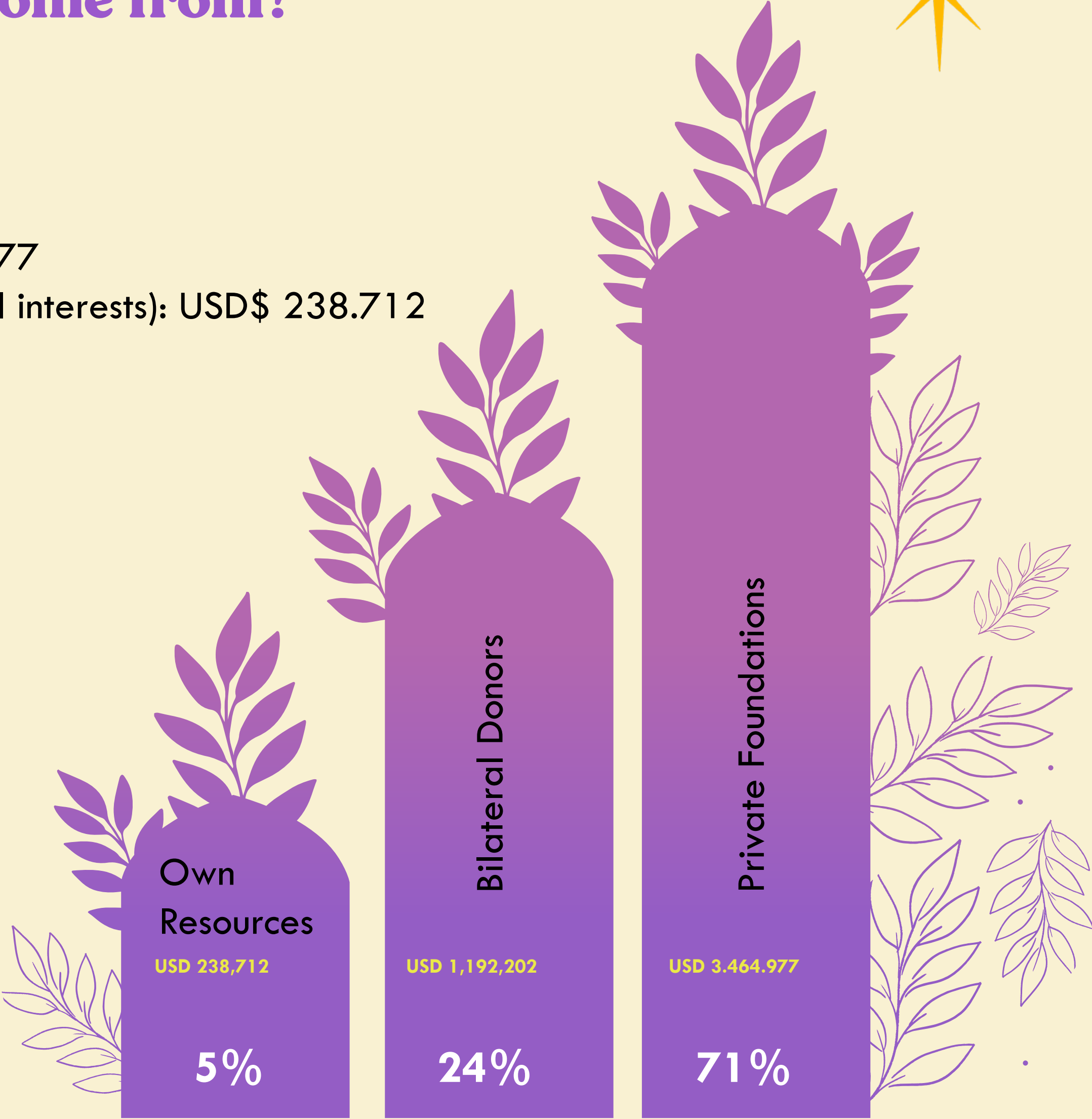
WHAT NUMBERS  
TELL US





# 6.1 Where does our income come from?

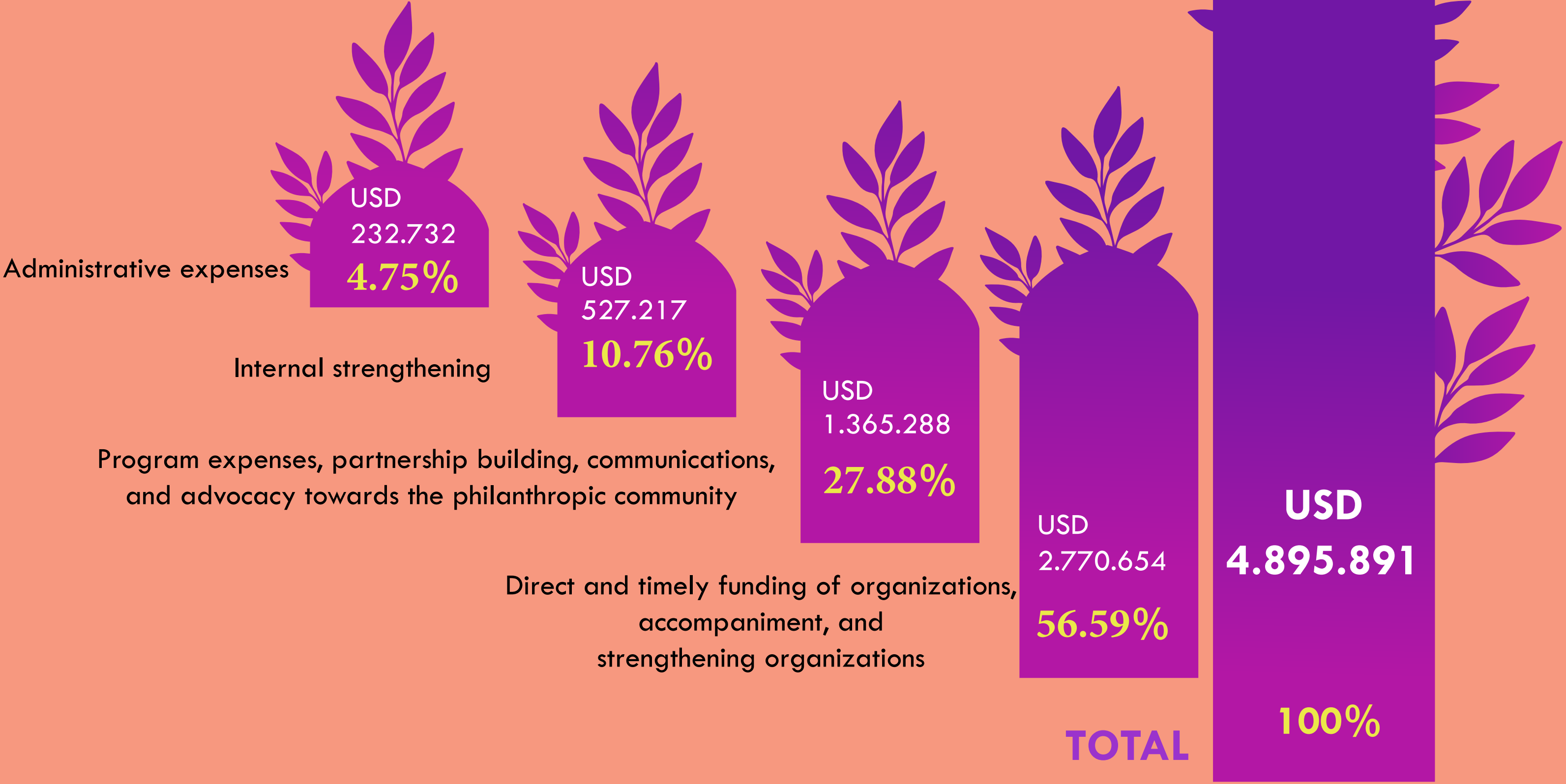
- Bilateral Donors: USD\$ 1.192.202
- Private Foundation Donners: USD\$ 3.464.977
- Own income (from investments and financial interests): USD\$ 238.712
- TOTAL: USD\$ 4.895.891**





# 6.2 How were the resources executed?

## Execution:







### 6.3 Regional Team

As of 2022, we opted for a collective leadership model. In August 2023, the Executive Co-leadership was restructured to a two-co-lead model, which is responsible for the political and strategic direction and management of the organization. We continue to learn from this institutional and feminist bet.


In 2023, the UAF-LAC team was made up by 25 professionals from all over the region. People of diverse nationalities and contexts, grounded in their realities and, above all, having a great capacity to contribute to the discussions of the Latin American and Caribbean context.








## 7. We also work in partnership

Our networking and coming together allowed us to continue nurturing our reflections and learnings, as well as finding new ways to respond to crises. We participated in several spaces throughout 2023 through these networks.

 Latin American meeting of healers, sorcerers, folk healers, herbalists, healer artists, and therapists together with the Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Defenders (IM-D), we co-convened this historic in-person meeting for the current processes of the feminist movement in the region, after a series of virtual meetings of the same nature.

 International Meeting of Black and Afro-descendant Women Defenders of Nature We participated in this meeting convened by Acción Ecológica who, in partnership with Afro-descendant organizations in Ecuador, saw the need for a space for Afro-descendant women defenders of the territory to come together.

 Pluri-national Meeting of Women, Lesbians, Transvestites, Trans, Bisexual, Intersex and Non-Binary Persons. For the second consecutive year we attended this national meeting, which has been a space for political education and a possibility for understanding the Argentinean context and the regional resonances.

 XV Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Meeting (EFLAC) This meeting was key for recognizing and strengthening partnerships with movements in the region. During the event, we participated in self-organized activities and held a workshop in the framework of our global research: "How to ground ourselves in care and dance the revolution?"





## 7.1 Latin American Partnerships

Our presence in the region is enriched by the partnerships we have established with funds, networks, and organizations. In 2023 we participated in collaborative projects, such as [The project "On The Right Track"](#), led by [Fondo Alquimia](#), which allowed us to make a reading and analysis of the fundamentalist and anti-rights movements in the region, to deepen the advocacy, communication, anti-racism, and research strategies.

**"Strengthening Knowledge and Learning in the Latin American Alliance of Women's Funds"** is a Wellspring-funded project that allowed us to closely support sex-gender dissident movements and activists, specifically with RRGs that include collective care actions to address their contexts.

**"Leading from the South" brought us closer to movements, organizations, and networks throughout the region and in the Southern Cone, in particular.** In 2023, several organizations with which UAF-LAC already had a relationship were funded in the framework of this project, with the purpose of strengthening their ability to lead change.

Together with Latin American Women's Funds, we carried out the project **"Building Adaptation and Resilience in the Face of the Climate Crisis"**, an initiative to systematize the intersection between climate justice and gender.

We also participated in some of the spaces promoted by the [GAGGA](#) Alliance (Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action). Monitoring the GAGGA funding program activities and "Linking and Learning" spaces (on Green Climate Fund and others).

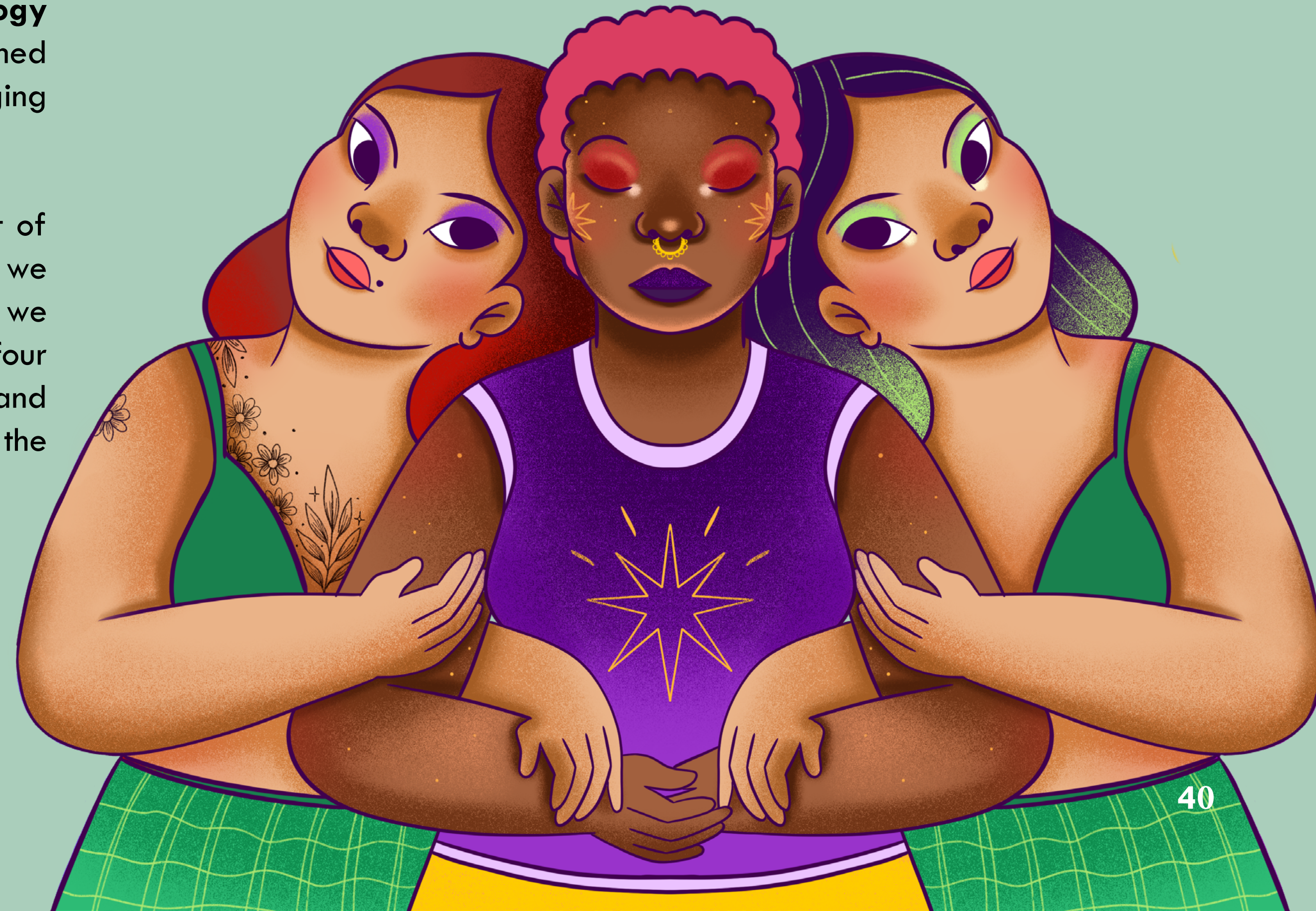
**Our participation in national networking spaces has contributed to the monitoring of the contexts in Colombia, Honduras, and Nicaragua.** Although the human rights observatories in Honduras and Nicaragua were not very active in 2023, we continued to be present to reinforce our commitment to civil society in these countries. In the Peace Cooperation Space in Colombia, we obtained qualified contextual information and strengthened our network of alliances in the country.



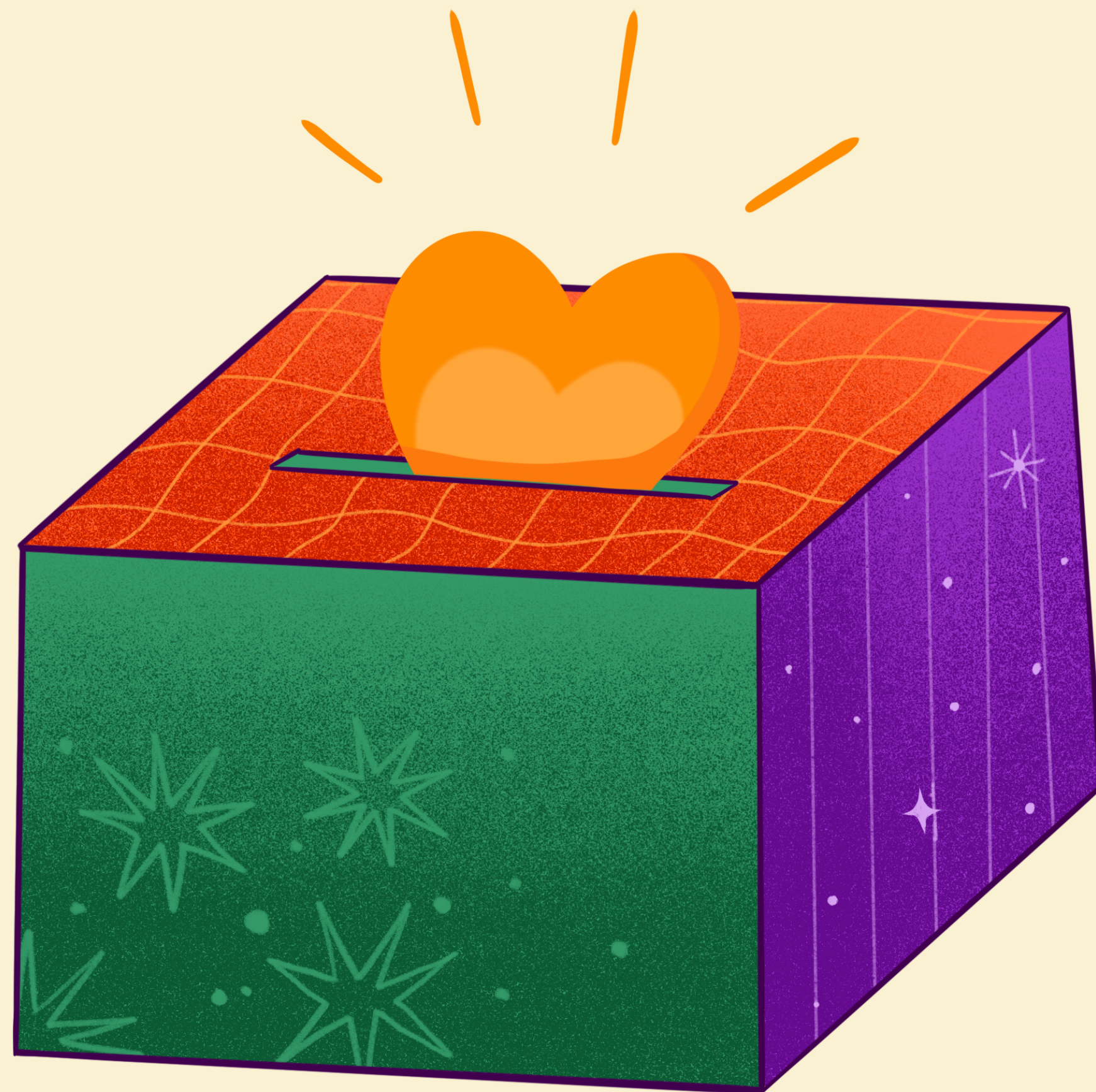
## 7.2 Global Alliances

At a global level, we strengthened our relationship with other philanthropic organizations by contributing to the construction of networking spaces, such as the **Feminist Alchemy** initiative, led by the [Global Fund for Women](#), and the **Responding to Anti-Gender Ideology Taskforce**, led by the Global Philanthropy Project. We also strengthened our relationship with the [International Trans Fund](#) by exchanging information on trans organizations in the region.

Our major networking/involvement at the global level is being part of the [Sisterhood of Urgent Action Funds](#). Through this sisterhood, we expanded our bet on feminist response to crises. During 2023, we created learning circles on Rapid Response Grants between the four funds, which allowed us to continue building a collective identity and socialize learnings and challenges regarding the delivery of grants, the identification of crisis contexts, and strategies for internal care.







### 7.3 Impact on philanthropy

Both our international partnerships and our work as UAF-LAC allowed us to continue our advocacy in philanthropy spaces throughout 2023, **sharing the importance of putting care at the center of the grantmaking processes.** A clear example of this is the donor dossier ["From activists to donors"](#), a document that emerged as part of our global research on care. This publication was launched at the [Women Deliver](#) event and was used at other in-person events.

We also shared this paper when participating in multiple advocacy spaces, such as the Feminist Foreign Policy, where one of our Co-directors, Sofia Marcia, participated as ambassador for the region. We also presented this paper and the global research at a [Shift The Power](#) session.



## Thank you to our supporters

Our work would not be possible without the partnership, collaboration, and trust that donors, partners, allies, and movements provide to UAF-LAC.

We thank all the voices, experiences, and embraces shared with the feminist movements of the region, which are not only the heart of our work, but also represent our hope and dignity as a region.

To those who accompany us from our alliance and complicity, we thank you for allowing us to create with you and continue to nurture our reflections.

We also acknowledge and honor our donors, who trust that funding our work is a way to provide resources to continue creating feminist responses to crises.







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