



Fearless Leaders

Women Driving Change
2018 Impact Report



GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN IS A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR GENDER EQUALITY.

We use our powerful networks to find, fund, and amplify the courageous work of women who are building social movements, advancing systematic change, and challenging the status quo.

2018 was a particularly volatile year for women's rights movements—from new threats on women's sexual and reproductive rights to escalating violence by fundamentalists. More than ever, it became unsafe for women to organize, speak out against injustice, and demand their rights. But it was also a year of resilience and resistance. Called to action by intensified global threats against women, girls, and trans people, our grantee partners stepped up as fearless leaders to halt rollbacks and seize new opportunities for change.

We're proud to share a snapshot of the impact we have achieved together through your investment in the leadership of powerful women's movements.

OUR IMPACT IN 2018



GRANTS BY ISSUE

43% Freedom from Violence

22% Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights

23% Leadership

10% Economic Justice

2% Other: 8 grantees do not fit the current impact area schema.

INFLUENCING LAWS & POLICIES

18 LAWS AND POLICIES CHANGED IN 14 COUNTRIES, including Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Turkey, Uganda, and Uruguay.

For example, grantee advocacy influenced governments to:

- » **Ban an unjust practice** in India that allows a husband to divorce his wife by simply saying the Arabic word for divorce, *talaq*, three times
- » **Strengthen protections** for women survivors of domestic violence in the Lira District of Uganda
- » **Expand accountability** for femicide in Uruguay

*Laws and policy changes were reported in FY2017-2018 and therefore some changes occurred in the prior fiscal year.

\$7,880,319

IN GRANTS AWARDED*
[302 grants in 70 countries]

*Includes Program, Executive, Trust, Fiscal Sponsorship and Partnership grants.

* * *

OUR GRANTS REACHED 709,660

INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY—
with benefits for countless more to women's families and communities

103,503
GIRLS (AGED 17 AND YOUNGER)

5,253
TRANS* YOUTH & ADULTS

EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE

TOTAL REVENUE:

\$21,314,831

TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$14,840,593

Excellent fundraising efficiency ratio:
spending just \$0.11 to raise each \$1

*The numbers represented are unaudited financials. For a full list of our audited revenue and expenses, please refer to our Annual Report in November 2018.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

As one of three partners in the AmplifyChange consortium (alongside MannionDaniels and African Women's Development Fund), Global Fund for Women plays a key contributing role in awarding grants for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

During Global Fund for Women's FY18, AmplifyChange awarded:

€42,067,814

212 GRANTS IN 35 COUNTRIES

NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

A STRONG LEADERSHIP PIPELINE IS ESSENTIAL FOR LASTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENTS:

78 40

GRANTEE PARTNERS IN

COUNTRIES worked directly with young women to develop their leadership.

HOW WE ADVANCE CHANGE

Global Fund for Women supports women's rights organizations to create change in four key ways: increasing women's and girls' awareness of their rights; increasing their access to resources and power; changing social norms; and influencing laws and policies. We believe for social transformation to have the greatest impact and to be sustainable, change must happen in all of these areas.

POWER INCREASED AWARENESS

From Survivor to Advocate. Grantee partner **LAPPAN** in Indonesia trained gender-based violence survivors to advocate against violence in their communities. Survivors have become community educators and have engaged local government members on issues of gender-based violence.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KENDEDA FUND AND CREA, Global Fund for Women is in its second year of a three-year mentoring initiative for **30 young women leaders in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal** who will carry the women's movement forward in South Asia.

LAWS CHANGES IN POLICY

Making Women More Visible. In Haiti, grantee partner **FANM YO LA** set up a platform for women's organizations to collectively demand enforcement of a 2012 constitutional amendment that required 30% representation of women in local politics. These efforts led the authorities to create a Provisional Electoral Council, led by women, to enforce compliance with the 30% quota.

CULTURE CHANGES IN SOCIAL NORMS

Not Before 18. Grantee partner **The Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering** launched an award-winning campaign, #NotBefore18, which tackled the issue of child marriage, with the goal of passing a law protecting girls from early marriage. The campaign took a nontraditional approach and tackled the issue of child and early marriage from a medical point of view—raising awareness about the health risks girls face to better demonstrate the gravity of the problem.



OPPORTUNITY INCREASED ACCESS TO RESOURCES

My Land, My Rights. Grantee Partner **Shibuye Community Health Workers** in Kenya advocated for women's right to access land. They organized meetings with local male community leaders to gain their support. As a result, 312 women and girls, including widows and female-headed households, increased their access to or ownership of land. Women's agricultural productivity increased as a result.

“GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN was the first donor who put money in us. This was a big step that came from a trust of what we are doing as grassroots women.”

— SHIBUYE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

PICKING UP THE PIECES: WOMEN REBUILD SYRIA



PHOTOS Hadi Bou Ayash

GRANT-MAKING SNAPSHOT

IN FISCAL YEAR 2018 Global Fund for Women provided our **first grants to women's groups inside Syria!** We are proud to be one of handful organizations supporting women's groups persevering to exist amidst bombardment and conflict in the country.

» We provided **\$545,745** to **16** grantee partners in **6** countries helping displaced women and girls become voices for peace and rebuilding in their communities: **Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Palestine, and Iraq.**

» Grantee partners not only worked with Syrians but also Palestinian, Lebanese, and Iraqi women and girls who lived together in camps as refugees and internally displaced people.

» In the first year of grantmaking, **4,625 women and girls** were equipped with the knowledge and tools to advocate for their rights—from internally displaced women in Syria learning about transitional justice to women refugees in Lebanon building skills to generate income.

THE WAR IN SYRIA HAS MARKED A TURNING POINT FOR WOMEN'S POWER

and voice in the public sphere. With men largely out of the picture—as fathers, husbands, and sons have been killed, forced to flee, or disappeared—women's roles have shifted from homemakers to change-makers. Amidst the chaos, women are actively organizing to keep their communities safe and pushing Syria toward a path of peace.

Our grantee partner **Women Now for Development** is a courageous Syrian women-led group standing tall in the face of rising extremism and government oppression—determined to see women thrive both in and outside of Syria. Founded in 2012 by Syrian feminist activist

Samar Yazbek, Women Now first started as a small support group for a few families in Syria and quickly grew into a major women's network—now running two centers in Syria and two in Lebanon.

But running these centers has not been easy. Women Now was forced to suspend three of their centers based in Eastern Ghouta when the city was bombarded by the Syrian regime and its Russian allies. Their centers were hit and destroyed by airstrikes. Women Now also lost their beloved colleague, friend, and activist Malak in the airstrikes.

Neither the growing political turmoil nor threats from extremist groups have stopped Women Now from getting women's voices heard.

Whether within the family in Syria or in international peace talks in Geneva, Women Now's first goal is to increase women's participation in Syrian society. In Idlib, Women Now's centers are dynamic, safe spaces where women meet, speak freely, and support one another in developing the knowledge and skills they need to become stronger leaders in their families, communities and public life—and **Bayan Rehan** has been at the heart of it.

Bayan is one of many women's rights activists planting seeds of hope for a brighter future in Syria. She first got involved with Women Now three years ago when—having been imprisoned herself for her activism—she was invited to give a talk about torture in Syrian prisons. From her

native city of Ghouta to being forcibly displaced to Idlib, Bayan has remained committed to Women Now in running its leadership program that trains women in public speaking, team management, negotiation and debate.

The training has already encouraged many women to join and lead local councils, become story-tellers to amplify the voices from their community, and create “friendship circles” that provide women with the confidence needed to claim their rights. As Bayan says, “Women are now solely responsible for the well-being of their families and communities. They will be the ones to rebuild Syria. For this reason, we must provide them with the experience necessary to get the job done.”

What keeps Bayan going? Her vision for Syria. *“What has inspired me to keep up my work is my belief in the future of Syria. No matter how tired or weak I become, I will continue my work. My hope is that Syrian women will play an active role in rebuilding Syria and make their own decisions.”*

“THE FLEXIBLE FUNDING from Global Fund for Women is invaluable to women's rights organizations like ours. In recent months it has helped us to weather the impact of the Ghouta crisis and secure the sustainability of our operations in Northern Syria as well as in Lebanon. But it is not only about financial support. Global Fund for Women understands our feminist vision. We appreciate partners who not only support our work on the ground but also raise awareness about women's activism in Syria.”

THE FIRST RESPONDERS: WOMEN IN MEXICO TURN DISASTER INTO OPPORTUNITY



PHOTO Robert Hung

GRANT-MAKING SNAPSHOT

Global Fund for Women provided **\$139,000** to 5 grantees in response to the Mexico earthquake crisis. We employed a two-pronged approach: providing a 3-year \$60,000 grant to Semillas; and a total of **\$79,000** to 4 grantees. Our grantee partners met the overlooked needs of women and girls in the most remote areas of Mexico—such as in Chiapas and Oaxaca—ensuring funds were not only focused in Mexico City which absorbed most of the relief aid:

» **Ciarena** provided immediate relief to women who lost their homes in Juchitan de Zapoteca—particularly for the elderly and single mothers.

» **Comité de Mujeres** worked with indigenous communities around the Isthmus of San Mateo del Mar to rebuild community brick ovens that are used for local food production as well as a source of needed income.

» **Consorcio Oaxaca** supported women in Oaxaca City who were psychologically affected by the earthquake with healing and self-care sessions.

NO ONE WAS PREPARED WHEN EARTHQUAKES ROCKED MEXICO IN SEPTEMBER 2017. But grassroots women leaders knew what to do. They responded swiftly—focusing on the needs of the hardest-hit and most isolated rural communities.

Our partner **Semillas**—Mexico’s first and only women’s fund—transformed the shock of the earthquake into an opportunity to strengthen community resilience and attract new funding to women’s rights groups. Semillas quickly realized their unique position to respond to the earthquake given their connections to grassroots

women’s groups deeply rooted in the affected communities. They also recognized the need to develop a long-term reconstruction strategy—unlike traditional aid efforts focused only on short-term solutions.

But Semillas needed support to realize their vision. When the earthquake hit, Semillas had limited resources available, as the funds in their existing rapid response program were already allocated. They also needed help to get the message out loud and clear to the donor community in Mexico: that women are at the heart of crisis response—and investing in Semillas was the best way forward to rebuild Mexico.

Semillas turned to Global Fund for Women, and we immediately provided them a three-year grant. They used the first year’s \$20,000 to develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy and campaign—enabling Semillas to raise \$950,000 from both local philanthropists in Mexico and international foundations. In the first three months alone, Semillas raised more than half of the funds. With these resources, Semillas created a new initiative designed to support grassroots groups stepping up to fill in the gaps left by relief efforts—both immediate and in the long-term.

Laura García, the Executive Director of Semillas, says, “*It’s not about the*

funding itself. It was the timing and the general support that allowed us to reach a much wider audience of new donors—donors who we didn’t think were ever going to support us.” Global Fund for Women’s flexible support and trust provided Semillas with the fuel needed to shake up traditional approaches to crisis response. Because of Semillas’ influence, for the first time, people in Mexico appreciated the importance of women’s leadership in responding to natural disasters, and stepped up to fund their critical work.

Our partnership with Semillas illustrates an important lesson: **the whole can be more than**

the sum of its parts. Together, Semillas and Global Fund for Women exponentially expanded support to the marginalized communities affected by the disaster by ensuring that locally-led women’s organizations in those communities had resources for recovery and rebuilding.

“GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN SHOWED UP when donors weren’t there yet... If it wasn’t for Global Fund for Women, we wouldn’t have had the energy for this new idea. We wouldn’t have had the faith and the courage to say yes let’s do it. We can fundraise.”

— LAURA GARCÍA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SEMILLAS

TOP SUCCESSSES OF THE MOVEMENTS

This past year, we saw the power and conviction of women's rights movements. But they couldn't have done it alone. Together—with you and our incredible grantee partners—we turned the most challenging moments into opportunities for transformative social change.

Let us celebrate the successes of fearless women leading change and make sure we **move forward to an even more powerful year ahead.**



ABORTION RIGHTS WIN.

In Chile, reproductive health laws have long been influenced by religious and cultural conservatism, and abortion was illegal without exception. But in 2018, after years of effort, three of our grantee partners—**Mujeres en Marcha Chile**, **Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género: Corporación Humanas**, and **Instituto de la Mujer**—helped secure the passage of a law that permits abortion under limited circumstances.



USING THE COURTS.

Our grantee partner in Mali, **Association pour le Progres et de la Defense des Droits des Femme**, successfully built pressure on the Mali government to revise its laws by presenting a case to the African Commission. Mali is required to: increase the legal age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18; recognize the right to consent in marriage; and give women the right to inheritance. This landmark ruling is opening the door to use the court as a tool to pressure other African governments violating their international treaties.



PREVENTING ROLLBACKS.

In Turkey, the legislature attempted to pass a bill that would legitimize statutory rape and child marriage by pardoning men convicted of having sex with underage girls if they married them. Women's groups—including our grantee partner **Filmmor Women's Cooperative**—successfully prevented its passage.

COVER PHOTOS Front cover, from left to right, Hadi Abou Ayash, Robert Hung, Mark Tuschman, Cinthia Carvajal. Back cover, center photo, Association Malienne pour le Suivi et l'Orientation des Pratiques Traditionnelles (AMSOPT), right photo, Filmmor Women's Cooperative

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