### Fund for Gender Equality

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**



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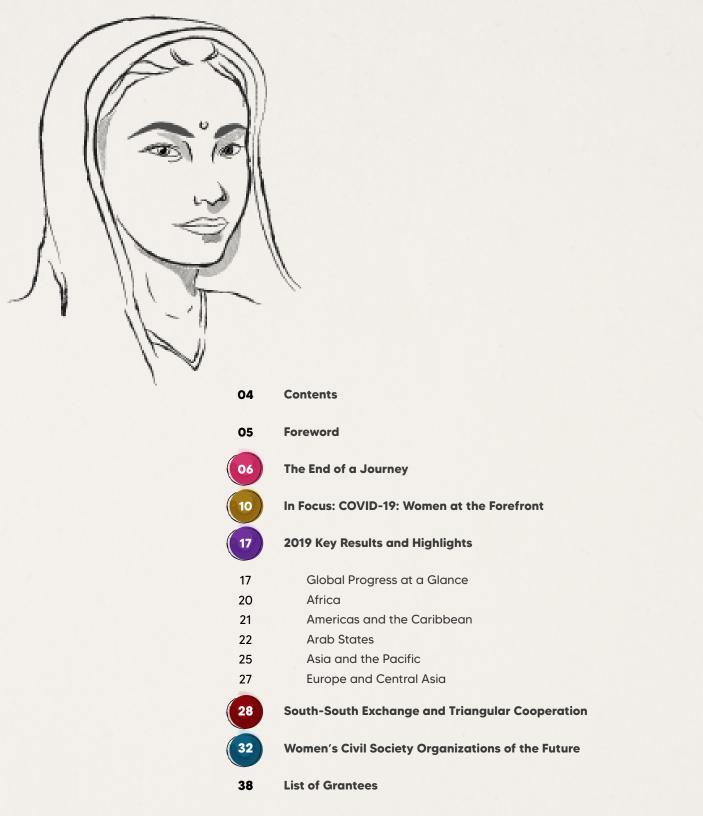
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Ten years of feminist grantmaking; 143 partner organizations; USD 65 million put directly into the hands of women's rights activists; dozens of dedicated and committed feminist professionals joining the journey and contributing to the looked-for global footprint. And all of it embedded within a United Nations organization. In summary, this describes UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (FGE).

Yet the values that run through the Fund are what truly epitomize its deep and everlasting spirit.

#### Good vibes, mutual respect, vision, passion, empowerment, family, care.

FGE colleagues identified these as their most significant values over one of our annual retreats in 2016. It became apparent that, though not part of the official "results" of the Fund and often unspoken, these were an invisible glue that defined us as a team, moved us, connected us with our work and partners, and gave a unique imprint to our approach.

This year, the world has witnessed the ultimate test of a healthy, peaceful and just society. The confluence of inequities in key areas of life, including health and socioeconomic factors, combined with a global pandemic, and unjust, racist and sexist policies, structures and practices, have placed the work of human rights and justice at the forefront of public discourse.

Without strong communities, women leaders, and adequate funding and support for key social services that empower marginalized and vulnerable populations, prosperity and progress against these inequities and global issues will be impossible to achieve.

Values must take centre stage. Whether they are similar to the ones above or others embraced by diverse organizations and activists, values hold the key to how we respond and intervene as individuals and societies.

The FGE's values and impact have left an impression around the world. They will continue to be taken forward by those who have directly benefited and been part of the journey.

We hope this moment poses an opportunity for everyone to reflect on the individual and collective values they hold, and use them as a compass to guide their life and work. Our actions reflect our values and these shape our societies. Let's take the right steps toward a more equal, a more just, and more fair society.

In solidarity,

FGE team (listed alphabetically)

Catherine Wolf, Cynthia Sjamsu, Nancy Khweiss, Rana El Houjeiri, Sara de la Peña Espín



# THE END OF A JOURNEY

The Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) has been, since 2009, UN Women's only global grant-making mechanism for civil society. It supports national women-led civil society organizations in advancing women's economic and political empowerment, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Created with an initial investment of USD 65 million from the Government of Spain and mobilizing an additional USD 20 million from other government and private sector donors since then, it remains today a unique grant-making model committed to the principles of accessibility, trust and women's ownership.

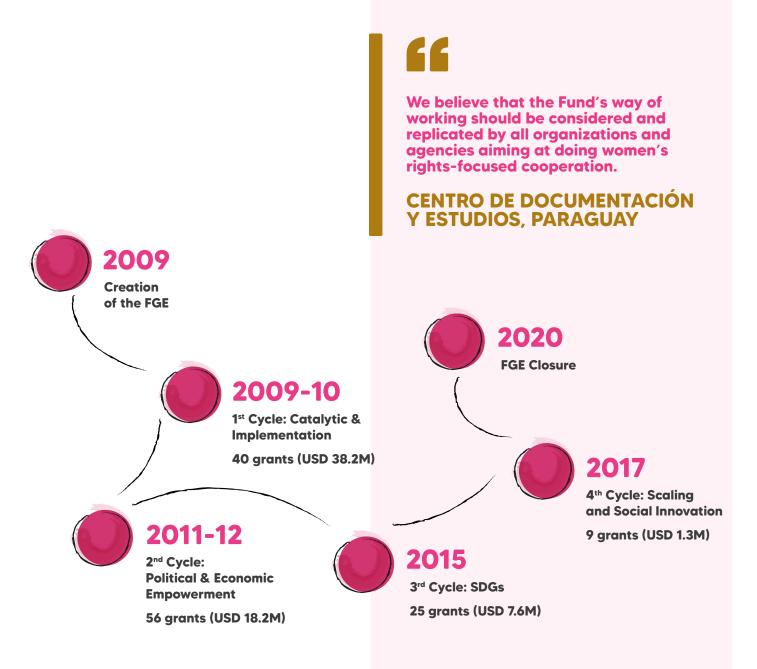
After 10 years of supporting women-led initiatives, investing in their ideas and capabilities, and benefitting millions of people, the FGE concluded its operations in June 2020. The closure marked a shift in donor and organizational priorities towards other thematic areas and modes of programme implementation at a time of limited resources.

#### **OUR LEGACY**

An ever-evolving feminist grant-making instrument, the Fund moved from its initial multimillion dollar grant investments to accelerate the realization of gender equality commitments on a national scale, to its smaller but powerful innovation initiatives in the last stages. It shifted from one-year grants to multi-year projects across grant-making cycles. It stepped up from presentationdriven training sessions on results-based management to intensive virtual coaching and co-creation.

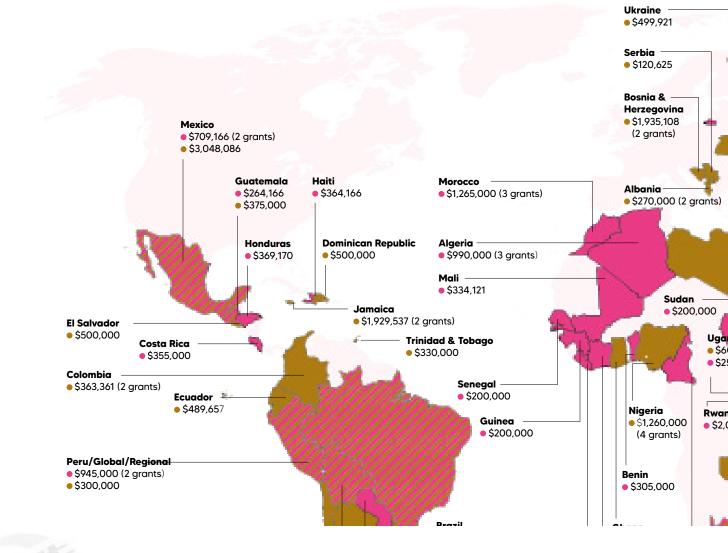
Along the way, the FGE embarked on research, selfreflection, analysis and experimentation. It drew lessons on how to become a more effective catalyst for the women's organizations of the future, aspiring to redefine donor-grantee relationships, foster womencentred project design and prioritize organizational strengthening for grantees.

The results and learnings of the FGE's 10 years of grantmaking for women's rights, with its successes and its failures, are captured in a separate report. With it, we hope that the legacy of the FGE's 143 grantee partners, 24 donors and extended team in UN Women will bring inspiration to future efforts to work with organizations that can reach women and girls, and better their lives, particularly those left furthest behind.



## FGEGLOBAL PORTFOLIO 2009-2020 Egypt/Reg • \$1,310,00

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