



Building the field of philanthropy and Gender Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean

The state of play in terms of women's rights movements, money and power, politics and institutions

Executive Summary

The starting point

Women's rights movements in Latin America and the Caribbean are at the forefront of most of the important social changes happening in the region. Yet institutional philanthropy seems to be turning its back on these movements.

The response

ELLAS, in partnership with Comunalía and Wings, and with the support of the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), conducted research to better understand the current funding landscape in the region, with the aim of increasing and improving the resources available to women's organizations and feminist movements in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The process

Between December 2021 and July 2022, the ELLAS team – together with seven researchers covering the region – collected data from more than 350 women's organizations, donors, media sources and academics. Their experiences and recommendations form the basis of this paper. The research techniques used included documentary analysis, online research, online surveys, as well as semi-structured and in-depth interviews.

The final report was authored by Andrés Thompson and Florencia Roitstein of ELLAS. The research team included Claudia Toro, Valeria Gutiérrez, Silvia Aguião, Mariely Rivera, Inés Pousadela, Eva Villanueva, Diana Campoamor and Isaura Castelao Huerta.

Content of the report

The report is divided into five chapters:

- 1st.** Addresses the **current socio-political contexts in which women's rights and feminist organizations operate**. It includes an in-depth analysis and critical look at the existing regulatory

frameworks, political environment characterized by an anti-rights offensive, public gender policies, and the impact of COVID-19.

2nd. **Maps the philanthropy and gender ecosystem in the region.** The women's organizations and feminist movements included in this mapping tend to share a number of characteristics: few are registered / formal groups; many are quite young, formed in recent years; they represent a new generation of activists with new narratives and agendas; and many share the challenge of mobilizing external resources. This chapter also analyzes the emergence of alternative feminist media, new spaces for knowledge generation, and the presence of a diverse number of donors and funders in the region.

3rd. Analyzes the **constraints to the development of a more supportive ecosystem for women's rights and feminist movements in the region.** This analysis considers not only the challenges but the opportunities – particularly in terms of the relationship between women's social organizations and donors.

4th. Outlines a **desirable scenario for the development of this ecosystem and outlines concrete actions** that can lead to positive change. The chapter offers a detailed, comprehensive, and exhaustive set of **recommendations.**

5th. In the final **reflections and conclusions,** a call is made to make these changes happen – by appealing to rebelliousness and non-conformism, embracing risk-taking, developing new models and strategic alliances, bringing together the energy and knowledge of all parties, breaking down prejudices, and changing practices that can stand in the way of real change. More money and resources will obviously help to accelerate these processes.

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