



2017 / 2018

A YEAR OF TRANSITION

ANNUAL REPORT



Women's Fund Asia



WOMEN'S FUND ASIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2017-2018

THE YEAR THAT WAS— NEW JOURNEY, NEW DESTINATIONS

8 March 2018 was a special International Women's Day for us at South Asia Women's Fund. With a new logo and a new name—Women's Fund Asia (WFA)—we stepped into a bigger, broader world of work, reaffirming our commitment to supporting women and trans rights and promoting feminist philanthropy in the larger Asia region. Our partners and donors embraced this new mission, as did our sister funds and other allies from other Asian feminist movements that work towards our common goal to realise the human rights of all women and trans* people throughout the region.*

The transition process that began in 2016 was intense. We engaged and reflected with our team, board, partners, and advisors to evolve an Asian strategy—a new approach reflected not only in our grant making, but also in our planning and mapping of risks and assumptions for our new persona as Women's Fund Asia. And even as strategies were being shaped, our core programming did not slow down.

- // We gave grants under two broad umbrellas: Leading from the South and Strengthening South Asian Feminist Movements.
- // We also did extensive outreach to women's organisations in new regions.
- // We supported 74 grants with a total commitment of \$3 million!
- // We organized Linking and Learning spaces for our partners and allies in South Asia and Southeast Asia through our convergences and convenings.
- // We supported capacity building through initiatives such as a Learning, Monitoring & Evaluation workshop.
- // We supported 19 legal fellows who worked on 194 new cases for women litigants in difficult circumstances.

The larger political climate in Asia and its impact on women's and trans* rights activism forms a key consideration in the strategies being developed for the journey ahead as WFA. We hope that through our grant making we can provide activism a momentum of its own across the rest of Asia.

Along with our sister funds in the Leading from the South consortium—African Women's Development Fund, International Women's Indigenous Forum (FIMI/AYNI), and Fondo de Mujeres del Sur—we are pushing for feminist voices from the Global South to shape the discourse in resource allocation; in doing so, we are claiming power. In this journey, we are extremely grateful to our sister funds for their support and solidarity. We also express much gratitude to Prospera—the international network of women's funds, for their guidance and tough love. This journey would have been difficult without them.

This past year we also saw the launch of SAWF-IN, which seeks to help establish a resource ecosystem for donors within India, providing them the tools for impactful philanthropy. We recognise that in India there is a growing middle-class and people are more open to giving to social justice causes rather than charity. Therefore, we believe there is a need to approach resource mobilisation in a serious and systematic way. A donor event was held on behalf of SAWF-IN at The Park (Delhi) on 8 August to officially launch SAWF-IN amongst potential donors and to look into indigenous fundraising for the Legal Fellowship Programme in India.

A special thank you to the fabulous team, board, and advisors of WFA who are committed to the vision and mission of resources as a right for women and trans* activism in the region. We are also grateful to our donors for their continued support and trust; they are our co-travellers in this new journey—Filía de Frauenstiftung, Ford Foundation, Foundation for a Just Society, Global Fund for Women, Mama Cash, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands, and Oak Foundation.

We will continue our in-depth field learning visits across Asia in the coming year. Over the longer term, we will collectively brainstorm and reflect on capturing changes in the political and cultural contexts of the greater Asia region. We will strive to push the agenda of feminist philanthropy in the region and intend to go beyond the traditional 'philanthropic' giving to engage with the larger politics of resources at both the regional and international level.



Priya Paul
Chairperson



Tulika Srivastava
Executive Director



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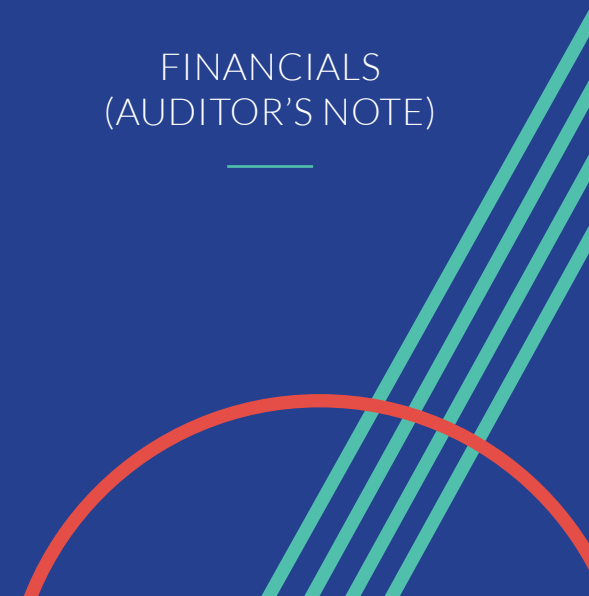
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FINANCIALS
(AUDITOR'S NOTE)





Women's Fund Asia (WFA) is a regional women's fund, committed to supporting women and trans people-led interventions, to enhance and strengthen their access to human rights.*

The fund, started in 2004 as the South Asia Women's Fund, was created originally to address the lack of resources for women's organisations, especially the smaller front-line groups. We fund women's and trans rights work in 18 Asian countries.*

OUR VISION

Realising the human rights of women and trans* people in Asia.

OUR MISSION

Women's Fund Asia works to nurture and lead feminist philanthropy in the region; to effectively mobilise resources to support individuals, groups and networks enabling their sustainability; and to strengthen partner capacities, leadership, advocacy and networks in the field.

We Offer Grants

Our grants are flexible and focus on filling the gaps faced by women and trans* groups.

We Facilitate Critical Spaces

We create spaces that bring together our partners, sector experts and other catalytic actors for collective learning, reflection and strategising.

We Influence Philanthropy

We not only raise funds but also facilitate access to funds by influencing philanthropy towards women's and trans* rights work.

We fund work across identified priority themes:

- // Strengthening Feminist Voices
- // Movement & Labor
- // Autonomy, Decisions, & Sexual Rights
- // Access to Justice
- // Environmental Justice

WE WORK IN

SOUTH ASIA ●

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka

SOUTH-EAST ASIA ●

Cambodia
Indonesia
Laos
Malaysia
Myanmar
Philippines
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Vietnam

EAST ASIA ●

Mongolia



THE JOURNEY OF OUR TRANSFORMATION

From South Asia Women's Fund to Women's Fund Asia



In
2003
a group of
committed feminists
envisioned an institution to resource
human rights of women in South Asia.

A year later, in
2004
the vision led to the creation of
South Asia Women's Fund.

As a result, in

2010
South Asia Women's Fund

was re-launched under the leadership of
Priya Paul & Tulika Srivastava,
reaffirming support to feminist movements in South Asia.

Within three years,
the need for greater impact was felt — thus began an
**institutional & strategic
review process**
through
2007-09

The next three years from

2011-13

saw a significant increase in grant making across

**Bangladesh, India, Nepal,
Pakistan & Sri Lanka,**

which supported grassroots initiatives and women leaders, and
feminist philanthropy 'rooted in national & grassroots realities'.

In

2014-15

as the work of resourcing rights grew, so did the learnings
from the ground. Critical themes to support the fight for

**rights of women and
trans* people**

emerged that were relevant to regional contexts & realities.

By

2016

South Asia Women's Fund began an inclusive & consultative
process with support from the **Leading from the South**
Programme to expand the mandate of its work to
encompass all of **Southeast Asia & Mongolia** expanding from

5 countries to 18 countries!

In

2017

the first grants were made
to organisations working in

Southeast Asia

The Fund's Board also initiated an
institutional transition to include
more voices.

And in

2018

South Asia Women's Fund formally transitioned as

Women's Fund Asia

with a new identity, strategy and a greater Asia vision and mission.

OUR GRANT MAKING

Expanding From South Asia To Asia

We offer grants under two programmes:

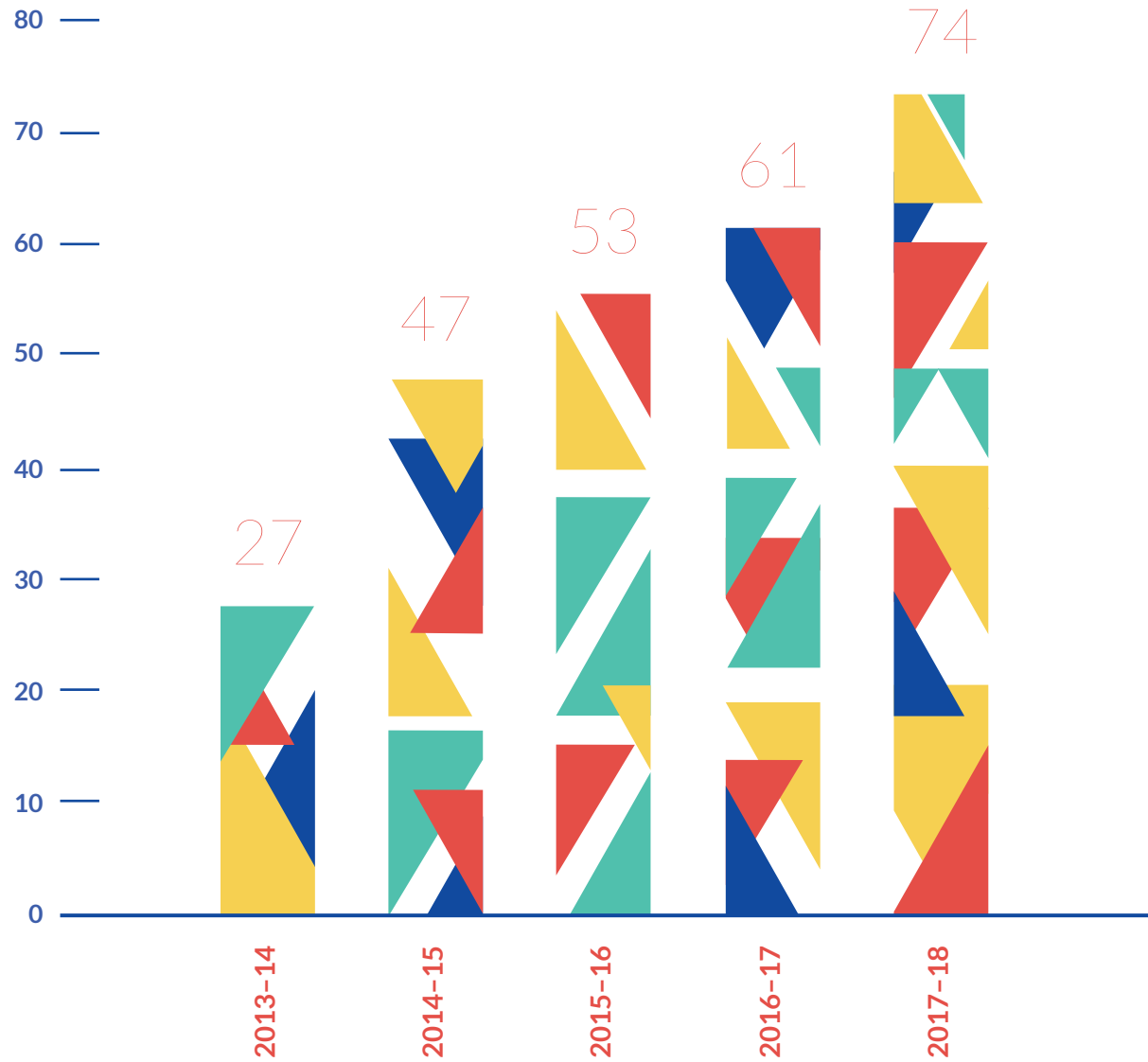
Strengthening South Asian Feminist Movements, which is implemented in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan)

Leading From The South, which is implemented in 18 countries of South and Southeast Asia and Mongolia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste)



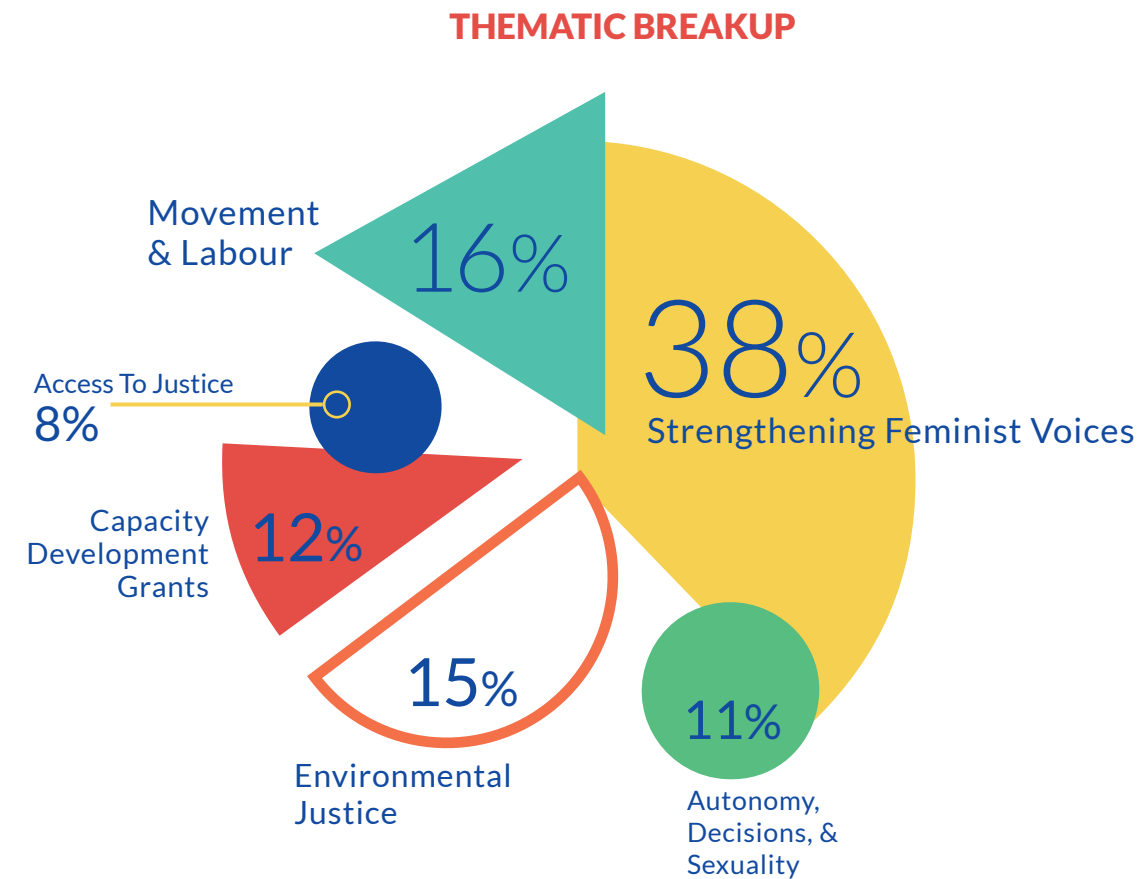
We committed **\$2,944,582** to **74 women and trans* organisations** across the region.

This is the highest number of grants supported since our inception (in terms of both number and grant amount).



INCREASE IN NUMBER OF GRANTS OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS

Most grants supported were under the Strengthening Feminist Voices (28), and Movement and Labour (12) portfolios. WFA also supported several groups under the new Environmental Justice thematic as well.



WFA made grants to **74 groups**, of which, **23 groups** received renewed support. Some among them have been supported by WFA for more than three years.

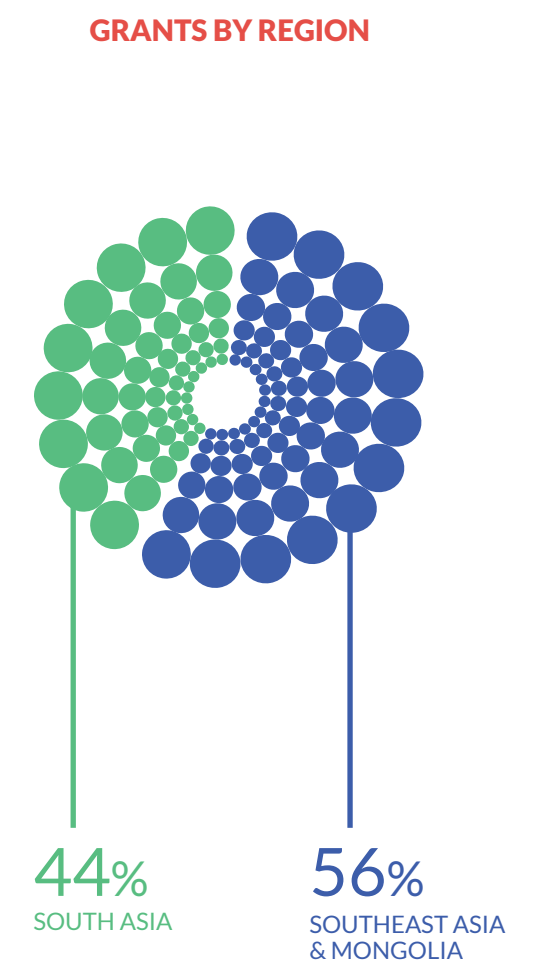
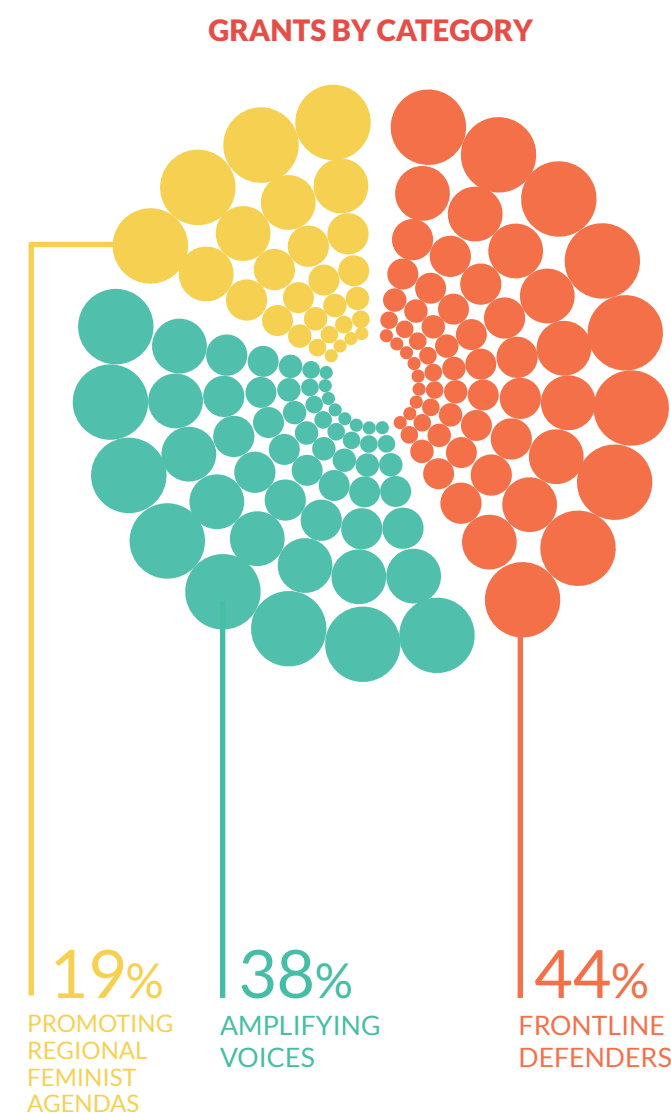
Our grant making focuses on ensuring support to the most marginalised in the women and trans* communities. Therefore, our grantee organisations work with sex workers, indigenous women, migrant workers, workers in the informal sectors, LGBTQ, women with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities, women from urban slums, young women, students, and women human rights defenders, among others.

Leading from the South Programme

The Leading from the South (LFS) Programme helped us expand grant making and outreach to Southeast Asia and Mongolia. A newly set up Grant Making Advisory ensured that our grant making is informed by regional concerns rooted in national experiences and voices. The Advisory included experts from the region: selected board members, independent activists, and representatives from other women's funds.

Out of a total **178** applications, **16** were recommended for support.

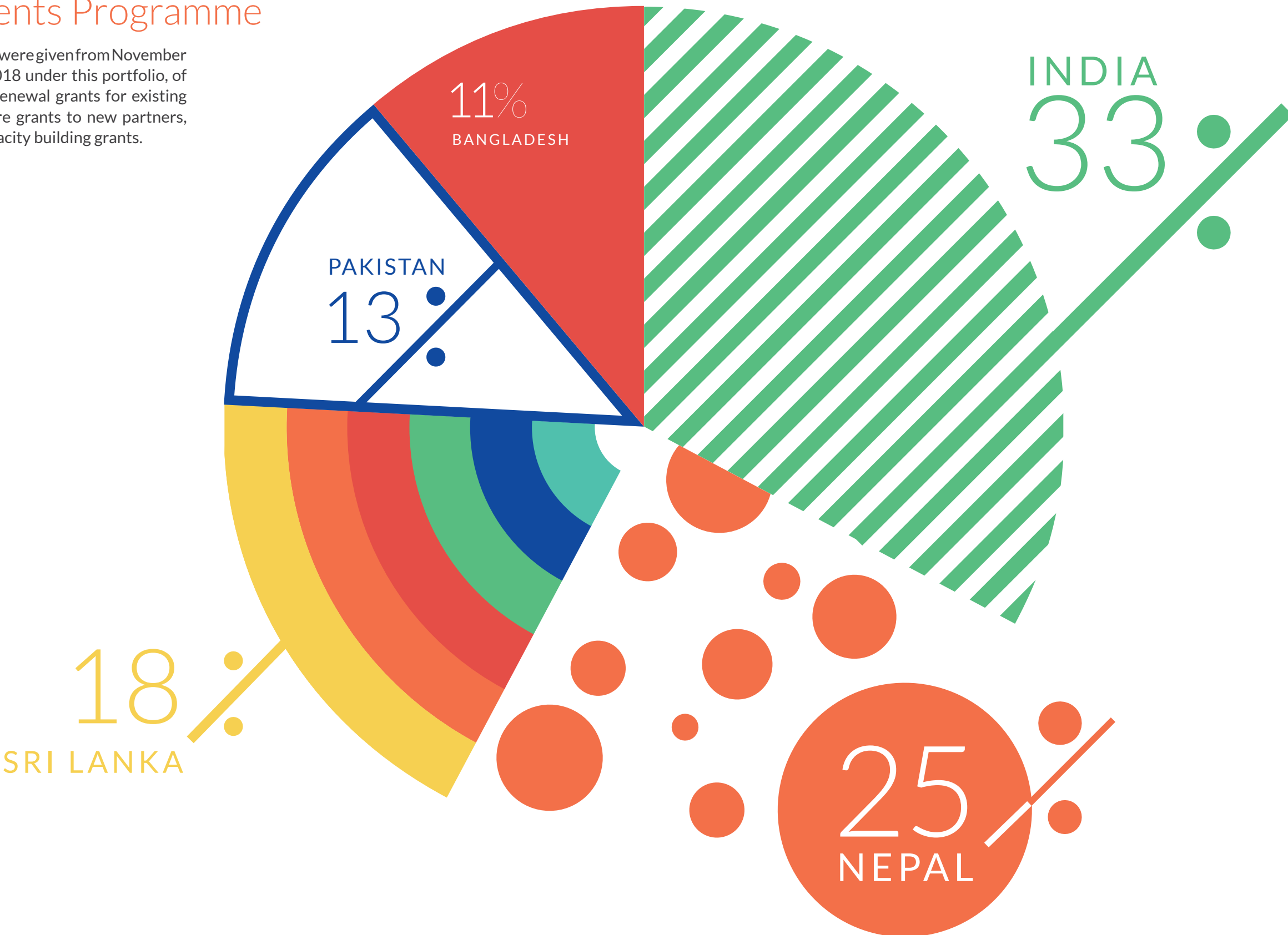
What we supported through LFS Grants



Strengthening South Asian Feminist Movements Programme

A total of 57 grants were given from November 2017 to March 2018 under this portfolio, of which 52% were renewal grants for existing partners, 33% were grants to new partners, and 16% were capacity building grants.

GRANTS BY COUNTRY



PORTFOLIO STRENGTHENING FEMINIST VOICES

The Strengthening Feminist Voices portfolio embodies WFA's political mandate of providing resources to frontline defenders to strengthen and sustain themselves and their organisations while exploring new issues and strategies.

Under the portfolio, Women's Fund Asia supported 28 grants for a total of \$1,044,800 across Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

New grantees used funds to set up new organisations, ensure core support to continue work, as well as to initiate innovative strategies including feminist knowledge building.

Grantees Across Asia

WFA grants supported efforts to **improve digital security** among activists.

For instance, our grantee, IT for Change, provided digital literacy training and supported participation of younger women in local governance processes. People Serving People Foundation, a grantee under LFS, is training activists to report effectively on human rights violations in Vietnam.

Didi Bahini in Nepal advocates for gender responsive planning, programming, and budgeting by working on gender and governance in collaboration with local governments and political parties. Shirkat Gah is attempting to set up a common feminist agenda on violence against women and economic empowerment in collaboration with 55 organisations across ten countries in Asia.

WFA is also **supporting feminist knowledge building** across Asia.

Researcher and activist Jennifer Liang is working towards developing a regional strategy for feminist leadership among women in North East India through interviews and consultations. A WFA grant is helping Bangladeshi woman activist Tassafy Hossain develop a book on feminist leaders. A Nepalese group, National Indigenous Women's Federation, in collaboration with the National Indigenous Disabled Women's Association – Nepal, is researching the status of indigenous women in political participation while simultaneously building rural indigenous women's leadership capacities.



The Mongolian Gender Equality Center is using their grant to focus on gender equality and violence against women using a multi-pronged strategy of online awareness, providing referrals, and developing a cadre of women journalists and lawyers in Mongolia. All Women's Action Society (AWAM) is using capacity building as a strategy to raise awareness on patriarchy and gender among young Malaysians.

Several WFA grantees are also using **collectivisation strategies to form women and trans* groups**, and to build peer support for particularly vulnerable communities.

Jan Sahas in India focusses on improving media reporting on sexual violence and on building peer support for women survivors while Shishu Sharothi works with Bijoyani to support a group of women with disabilities in Guwahati, India.

WFA grants also supported POV initiative Rising Flame and activist, Manisha Mashaal in India to build organisations that work towards ensuring the rights of women with disabilities and Dalit women, respectively.

Our grants also encourage **building feminist leadership within organisations and communities** to ensure a strong second-line leadership and strengthened communities.

Our continuing grantee, Society for Aid in Development (SAID), is working on building leadership of young Dalit women who work in communities in Uttar Pradesh, India, while also documenting, providing service information, and advocating at the local levels. In eastern Sri Lanka, Suriya focuses on building feminist economic collectives and women's participation in social security processes among marginalised Tamil and Muslim communities.

GRANTEE



Aruna Jyothi Kornana

Digital Security Trainer, Project Mukti, India

Aruna is one of the first Dalit Adivasi Bahujan women to work on ending 'caste apartheid' using story, technology, art, and digital security. The WFA grant will help organise and implement six digital security trainings centred on Dalit Adivasi Bahujan activism. The training will be conducted in Haryana, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh and will reach out to 180 Community members, grassroots organisers, student organisers and leaders, and women/GNC/trans organisers. The trainings seek to increase digital security awareness among Dalit, Bahujan, and Adivasi communities and promote use of safer digital practices.

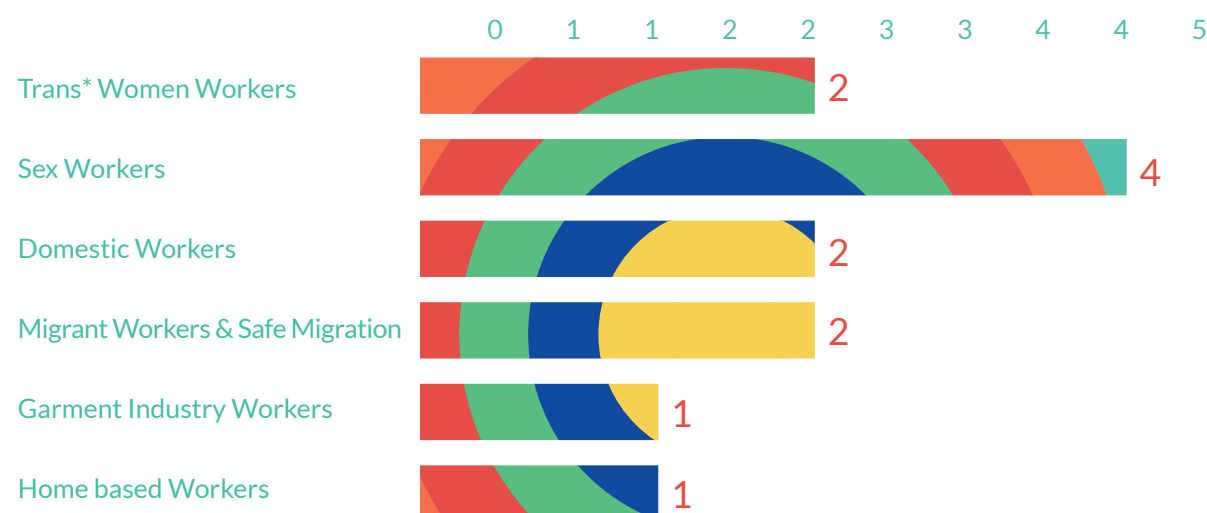
MOVEMENT & LABOUR

By building on the learnings from previous years, the Right to Safe Mobility portfolio was renamed as Movement and Labour to better reflect the work supported. It challenges the traditional anti-trafficking rescue-rehabilitation-repatriation discourse with rights-based interventions that reflect voices and decisions of women. Over the last six years, the thematic has supported a range of complex issues under the right to mobility framework. This includes promoting labour rights for multiple informal and stigmatised labour groups; forming organisations and unions; helping these groups access information and infrastructure; advocating for de-stigmatising and de-criminalising certain types of labour; and assisting with informed and secure migration.

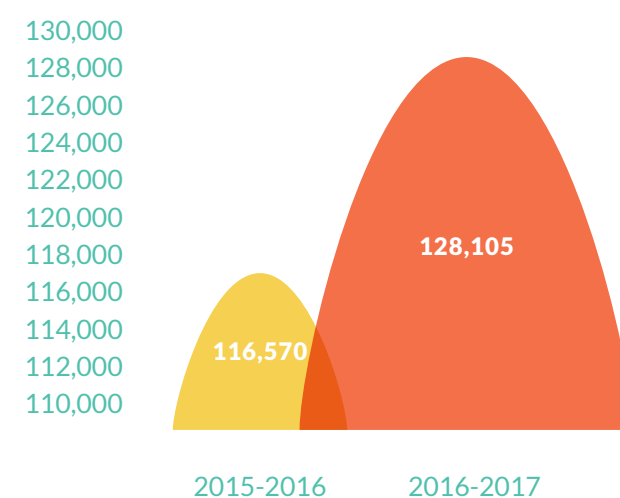
We supported 12 grants totalling \$1,079,700.

There has been a significant growth in grant sizes since commencing grant making under the Leading from South programme.

CONSTITUENCIES SUPPORTED



TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS (USD)



Grantees Across Asia

Women in Media Collective in collaboration with Action Network for Migrant Workers (ACTFORM) in Sri Lanka, is building capacities among Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment trainers and development officers to introduce feminist perspectives and ideology in their interactions with prospective migrants. Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers is working towards collectivising and building capacities of sex workers to better respond to violations faced by them.

WFA grantees are also working to bring workers together and strengthen understanding of their rights. For instance, Dabindu in Sri Lanka focusses on women factory workers in Katunayake's Free Trade Zone, while KGF Women's Association works with domestic workers in urban Bangalore. Another individual grantee, Urooj Aqeel, will work with a group of home-based women workers in Hyderabad, Pakistan.

WFA grantees are also using individual grants to build evidence and to advocate for better policies and inclusion, especially of stigmatised labour. An assessment is underway of the status and demands of domestic workers in Pakistan, an issue that is under-funded and unexplored. Sanhita in India is doing a four-state assessment study on the status of trans* workers – among the first of its kind in the region. GAATW is conducting a study to gain deeper understanding of the realities at the intersection of gender, migration and work of women in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Workers Information Centre is working with garment factory workers and sex workers to strengthen their advocacy efforts.



GRANTEE **Stand Up Movement** Sri Lanka

The WFA grant aims to help Stand Up Movement to build advocacy to pressure the Sri Lankan government to abolish the archaic Vagrants' Ordinance, an old act which is often used to prosecute sex workers. Stand Up Movement's work offers support at a time when there is high backlash, violence and discrimination against sex workers from both the police and the communities they live in, due to the social stigma and criminalisation of their profession. They also hope to increase awareness among police, public officials and media personnel regarding sex workers' rights, while also helping sex workers become better aware of their rights.

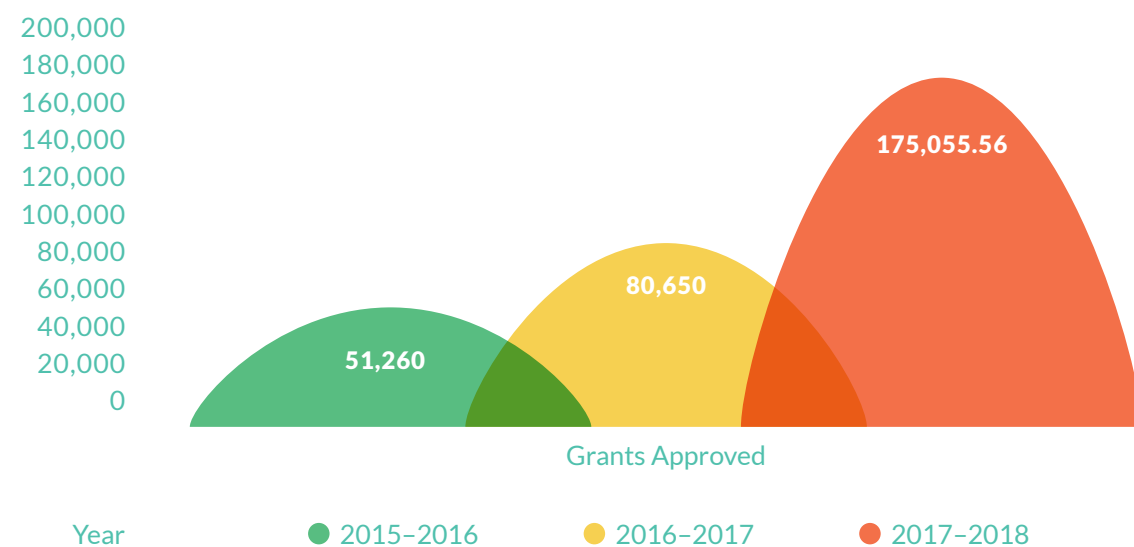
AUTONOMY, DECISIONS, & SEXUAL RIGHTS

WFA supported groups and activists, particularly second line leaders, working on issues of young women's autonomy, leadership, physical integrity and sexuality. This thematic supports diverse constituencies fighting for their right to sexuality and gender orientation and strengthening feminist leadership. In 2017, the focus of this thematic was reoriented to ensure grants for work with communities of

women and trans* people facing intersectional marginalisation. Given the difficult sociocultural context for LGBTQ issues across Asia, WFA recognises that a key task at hand is more targeted outreach and identifying support groups for such marginalised communities, particularly in countries such as Bangladesh and Malaysia where many groups face direct physical threat.

We provided 10 grants worth \$175,056.

TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS (USD)



Grantees Across Asia

Five groups supported this year are led by the LGBTQ community. They work on issues of civil and political rights of sexual and gender minorities, within broader issues of livelihood, physical and psychological safety and support. Three grants offered core support, enabling groups to develop organisational strategies, purchase equipment and strengthen organisations. An individual grant was offered to Yukta, a young Nepali activist, to document the untold stories of Nepali women.

The grants in Thailand, a new region of support for WFA also presents a new context of work, given the political variances across the north, central, and southern provinces. Two groups from India, Feminist Approach to Technology (FAT) and Nazariya, both grantees of WFA for more than three years, have demonstrably grown and strengthened their organisations. FAT has scaled up their work, and now implement their Young Women's Leadership programme across India. They are now supported under our LFS programme, which offers larger grant amounts. Nazariya, while still a small community group, has succeeded in sustaining their work, while successfully mobilising resources and diversifying their donor base.



GRANTEE **Buku and Backyard Politics** Southern Thailand

Two community-based groups in Thailand are working collectively on issues of mental health and security for women human rights defenders and strengthening intersectional social justice activism. The programme, which is led by LBT activists, focuses on offering mental health support through communal self-care practices which are accessible and affordable. They also provide gender training for frontline defenders who need strengthening of gender and power analyses and feminist concepts. The intervention also hopes to offer cross-issue learning and solidarity building with other human rights movements to strengthen intersectional social justice activism. This is one of the first programmes where self-care for women human rights defenders is a key component of the intervention.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

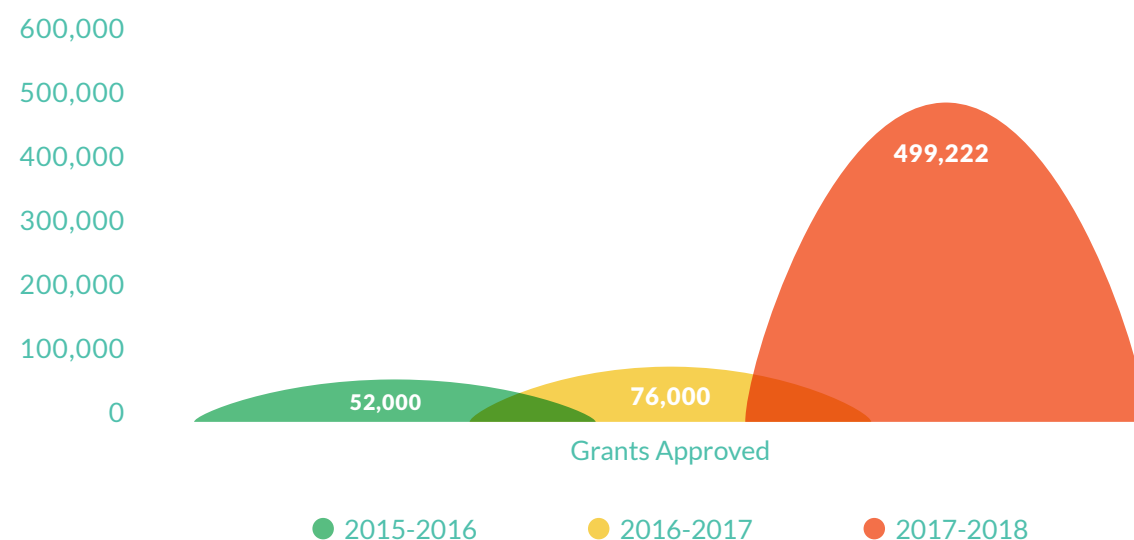
Ensuring Legal Support to Women Across Asia

WFA's Access to Justice portfolio offers grants to grassroots organisations and activists, and fellowships to women lawyers working in primary courts.

We continue to focus on improving women's access to justice and conducting outreach and discussions to promote it. No new legal fellowships were offered this year, as the previous year's fellowships overlapped with this year.

We offered **6 grants amounting to \$499,222**, which denotes an overall increase in grants given this year.

TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS (USD)



Grantees Across Asia

Several grants under this portfolio attempt to raise women's awareness regarding their rights and educating them on redressal avenues available to them in cases of violations. Currently, WFA is undergoing a learning process to understand how justice systems work to protect women's rights across Mongolia and South East Asia.

Organisations supported this year are working with vulnerable women groups, such as poor/rural women, and women living in areas where honour crimes are prevalent.

Two lawyers are also undertaking a research study on the implementation of the domestic violence law in Sri Lanka.

GRANTEE *International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific*

IWRAW Asia Pacific is strengthening the implementation of CEDAW at the Asia-region level through capacity building women's rights groups and activists.

Using the LFS grant, IWRAW is working directly with state and civil society groups and women's right organisations, as well as lawyers and legal organisations

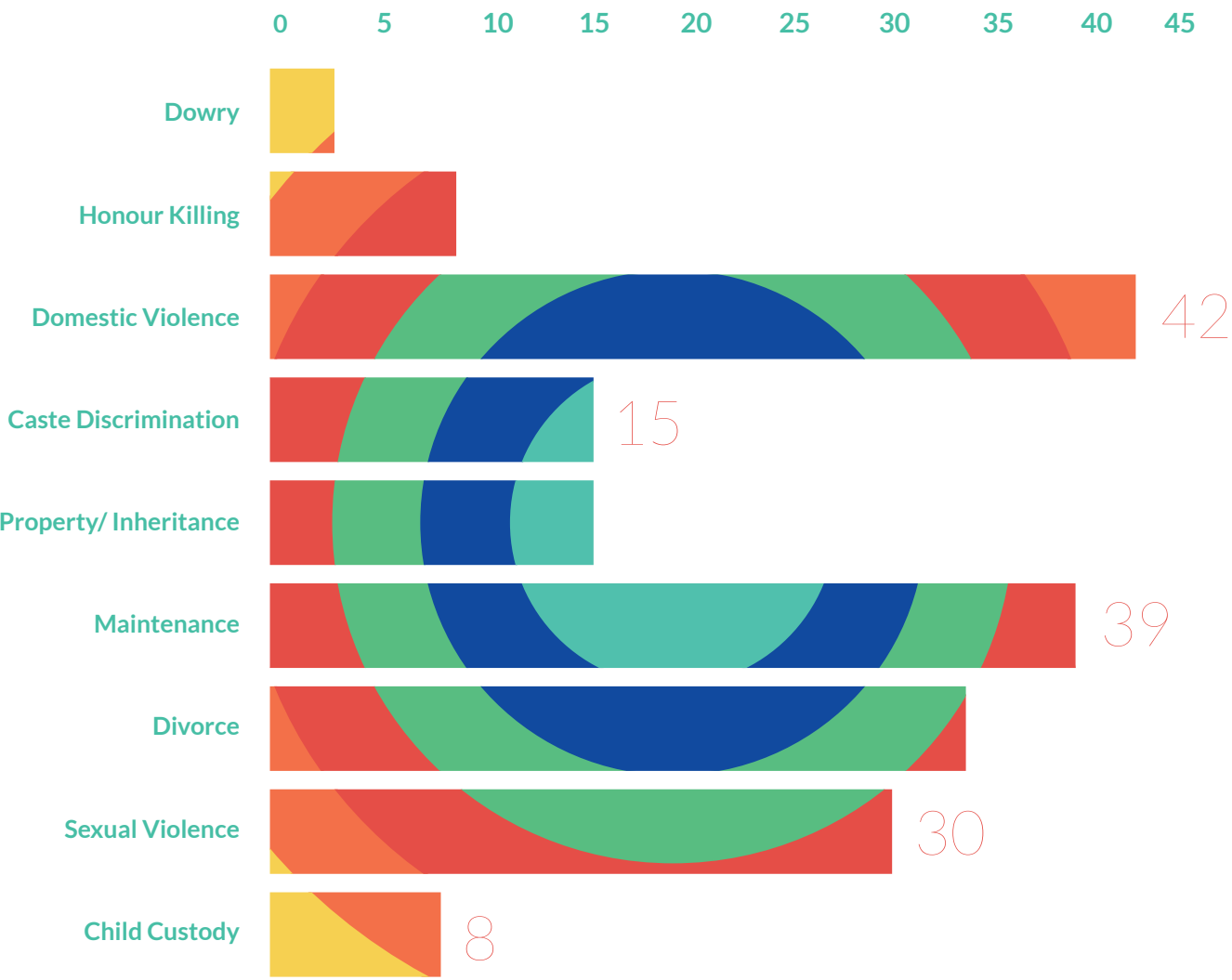
Legal Fellows Program

WFA has been providing legal fellowships to women lawyers since 2013. The fellowship offers financial and technical support, and regional networking opportunities to lawyers working in the primary courts in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. So far, WFA has supported 30 women lawyers, who provide pro-bono legal services to women at the local level.

In 2017, 19 legal fellows began 194 new cases for women litigants in difficult circumstances. WFA engaged with the Fellows on case management, and helped them chart time spent on client meetings, advocacy and research, and time spent on particular cases.



TYPES OF CASES UNDERTAKEN BY LEGAL FELLOWS



Where Our Legal Voices Listened and Spoke

The Annual Legal Fellows Meeting in Colombo in December 2017 brought 17 of our 19 fellows together to discuss regional challenges, successes, and good practices. We also connected the work of fellows at primary courts to international human rights principles and normative standards. By understanding how to strategise their cases using CEDAW principles, the fellows were able to better articulate client needs in a rights-based language.

WFA legal fellows also presented at a panel during the South Asia Regional Convergence in July 2017. Our fellows showcased their experiences as women lawyers and put out an analysis on the many hurdles in the legal system, such as filing cases, dealing with court procedures, lack of implementation of laws, and biases against women and other marginalised groups.

GRANTEE

Romita Reang
Women's Rights Lawyer,
Tripura, India



Romita Reang, a lawyer from the tribal Gomati district in Tripura, belongs to one of the 19 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group in India. Stifling patriarchal norms and a lack of opportunities or access for women inspired her to take up law despite opposition from her community elders. Romita took up our legal fellowship in 2014, as soon as she graduated law school. As part of her fellowship-funded work and research, Romita succeeded in helping women from her community to access the Indian legal system, offering them solutions not provided by the traditional community-based system. From having no clients in her first year, she reported 15 cases in 2016 – 18. Over the last three years, she has fought 50 cases pro-bono, which include those on sexual assault, domestic violence, divorce, and maintenance. Romita also trains community leaders on human rights issues. More women are now participants in community-level activities as a result of her efforts.

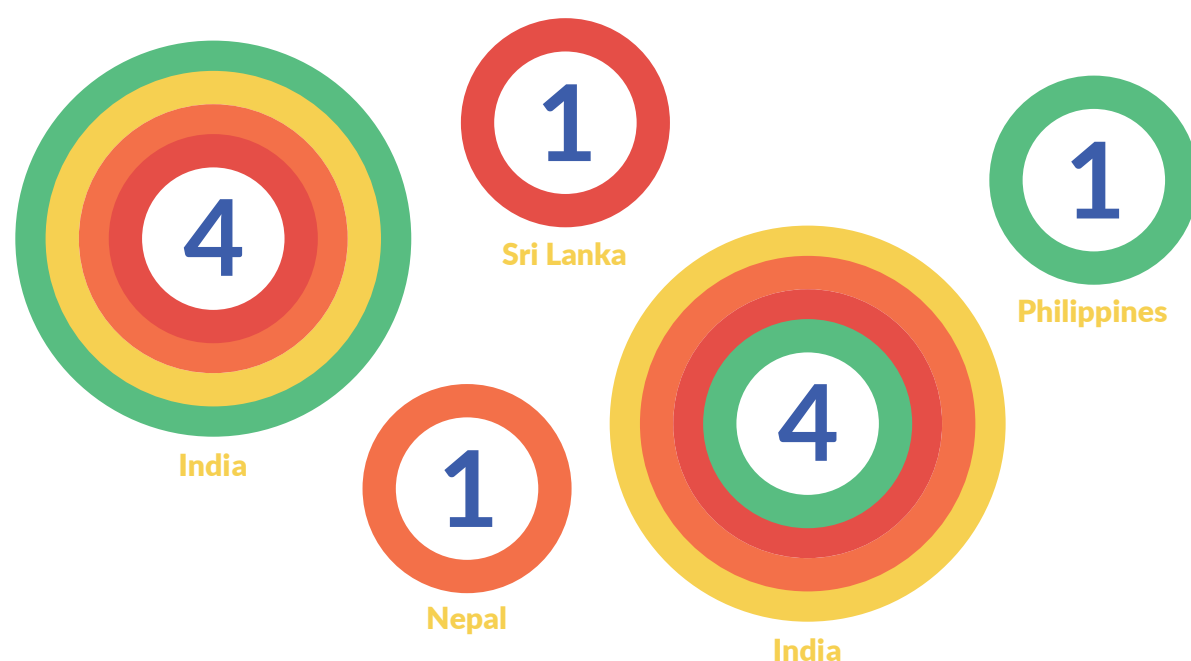
PORTFOLIO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Exploring Women's Rights and Access to Natural Resources

These grants centre the voices and leadership of women in decision-making processes which govern access to and distribution of resources such as food, land, water, and other natural resources; as well as in the creation and implementation of policies that govern disaster management and response, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development. In 2016-17, WFA and the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) began

exploring the intersection of women's rights and environmental justice work in South Asia. At the end of four country consultations, WFA introduced Environment Justice as the fifth grant making thematic in 2017-18. Since some of our existing partners have already been working on layered and intersectional themes related to environment, they have also been included into this portfolio.

WFA gave 11 grants with a total grant amount of \$133,000.



GRANTEE



Cordillera Women's Education Action Research Center, Inc.

Philippines

Cordillera Women's Education Action Research Center (CWEARC) is a grassroots non-governmental organisation that strives to empower indigenous women of Cordillera and beyond to protect their land, food, rights and dignity. CWEARC has been working to build capacities of indigenous women human rights defenders (IWHRDs) to assume front-line roles against development aggression and militarisation; and to protect their rights and food sovereignty. The WFA grant will assist CWEARC to train IWHRDs in the provinces of Kalinga and Apayao, Abra, Mountain Province, and Ifugao to lead their communities' defence for land and resources; and to document the journey of IWHRDs in the assertion of their rights. This grant recognises the political work being done by indigenous women around the globe on the issue of Environment Justice.

Grantees Across Asia

WFA provided its first programmatic grant in Chhattisgarh to Jagriti Seva Sansthan based in Mahasamund and another one to Lok Prerana Kendra, which works in Chatra, in Jharkhand, India. One of our existing grantees, Voice and Views, has extended its work to Faridpur district in Bangladesh.

Indigenous/Adivasi women are a core constituency for most of the grants supported under this thematic, as these are communities most affected by climate change and environmental degradation. State interventions, especially on land and forests, have been affecting a vast majority of tribal/indigenous communities, rendering them vulnerable. In many cases, state actions have rendered communities as 'illegal' and 'usurpers' in their own homes.

Our grant making support to sustain the fragile ecology of Chittagong Hill Tracts, now comprises of three grants, including one to a

new grantee. Grantee WEAVE is attempting to build women's leadership within the local customary law practice, aiming to strengthen women's overall capacities, to enable them to participate in discussions on environment degradation in CHT.

Our grantees are attempting to build institutional capacities and strengthen them, and develop and disseminate information. They are also using WFA grants for collectivising and strengthening feminist leadership, raising awareness and delivering trainings. Most grants also influence local and state government departments for better policies and their implementation.

WFA is also supporting Cordillera Women's Education Action Research Center based in Philippines. Other grants supported under this thematic are spread across Nuwara Eliya in Sri Lanka, Hospet and Vishakapatnam in India, Narsingdi in Bangladesh, and Jhapa in Nepal.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Building Capacities, Supporting Advocacy Grantees Across Asia

WFA also provided grants for travel, capacity building and accompaniment. This category is open to all mandated Asian countries, and support grantees' travel and participation in critical spaces across Asia.

In 2017–18, WFA provided grants to the tune of \$18,982. Of the 9 grantees supported, 3 are new partners.

WFA supported three Sri Lankan activists' participation in the SANGAT feminist capacity building course in Madurai, while another activist participated in the CREA Sexuality, Gender and Rights Institute training. A Nepalese activist was supported to participate in a training of trainers on Digital Security in Myanmar.

WFA supported an activist from Sri Lanka and 3 indigenous activists from Nepal to participate in the Commission of Status for Women congregation, which is a critical platform for networking with other activists of the region. WFA also supported a Nepalese activist to participate in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII16).

The WFA grant to an Indian group SWADHIKAR partially supported hosting of the Dalit Women Speak Out Conference in Pune in December 2017. This was a critical space attended by Dalit women activists from across India, for collective advocacy and solidarity building.



GRANTEE

Jayani Fernando

Dabindu Collective, Sri Lanka

Jayani Fernando from Dabindu Collective attended the CREA Institute in India — the first such opportunity for her to attend a training on sexuality and sexual rights. The training focused on the intersections with areas such as disability, child rights, and religion. Jayani hopes to take back insights to help garment factory workers that her organisation works with.

BUILDING CRITICAL SPACES ACROSS ASIA

WFA supports strengthening feminist movements across Asia by convening and facilitating critical spaces that bring together our partners, experts and other actors for collective learning, reflection and strategising. We also support activists and researchers to contribute to national and/or regional feminist discourses. Under critical spaces, we undertake the following activities:

Capacity Building Support

In 2017–18, WFA directly organised spaces to provide capacity building support to some of our partners – both substantive/theoretical as well as practical and technical.

Feminist Spaces of Learning and Networking

The WFA team maps out key spaces of learning and networking that are organised by other feminist organisations at the national and local level. The main objective is to listen and sharpen WFA's analyses as well as utilise these spaces to reach out to more activists to offer support.

Regional Feminist Convergences

Annually, WFA brings together all its partners across the region/sub-region to facilitate a space for networking, sharing, learnings and solidarity building. Given the current geo-political climate which has adversely affected the work on the ground, such spaces are extremely critical to reflect upon one's own activism.



EVENTS WE PARTICIPATED IN

Commission on Status of Women
New York, US
12 - 23 March 2018

South Asia Convergence
Kathmandu, Nepal
14 - 16 July 2017

**Leading from the South
Consortium Meeting**
Negombo, Sri Lanka
21 - 22 October 2017

Legal Fellows Annual Meeting
Colombo, Sri Lanka
30 November - 2 December 2017

Asia Pacific Feminist Forum
Chiang Mai, Thailand
7 - 9 September 2017

South East Asia Convergence
Bangkok, Thailand
19 - 20 September 2017

LM&E Partners Meeting
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
23 - 24 February 2018

INFLUENCING PHILANTHROPY

Setting Up Peer Networks and Solidarity Spaces

The mandate of Women's Fund Asia is to ensure that the women and trans* rights movements in the region have access to sustainable and flexible resources to undertake their work. Hence, Influencing Philanthropy is a key strategy of WFA, where we move beyond raising resources for WFA and its partners, and participate in dialogues, create spaces, and push for opportunities that lead to an increase in resources for feminist work in the region.

In 2017 – 18, we engaged with various bilaterals to further push the feminist philanthropy agenda! As part of the Leading from the South

Consortium, we were invited by Dutch Ministry of Foreign affairs in February to participate in their Linking and Learning even under the Dialogue and Dissent programme. At this event, WFA ED was on a plenary panel discussed the resilience of southern based women and trans* organisations. The LFS Consortium also had its first meeting in Colombo, which WFA hosted. We continued our work with the Prospera network and also hosted their biennial in Colombo in October. We were also part of some key donor networks, such as the Sex Worker Donor Consortium, which was launched in March 2018 in New York during the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women.

Sex Worker Donor Consortium
Bangkok
February 2018

Prospera Asia Network
Hong Kong
June 2017

Prospera Biennial
Sri Lanka
October 2017



Promoting Indigenous Philanthropy

South Asia Women's Foundation India



In order to strengthen indigenous philanthropy for feminist work, Women's Fund Asia facilitated a process that led to the establishment of South Asia Women's Foundation India. In 2017 – 18, The organisation had a national and an international launch to share widely its vision and purpose in the coming years. In August, SAWF-IN was launched in at the Park Hotel Delhi and the event was hosted by the Founding Directors, Priya Paul and Suneeta Dhar. Following the India launch, SAWF-IN was launched amongst its peers and sister funds in Colombo at the 10th Biennial of Prospera, the international network of women's funds, where it was received with much support and solidarity. In the coming years, SAWF-IN will focus on raising resources from individual and corporate sources to support grassroots women's rights organisation in India.

KNOW OUR BOARD AND TEAM

BOARD

-  **PRIYA PAUL**
Chairperson, Founding Director, India
-  **SUNEETA DHAR**
Member Founding Director, India
-  **AISHA GAZDAR**
Member, Pakistan
-  **GAGAN SETHI**
Member, India
-  **SEPALI KOTTEGODA**
Member, Sri Lanka
-  **SHAHEEN ANAM**
Member, Bangladesh
-  **SRISHTI MALLA JOSHI**
Member, Nepal
-  **SONAALI WIJERATNE**
Member, Sri Lanka



ADVISORS



TEAM

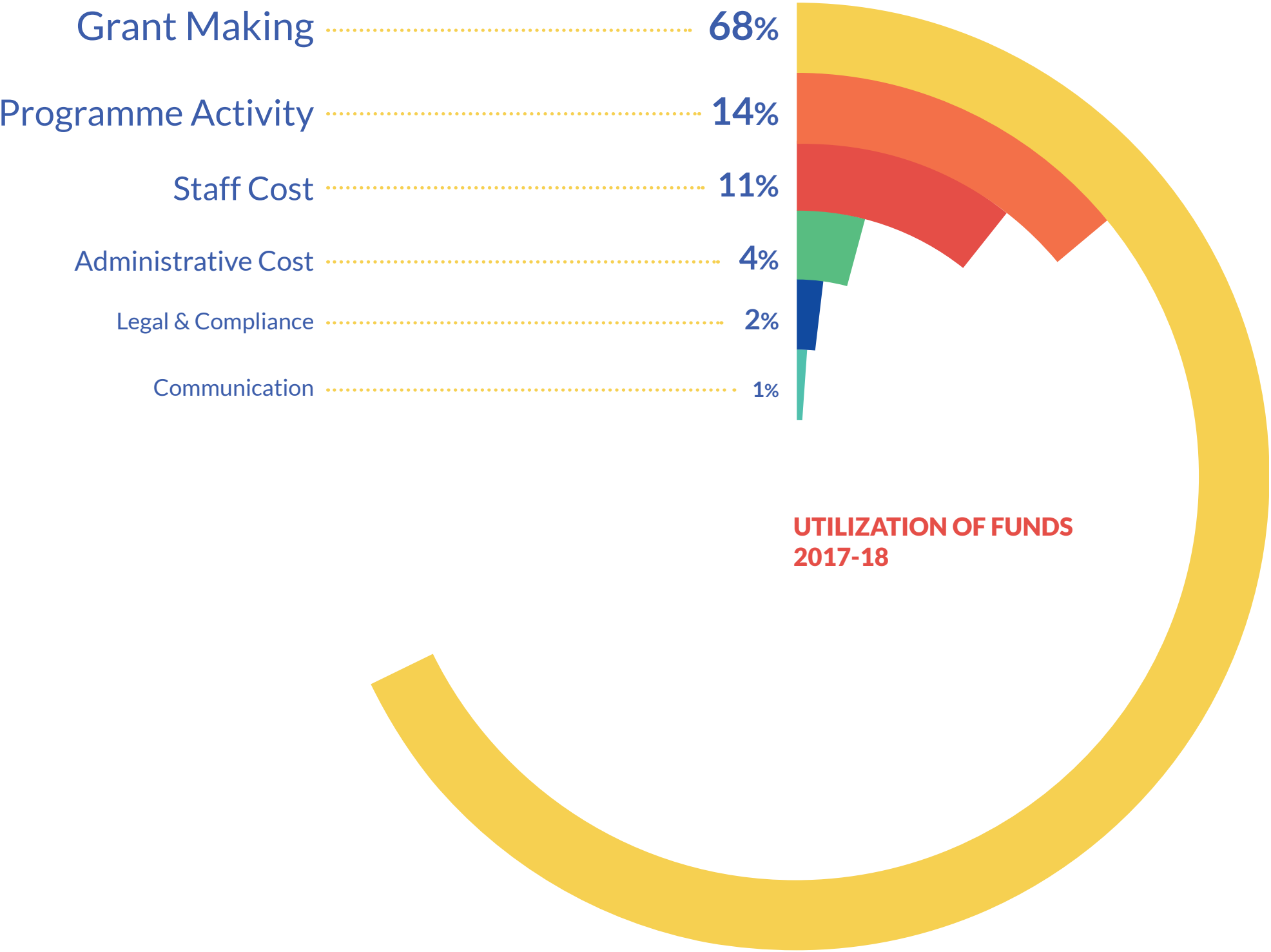
- TULIKA SRIVASTAVA**
Executive Director
- ANISHA CHUGH**
Director of Programmes
- KISHANI CADER**
Director of Finance and Operations
- TEHANI ARIYARATNE**
Programme Officer,
Grants & Accompaniment
- MEENU PANDEY**
Programme Officer,
Grants & Accompaniment
- MADHU JAGDEESHAN**
Programme Officer,
Monitoring, Learning & Evaluation
- PIM SAVETMALANOND**
Programme Officer, Communications

- DEYA BHATTACHARYA**
Junior Programme Officer,
Legal Fellowship Programme
- VINEETA TEWARI**
Executive Officer
- HELOISE DE LIMA**
Office Manager, WFA Colombo
- AMUTHA BHARATH**
Programme Administrator
- VIRGINIA MIRUNA SYLVESTER**
Accounts Officer
- ANUKRITI RASTOGI**
Accounts and Admin Officer
- MIFAZA DAIN**
Accounts Assistant



FINANCIALS

(AUDITOR'S NOTE)





KPMG
(Chartered Accountants)
32A, Sir Mohamed Macan Markar Mawatha,
P. O. Box 186,
Colombo 00300, Sri Lanka.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF WOMEN'S FUND ASIA (FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Fund Asia ("the Company"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2018, and the statement of income and expenditure, statement of changes in funds, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 March 2018, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standard for Small and Medium-Sized Entities (SLFRS for SMEs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by CA Sri Lanka (Code of Ethics) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. These Financial statements do not comprise other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Responsibilities of Board of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Board is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, board is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

KPMG, a Sri Lankan partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity.

M.R. Mihular FCA
T.J.S. Rajakarier FCA
Ms. S.M.B. Jayasekara ACA
G.A.U. Karunaratne FCA
R.H. Rajan ACA
P.Y.S. Perera FCA
W.W.J.C. Perera FCA
W.K.D.C. Abeyaratne FCA
R.M.D.B. Rajapakse FCA
M.N.M. Shameel ACA
C.P. Jayatilake FCA
Ms. S. Joseph FCA
S.T.D.L. Perera FCA
Ms. B.K.D.T.N. Rodrigo FCA
Ms. C.T.K.N. Perera ACA
Principals - S.R.I. Perera FCMA(UK), LLB, Attorney-at-Law, H.S. Goonewardene ACA



Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SLAuSs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards website at: <http://slaasc.com/auditing/auditorsresponsibility.php>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by section 163 (2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we have obtained all the information and explanations that were required for the audit and, as far as appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Company.


CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Colombo
13 August 2018

WOMEN'S FUND ASIA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 March,

	Note	2018 Rs.	2017 Rs.
Assets			
Non current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	306,976	496,709
		306,976	496,709
Current assets			
Other receivables	3	1,246,638	753,519
Cash and cash equivalents	4	394,787,569	330,575,589
		396,034,207	331,329,108
Total assets		396,341,183	331,825,817
Funds and liabilities			
Funds			
Accumulated fund		19,249,710	14,387,073
Mama Cash	5	19,849,592	13,964,570
Ford Foundation	6	8,836,595	5,081,055
Oak Foundation	7	-	11,011,338
Foundation for Just Society	8	29,412,966	26,934,065
Global Fund for Women	9	4,395,744	3,168,499
American Jewish World Service	10	-	11,289,946
Wellspring Philanthropic fund	11	14,461,324	-
FILIA fund	12	-	1,342,233
Flora Family Foundation	13	-	1,930,615
Tides Foundation	14	-	6,054,629
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	15	291,960,582	233,353,445
Both Ends Partnership	16	-	-
Catapult	17	-	-
		388,166,513	328,517,468
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable	18	2,729,291	1,308,478
Grant payable		3,565,144	-
Income tax payable	19	1,880,235	1,999,871
		8,174,670	3,308,349
Total funds and liabilities		396,341,183	331,825,817

The financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the related notes, which form an integral part of these financial statements of the Company.

I certify that these financial statements are prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No.07 of 2007.

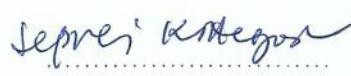

Accounts Officer

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with SLFRS for SMEs.

Approved and signed for and on behalf of the Board of Directors:


Director

Colombo
13 August 2018


Director

WOMEN'S FUND ASIA
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the year ended 31 March,

	Note	2018 Rs.	2017 Rs.
Income			
Utilization of funds			
-Mama Cash		27,341,802	9,632,634
-Foundation for Just Society		36,761,839	31,214,442
-Ford Foundation		11,775,342	9,522,295
-Oak Foundation		11,209,359	20,399,004
-Global Fund for Women		3,519,743	1,332,113
-American Jewish World Service		11,456,913	13,029,675
-Wellspring Philanthropic Fund		1,045,917	-
-FILIA fund		1,501,075	677,021
-Flora Family Foundation		2,272,248	3,723,211
-Tides Foundation		5,852,655	2,987,270
-Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs		246,956,808	5,581,239
-Both Ends Partnership		1,258,076	5,406,235
-Catapult		-	403,944
Reimbursement of event costs	20	-	1,286,943
Interest income		1,062,954	2,323,941
Other income	21	3,587,741	1,051,940
Total income		365,602,472	108,571,907
Expenditure			
Grant making	22	244,291,704	48,453,400
Administration and salary expenses			
-Staff expenses	23.1	41,144,693	23,352,316
-Other administration expenses	23.2	8,739,622	5,741,575
-Governance	23.3	5,106,199	1,156,383
Communications	24	7,825,331	7,847,572
Meetings and Conferences	25	46,991,751	12,439,023
Travel	26	1,655,774	3,771,108
Assets purchased through funds	2.1	917,624	1,071,985
Total expenditure		356,672,698	103,833,362
Excess income over expenditure before tax expense		8,929,774	4,738,545
Income tax expense	27	(3,255,771)	(2,751,071)
Excess income over expenditure after tax expense		5,674,003	1,987,474

The financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the related notes, which form an integral part of these financial statements of the Company.



Women's Fund Asia

Women's Fund Asia would like to thank its donors for their continued support and commitment to women's and trans* rights in Asia.

DONORS

Mama Cash

Global Fund for Women

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

Ford Foundation

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Foundation for Just Society



WOMEN'S FUND ASIA

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Cover Image: Backdrop used at an event of Worker's Information Center and United Sisterhood Alliance in Cambodia, a WFA grantee. Work is entitled "Behind the White Clothes" by Cambodian artist Sao Sreymao.