

2019 ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT

*January 1 to
December 31, 2019*

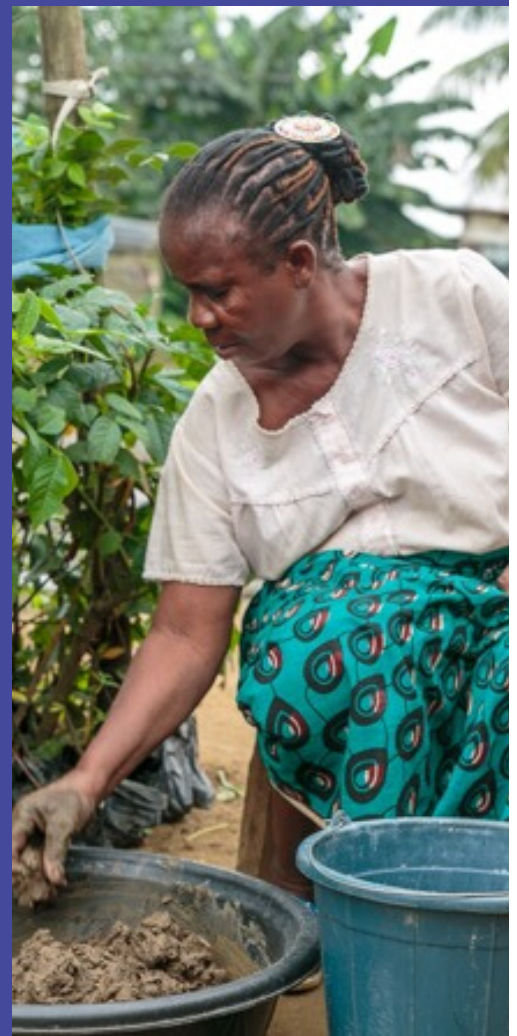


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Cover (left to right): RENAMAT, Bolivia; BAI Indigenous Women's Network, Philippines; Lokiaka Development Centre, Niger Delta



BAI Indigenous Women's Network, Philippines

GLOSSARY

25th Conference of the Parties (COP25)
Analog Forestry (AF)
Centro de Capacitación e Investigación de la Mujer Campesina de Tarija (CCIMCAT)
Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
Dialogue and Dissent (D&D)
Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR)
Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM)
Fondo de Mujeres del Sur (FMS)
Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA)
Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)
Green Climate Fund (GCF)
Inclusive Green Growth (IGG)
Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)
International Financial Institutions (IFI)
Lobby and Advocate (L&A)
Lumière Synergie pour le Développement (LSD)
Mid Term Review (MTR)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (MFA)
Mongolian Women's Fund (MONES)
National Designated Authority (NDA)
Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
Open Global Rights (OGR)
Philanthropy Advancing Women's Human Rights (PAWHR)
Prakriti Resources Center (PRC)
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Women Action Towards Entrepreneurship Development (WATED)
Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA)

The Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) is a grassroots focused, southern led alliance, that sets out to strengthen and unify the capabilities of grassroots groups and movements to Lobby and Advocate (L&A) with and for women to claim their rights to clean water, food and a clean, healthy and safe environment. GAGGA was launched in 2016 as a consortium led by Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM), based in Nicaragua in collaboration with Mama Cash and Both ENDS, both based in the Netherlands. It is also a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (MFA) under their Dialogue and Dissent (D&D) programme. Since its inception, GAGGA has collaborated with and provided financial support to national, regional and international environmental justice and women’s funds as well as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). They, in turn, provide small grants and capacity strengthening support to grassroots women’s rights and environmental justice organisations and networks in more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe (Georgia) and Latin America.

Since 2016, GAGGA has strategically worked towards developing a multi-level, cross-movement collaboration, with an emphasis on participatory processes and shared leadership. In 2019, we saw concrete results from this approach, through the increased ownership of GAGGA amongst partner women’s and environmental justice funds, NGOs, and grassroots groups, as well as the recognition given to those joint efforts that have strengthened our advocacy work on women’s rights and environmental justice. Over the course of the year, we also noted that GAGGA has become a recognised actor and reference within the ecosystem of activists, civil society organisations (CSOs), public and private funders, and international movements working on and pushing forward an intersectional and human-rights focused agenda demanding gender, environmental and climate justice.

This Annual Narrative Report covers GAGGA’s progress in 2019 [1]. It includes a brief overview on the context for L&A on women’s rights and environmental justice as well as progress on the programme’s main strategies – i) strengthening capacities for L&A of women’s rights and environmental justice, ii) direct L&A for women’s rights and environmental justice, and iii) strengthened cross-movement collaboration and alliance building for women’s rights and environmental justice. Further information on our continued strategic collaboration with the MFA, reflections on our key learnings from 2019, and what these learnings mean moving forward into our final year of GAGGA, is also provided. Throughout the report, partners’ stories from across the globe are highlighted, with the caveat that this is only a small sample of the inspiring work that our partners are taking forward.

[1] Data presented in this report was collected through different sources, including the 2019 Annual Survey to Funds and NGOs (online survey completed by 14 women’s funds, five environmental justice funds, 35 NGOs, as well as the three alliance members); GAGGA alliance members annual reflections tools and Regional and Global Linking and Learning Activities Reports from partners.



BAI Indigenous Women's Network, Philippines



WoMin, Africa



Didi Bahina Mahila Krishi Sahakari Sanstha Ltd., Nepal

CONTEXT

In 2019, there were stronger, more present, inclusive and intergenerational global movements demanding concrete and urgent action from governments in response to the ever-increasing environmental and climate crises. The Fridays for Future movement [2] led mostly by young environmental activists across the globe, and the Global Climate Strike [3] which organised the biggest climate mobilisation in history on September 2019 [4] have become global platforms bringing together many of the local and national movements advocating for gender, environmental and climate justice.

These movements are rallying not only because of governments' and industries' inaction to climate change. They are also raising awareness to the fact that the globe is facing severe environmental degradation [5] and extreme weather conditions and natural disasters, having profound impacts on the most marginalised communities, particularly women, children, youth, rural, indigenous and afro-descendant people, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees and LGBTQI* communities. In 2019, GAGGA partners, were negatively impacted by devastating fires, particularly local and indigenous communities in Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia and Paraguay; deadly floods and landslides caused by Cyclone Idai, affecting Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe; as well as extreme droughts, as was the case in India. Furthermore, various ongoing socio-political crises at the national and international level, including the protests in Bolivia, Chile, India and Zimbabwe and the start of the global pandemic COVID-19 [6],

[2] [Fridays For Future Website](#)

[3] 350.org (2019) [Global Climate Strike](#), September 22, 2019.

[4] A record 7.6 million people took to the streets to strike for climate action as part of the Global Climate Strike. 350.org (2019) [350 Celebrates a decade of action](#).

[5] The catastrophic decline in the Earth's biodiversity has been made evident by a recent report the United Nations' Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, published in May 2019, which states that 75% of the land surface is significantly altered, 66% of the ocean area is experiencing increasing cumulative impacts, and over 85% of wetlands (area) has been lost. Across much of the highly biodiverse tropics, 32 million hectares of primary or recovering forest were lost between 2010 and 2015.

Furthermore, around one million species already face extinction, many within decades, unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of drivers of biodiversity loss. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2LwKTW4>

are exacerbating and bringing to the forefront the socio-economic, gender and racial inequalities that these communities have been facing for many years. The need for concrete systems change in our policies and practices, centred on and driven by social, gender and environmental justice has become even more pressing and urgent.

Indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural and young women environmental defenders, in particular, have proven to be a driving force in this struggle, raising their voices, self-organising, advocating for, and implementing critical, innovative, and impactful perspectives and solutions, such as restoring mangroves and forests, conserving native seeds and developing community-led water reservoirs. Not only are they key actors in their local and national movements, but given the global momentum, their voices and demands are increasingly prioritised. Initiatives such as the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award from the Women and Gender Constituency, one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), highlights different practices from across the globe that centre gender equality and women's rights in climate action [7]. It is also positive to see that once again, four of the six Goldman Environmental Prize winners in 2019 were women [8].

Notwithstanding, in 2019, we continued to see the same trends highlighted in previous GAGGA reports in regards to the situation of women environmental defenders, particularly in their localities. Not only do they face the same life-threatening risks as other environmental defenders (according to Global Witness, 122 environmental defenders were killed around the world in 2019 [9]), they also continue to face gender-specific violence that undermines their

[6] World Health Organization (2020) [Rolling Updates on Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

[7] Women and Gender Constituency (2019) [Gender Just Climate Solutions](#).

[8] The Goldman Environmental Prize (2019) [Current Recipients](#)

[9] CLIMA Fund (2020) Resourcing Earth Defenders – Philanthropic Response to Heightened Repression in Latin America, page 1.

credibility and dismantles their status within their communities. Gender-based violence against women environmental defenders is on the rise, and even normalised to the point where violence and discrimination are experienced in both private and public spheres [10]. It is women as well as indigenous, and afro-descendant environmental defenders who are the most vulnerable in the face of government impunity and corporate greed; who experience higher instances of discrimination, threats, and violence; and also have less access to philanthropic resources to support their advocacy and resistance work [11].

The difficult situation for defenders and local community-based organisations in different countries highlighted in the research by CLIMA Fund and IUCN referenced, is also corroborated by the experience of many GAGGA partners, particularly in Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Nicaragua, the Philippines, South Africa and Zimbabwe. In fact, in 2019, GAGGA provided rapid response funding for women environmental defenders in Cameroon, Guatemala, Philippines and Zimbabwe, in response to their time-urgent needs for security and well-being. As an alliance, we have a collective responsibility to support women environmental defenders, their organisations and movements, particularly as the restrictions, threats and attacks they face are linked to weak democratic systems, lack of transparency and impunity. The fact is only three per cent of the world's population live in countries with open civic space and the repression of peaceful civic activism continues to be a widespread crisis for civil society in most parts of the world [12].

It is therefore welcoming to see positive shifts at the international level acknowledging environmental defenders and the serious risks they face. In March 2019, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution that recognised the legitimacy of the work of environmental and human rights defenders and called upon states to ensure a “safe and enabling environment for environmental defenders to undertake their work free from hindrance and insecurity” [13]. In October 2019, 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean signed the “Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean”, known as the Escazú Agreement [14]. This is the first regional binding instrument that includes specific commitments for the protection of environmental defenders. These are important resolutions, setting a precedent at the international level and contributing to countering stigmatisation as well as holding states accountable in their obligation to ensure an open and just civic space.

[10] Castañeda Camey, I., Sabater, L., Owren, C. and Boyer, A.E. (2020). Gender-based violence and environment linkages: The violence of inequality. Wen, J. (ed.). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 272pp.

[11] CLIMA Fund (2020) Resourcing Earth Defenders – Philanthropic Response to Heightened Repression in Latin America, page 1.

[12] CIVICUS (2019), People Power Under Attack – A Report Based on Data from CIVICUS Monitor, pg. 5.

[13] United Nations Human Rights Council, [“Resolution A/HRC/40/L.22/Rev.1 - Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development”](#), 20 March 2019, pages 2 and 3.

[14] Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2018) [Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean](#).



Climate Strike Youth by UNEP is licensed under CC BY.

GAGGA 2019 OVERVIEW



GAGGA collaborated with **14 women's funds** (including FCAM and Mama Cash), **five environmental justice funds**, **44 NGOs** (including Both ENDS) [15], and **418 grassroots groups** in over 30 countries.



GAGGA provided a total of **€5,312,382 million** [16] in funding support.



For funds and NGOs there has been a significant shift towards prioritizing **Climate Change** in their advocacy work on women's rights and environmental justice, followed by **Extractive Industries (mining, oil, coal, metals, minerals, etc.)** and **Infrastructure, hydroelectric and mega projects.**



For grassroots groups, **Empowerment and Economic Autonomy** remains a priority area in their advocacy work on women's rights and environmental justice.



At alliance level, GAGGA was able to convene **ten regional spaces**, participate in **three large international advocacy platforms** and organise **three virtual meetings** for exchange and knowledge building amongst partners. [17] [18]

[15] Please note, although only 35 NGOs responded to the 2019 GAGGA Annual Survey, Both ENDS collaborated with a total of 43 NGOs in 2019.

[16] 2019 GAGGA Financial Report

[17] This includes:

- **Regional spaces:** GAGGA Africa Regional Meeting in Kenya (February); Analogue Forestry, Women and Land Rights African Regional Policy Forum in Cameroon (March); International Financial Institutions (IFIs) workshops in Argentina (April), El Salvador (October) and Ivory Coast (November); Two regional in-person meetings for the Participatory Scoping Research on the Situation of Women Environmental Defenders in Paraguay and Bolivia (March and September); Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) Skill Share Workshop and Strategy Meeting in Cambodia (July); Campamento Ayni Climático (Ayni Climate Justice Camp) in Chile (October); and an Inter-regional space to strengthen collaboration on action on the extractives industry between the Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales, WAMA and WoMin in Guatemala (November).
- **International Spaces:** Women and Rivers Congress (March); United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights (November); and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – 25th Conference of the Parties (COP) (December).
- **Online spaces:** Online Panel "We, Women are Water" (March); GAGGA Webinar: "2018 Annual Report - Explaining the Data"; and the Virtual Accompaniment for the Participatory Scoping Research on the Situation of Women Environmental Defenders in Paraguay and Bolivia.

[18] This does not include spaces and events organised by GAGGA partner funds and NGOs.

PROGRESS ON GAGGA OUTCOMES

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR L&A ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Capacity Strengthening for Grassroots Groups

GAGGA partner women's and environmental justice funds and NGOs work closely with the social movements in their countries and regions, and their role is to provide flexible, multi-annual support and targeted accompaniment to grassroots groups. Since 2016, they have increasingly gained a deeper understanding about the different contexts these groups are working in, the realities they are facing and the type of capacity strengthening support needed in their advocacy efforts for women's rights and environmental justice. Through their commitment and work, GAGGA was able to provide financial and non-financial support to 418 grassroots groups across Africa, Asia, Europe (Georgia) and Latin America in 2019 [19]. 78.5% of these groups (328 of 418 groups) received €2,3 million [19] in grants from national, regional and international women's and environmental justice funds as well as some NGOs.

Of their 2019 annual GAGGA budget, on average women's and environmental justice funds used 49% to provide direct grants and 15% to provide capacity strengthening to grassroots groups [20], mainly thematic workshops on women's rights and environmental justice and providing linkages to other grassroots groups, organisations and partners [21].

[19] The remaining 21.5% (90 of 418 groups) received non-financial support exclusively.

[20] 24% was used for strengthening their organisation, and 7% was used to conduct direct L&A based on the agenda of groups or in collaboration with them.

[21] Types of support provided by women's and environmental justice funds: thematic workshops on women's rights and environmental justice (20%); providing linkages to other grassroots groups, organisations and partners (17%); exchanges between grassroots groups, organisations and partners (14%); Organisational strengthening (monitoring, financial systems, etc.) (14%); Other (13%); Access to knowledge and information as well as collaborative spaces for knowledge building/sharing (10%); Support to participate in thematic fora and events (5%); Contact with Donors (4%); Support to participate in national and international lobby and advocacy spaces (2%); and Urgent Support for defenders at risk (1%).

FRIDA, The Young Feminist Fund launched the Climate and Environmental Justice Media Fellowship in partnership with Open Global Rights (OGR) - a human-rights based international media platform, intending to commit to resourcing more intersectional critical analysis around the climate crisis and environmental degradation, and opening up spaces in media platforms to amplify young feminists' perspectives and realities. Four fellows were selected from Colombia, Kenya, India, and the Philippines, whose work and activism are connected to their local/regional contexts. They have written investigative solutions-based articles for this fellowship, which have been published on the OGR online platform [22] and translated into different languages. These articles narrate stories of grassroots resilience against climate change impacts and environmental degradation, many in which youth and women have been leading the way, and show different logics and forms of community organising. For FRIDA, this fellowship has been a shift from smaller, more experimental efforts to a more emboldened advocacy program that supports, trains, and amplifies young feminist activism written by young feminists for young feminists. These fellows are also being supported by FRIDA to participate and speak at different international advocacy spaces, including the UNFCCC 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25).

[22] Articles published under the Climate and Environmental Justice Media Fellowship on Open Global Rights include: <https://www.openglobalrights.org/the-asian-climate-emergency/>, <https://www.openglobalrights.org/indigenous-women-in-kenya-rebuild-resilience-amidst-an-eco-cultural-crisis/>, and <https://www.openglobalrights.org/colombian-activists-use-music-and-art-to-call-for-climate-action/>.



Solidaritas Perempuan, Indonesia

In the case of **NGOs**, on average they used 44% of their annual budgets to provide capacity strengthening support to local groups and communities and 31% to conduct direct L&A based on the agendas of local groups or in collaboration with them [23]. The main types of capacity strengthening support that NGOs provided were access to knowledge and information as well as collaborative spaces for knowledge building/sharing and exchanges between grassroots groups, organisations and partners [24].

Coastal women across Jakarta, South and Southeast Sulawesi and Lampung in Indonesia are traditionally excluded from policy dialogues, decision-making processes and research. Even though women play a crucial role in the local fishing industry (by repairing nets, processing fish and collecting shrimps, crabs and other shellfish), only households headed by a fisherman are considered as fishing households. In 2019, the network organisation **Solidaritas Perempuan** accompanied 120 women to increase their critical awareness of the gendered impacts caused by the National Capital Integrated Coastal Development project [25] in Jakarta and land reclamation in Makassar [26], through Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR). This process enabled the women to identify the women's rights violations that they were experiencing and provide evidence-based information and recommendations for their advocacy efforts towards local government, members of parliament and press. This process also created a safe space for these women to connect, share their grievances, build solidarity and strengthen their identity as "fisherwomen".

[23] 25% was used for strengthening their organisation, and only 3% was used to provide grants to groups.

[24] Types of support provided by NGOs: access to knowledge and information as well as collaborative spaces for knowledge building/sharing (26%); exchanges between grassroots groups, organisations and partners (18%); thematic workshops on women's rights and environmental justice (15%); Linking to other grassroots groups, organisations and partners (11%); Support to participate in thematic fora and events (9%); and Support to participate in national and international lobby and advocacy spaces (9%); Other (4%); Contact with Donors (3%); Organisational strengthening (monitoring, financial systems, etc.) (3%); Urgent support for defenders at risk (2%)

[25] The National Capital Integrated Coastal Development project (NCICD) has proposed building a giant dyke before the coast of Jakarta, combined with the creation of an artificial island, on which a new city district will be developed. The project will be financed through real estate sales. The investment required could be as high as US\$40 billion, and the Dutch Water Sector and Export Credit Agencies are involved in providing knowledge management, project planning and support. Both ENDS (2017) Press Release: [Indonesian Giant Sea Wall Project is Pseudo-solution for Jakarta Bay](#).

[26] In this prestigious land reclamation plan, which initially stemmed from the Indonesian government, sand was extracted along the coast south of Makassar for the development of Makassar's new port. This project soon became highly controversial because neither the local government nor the Indonesian project developer took the rights of the people who already lived in the bay of Makassar very serious.

Capacity Strengthening for Funds and NGOs

In 2019, GAGGA provided more focused cross-movement and regional exchange to partner funds and NGOs, particularly in those areas where there was most need, based on collective reflections and experiences from previous years. These efforts allowed partners to strengthen their institutional work on women's rights and environmental justice but also enabled organisations to connect and start thinking about possible collaborative initiatives, which in the long run are proving to be effective in ensuring stronger and better support to local movements, groups and collectives.

In February, upon request of women's and environmental justice funds and NGOs in the region, GAGGA, through the leadership of **Mama Cash** and **Urgent Action Fund - Africa**, organised a regional meeting in Kenya to delve deeper in the findings of the GAGGA Mid Term Review (MTR) and see how partners could better collaborate across the region. At the meeting, the group developed a collective vision: "an inclusive, well-coordinated and sustainable African women-led green movement, advocating for gender, environmental and climate justice for all", and different partners connected to develop joint advocacy plans. For example, **Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre, Lokiaka Community Research Centre, Both ENDS** and **Mama Cash** were able to collectively plan their joint work until 2020 on the clean-up process and continuous gas flaring in Nigeria's Niger Delta (one of GAGGA's critical cases [27]). Also, GAGGA partners from West- and Central Africa identified the opportunity to participate in the Regional Forum on Analog Forestry (AF) [28], Women and Land Rights, hosted by **CENDEP/International Analog Forestry Network (IAFN)** in Cameroon in April 2019. This regional forum led to an in-depth analysis of national forestry laws and the barriers that women face to practice AF in their respective communities. CENDEP and their national counterparts are now supporting local women in their advocacy efforts for improved laws and better access for women to land and trees.

GAGGA also committed to work with and further strengthen the capacities of those GAGGA partners and groups who were interested in monitoring and influencing International Financial Institutions (IFI) policies and projects. Specifically, we (co-)organised different workshops in Argentina (April), Cambodia (July), El Salvador (October), and Ivory Coast (November) in which partner funds, NGOs and groups gained significant knowledge and understanding on how to engage with these institutions as well as the money flows behind large development projects affecting their communities. Moving forward, from partners we have learned that more support is needed to connect local groups with IFI watchers, particularly as there is a capacities' gap at the local level concerning the analysis and use of the data and information on IFI projects and money flows.

GAGGA also piloted alternative mechanisms to strengthen current communications platforms and create spaces for learning and exchange, beyond in-person meetings. These mechanisms have allowed GAGGA to explore possible ways forward to continue building solidarity and ensuring the sustainability of the network, beyond funding.

[27] The GAGGA Critical Cases are different advocacy processes identified by GAGGA that show: the core values and relevance of GAGGA; the specific expertise of the various organisations involved and who are working collectively towards a desired change for women's rights and environmental justice; and the results of joint lobby and advocacy on women's rights and environmental justice. The three cases are Ixquisis Case in Guatemala, led by the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA); Clean up and End Gas Flaring in the Niger Delta, led by Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre and Lokiaka Community Research Centre; and the Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA), led by the Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP), Dhaatri Resources Centre and the Mongolian Women's Fund (MONES).

[28] Analog Forestry (AF) is an approach to ecological restoration which uses natural forests as guides to create ecologically stable and socio-economically productive landscapes. It is a holistic form of silviculture, which minimizes external inputs, such as agrochemicals and fossil fuels. Within GAGGA, AF is increasingly being incorporated in local women's groups' practices for the restoration and conservation of their natural resources, land, water and biodiversity. For more information: <http://www.analogforestry.org/our-work/gagga-rifa/>

GAGGA organised a webinar in June, following the submission of the MTR Final Report and the 2018 Annual Report to the MFA, to share back the key findings and insights gained in the first three years of GAGGA, as well as interesting stories from local groups and the proposals, initiatives and resistances they are leading. Given GAGGA's global reach, we organised separate webinars at different times and languages. This online space provided an opportunity to reflect collectively on our work based on data and evidence, and also gave partners an overarching picture of how their efforts are contributing to GAGGA's progress. Most importantly, we further strengthened linkages across countries and regions, as the information shared showed how all GAGGA actors are part of a larger movement fighting for women's rights and environmental justice.

GAGGA published two thematic newsletters, which more than 250 contacts within partner funds, NGOs and grassroots groups as well as external actors received ([Women's Rights and the Extractives Industry](#) and [Women's Rights and Water](#)). The content was developed collectively with partners who are working on these themes. We also improved the accessibility and use of the GAGGA website, particularly the [resources section](#), to ensure all partners have access to the different tools, publications and research on women's rights and environmental justice, developed through GAGGA's support and beyond.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR L&A ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

L&A results for Women's Rights and Environmental Justice at the Local Level

In 2019, a large percentage of grassroots groups prioritized **Empowerment and economic autonomy** (23%), **Restoration/Ecological Protection (including biodiversity)** (16%), **Climate Change** (12%) and **Sustainable Agriculture** (12%) as the main topics in their L&A initiatives. Depending on the region, the order of priority of the topics varies slightly [29]. These figures and those of 2018 [30] align with what GAGGA partner funds and NGOs are evidencing through the groups they support: a key part of local groups' work is ensuring that they can develop, strengthen and promote their sustainable, community-based practices to secure their economic autonomy, access to safe water and food sovereignty, as a means to be able to continue their advocacy work. It also has a strong political significance, as these practices become a form of re-appropriating their territories, based on traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices, with a clear understanding of the intrinsic relationship and the co-existence between people and nature.

La Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local supports efforts in Suchitoto, El Salvador to guarantee the human right to drinking water through efficient, sustainable and gender-based community water management. Since 2014, they have been working together with women from the community, providing training and building the capacity of the community's water and sanitation committees to analyse water management through a gender lens. From these efforts, women have become more visible and vocal within the committees and there are now 10 women serving as committee president. The Colectiva Feminista was also an important actor in the planning and organizing of a public referendum in Suchitoto on the human right to water, a first of its kind process in El Salvador. From their efforts, significant progress has been made in this municipality: it is the only municipality providing full coverage of drinking water and on October 27, 2019, it became the first municipality in the country to vote 'yes' to water as a human right [31]. This, in turn, has become a precedent for national CSO networks who are working towards passing a national law in El Salvador to recognise water as a human right for all.

[29] Africa: Empowerment and economic autonomy (29%), Climate Change (16%) and Sustainable Agriculture (11%); Asia: Empowerment and economic autonomy (24%), Restoration/Ecological Protection (including biodiversity) (17%); Europe (Georgia): Empowerment and economic autonomy (20%) and Climate Change (20%); Latin America: Restoration/Ecological Protection (including biodiversity) (21%), Empowerment and economic autonomy (19%).

[30] In 2018, the main topics groups focused on in their L&A initiatives were Land/Forest and Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture (please note, for the 2019 Annual Survey, GAGGA slightly adapted the priority areas, based on feedback provided by partners).

[31] FCAM (2019) "[And then Suchitoto voted yes](#)".

In 2019, grassroots groups used similar advocacy tactics to 2018: **community dialogue** (25%) and **training and sensitizing on specific issues for advocacy campaigns** (19%). It is interesting to note that there is a shift in their advocacy targets, with a greater focus on their communities themselves: **communities in general** (28%), **members of their organisations** (17%), **network of community organisations** (16%) and **elected local governments/authorities** (13%). This is in line with our reflections on the current context to do advocacy for women's rights and environmental justice. Firstly, local community-based organisations and groups are pushing for stronger local movements, particularly as they face more adverse contexts to do their work. Furthermore, advocacy work at the national level is more restricted and less effective, given that many national governments are not respecting and recognizing the demands and actions of civil society. To ensure that they still get heard, local groups and collectives are linking up with regional and international networks and spaces for solidarity, unity and support, particularly as there is a strong belief that change will come from the people and their communities, rather than the systems that govern them.

"It is our right to work here, to live here, and we won't move anymore" [32]. In Bargny, Senegal, the **Khelkom fisherwomen** are, without doubt, the main leaders in the resistance against the Sendou coal-fired power plant, which has caused the loss of their farming land and part of their fish processing site; reduced their household income; caused displacements and crowded housing; as well as ill-health. The accompaniment provided by **Lumière Synergie pour le Développement (LSD)** and **WoMin** [33], has bolstered the women's self-organising, articulation and advocacy work. In 2019, they were able to meet with officials from SENELEC (the national electricity company of Senegal) on four separate occasions. They also mandated local government representatives to lodge their complaints at the National Assembly and speak about the negative impact the plant is having on the community's health, environment and livelihoods. The Khelkom fisherwomen's fight continues: they are undertaking a sensitisation campaign in neighbouring villages, also impacted by the coal plant and the development of a new port. They are also linking up with regional and international solidarity movements to strengthen advocacy efforts towards the African Development Bank (AfDB), including the launch of the joint ecofeminist research by LSD, Gender Action and WoMin: "Women Stand Their Ground Against Big Coal: The AfDB Sendou Plant impacts on women in a time of climate crisis" in November 2019.

L&A results for Women's Rights and Environmental Justice at the National and International Level

Partner funds and NGOs play a crucial role in supporting as well as leading direct L&A based on the agendas of local groups or in collaboration with them. **Climate Change** (20%), **Extractive Industries (mining, oil, coal, metals, minerals, etc.)** (16%) and **Infrastructure, hydroelectric and mega projects** (15%) were the main L&A areas that NGOs and funds focused on [34]. CAGGA NGOs, in particular, are recognised at the national and international levels for their technical and legal expertise as well as research in environmental justice policy debates from local to global (and vice-versa). In 2019, NGOs reported having influenced **69 policies to support and advance women's rights and environmental justice** and partake in **81 direct interventions for gender and grassroots responsiveness of IFIs, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF)** [35].

[32] CAGGA 2019 Most Significant Change Story, submitted by WoMin.

[33] Over the years, these organisations have provided FPAR trainings, renewable energy learning exchanges, support in the development and use of an ecofeminist impact assessment tool and publication of a report on the situation.

[34] Please note, there is a similar trend with women's and environmental justice funds. Refer to Figures 5 and 6 in Appendix 1 for the regional distribution of the main L&A topics for women's and environmental justice funds and NGOs.

[35] Please note this does not include information from women's and environmental justice funds and grassroots groups.



CCIMCAT, Bolivia

In the Villa Montes Municipality in Bolivia, access to water is an unresolved issue, as many communities have to walk long distances to get water from a river or stream. The local government provides water twice a month; however, when these water resources are used up, it is the women, girls and youth of the local communities who are responsible for walking two-three hours to the closest river. Through the close collaboration with the organisation **Centro de Capacitación e Investigación de la Mujer Campesina de Tarija (CCIMCAT)**, the women of Hucareta, have been able to collectively develop and propose a municipal law called “Agua Fuente de Vida (Water Source of Life) N°234”, for the protection, conservation and provision of water as a human right. They have organised different meetings between women’s organisations and the municipality to discuss how the lack of water affects women’s lives. These dialogues and meetings have been an essential aspect for their advocacy work, as this pushed the local municipality to pass the proposed law on July 5th, 2019. This law also has become a precedent at the national level. CCIMCAT in collaboration with other GAGGA partners, such as Colectivo CASA, Fundación Plurales and Fondo de Mujeres del Sur (FMS) are focusing their national advocacy efforts on the need to reduce gender inequality in natural resources management and use, specifically linked to women’s increased labour related to caretaking and domestic work.



WAMA, Asia

The Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) network is a collaboration between women human rights defenders, funds and NGOs from five countries (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia and the Philippines) that begun with GAGGA in 2017 and is also one of the three GAGGA Critical Cases. In 2019, WAMA continued their capacity strengthening work by organizing a regional skills-share workshop and strategic planning meeting in Cambodia. They also supported the participation of eight WAMA members to attend the Eighth edition of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, given that for them, this is an international platform for dialogue with and between governments, businesses and civil society and was a key opportunity to present their collective agenda and demands. At the forum itself, they were able to meet and learn from other CSOs, including Tebtebba (Indigenous People’s International Centre for Policy Research and Education), Action Aid and Forest Peoples Program, and WAMA members from India and Mongolia were able to have a meeting with their UN Permanent Mission offices, opening up lines of communication for future advocacy.



PRC and TEWA, Nepal



WATED, Tanzania

L&A results for Women's Rights and Environmental Justice towards the GCF

With the support of GAGGA since 2016, through Both ENDS, NGOs' and grassroots groups' have gained increased understanding on how the GCF operates and how the fund's decision-making processes and projects can either obstruct or support women's rights and gender justice. In 2019, GAGGA partners actively engaged with national and regional GCF Gender Monitors, who act as intermediaries between international GCF policy level debates and women's rights organisations working at the national or regional level, as well as being the focal points contributing to relevant consultation processes like the GCF Gender Action Plan. Apart from direct L&A towards the GCF at the international level, GAGGA also continued to support national-level collaborative efforts between women's rights and environmental justice organisations towards the GCF, leading to very concrete results:

In Nepal, **Prakriti Resources Center (PRC)** and **TEWA**, the Nepalese Women's Fund, have continued to provide training to local women's groups on climate change and opportunities for accessing funds from local government authorities to support their gender-responsive climate actions. These trainings have helped local women's groups to advocate towards local authorities, often for the very first time, and in some cases secure funds for disaster preparedness, river conservation and organic fertilizer production. Meanwhile, PRC and TEWA, as part of an informal national CSO coalition, have successfully continued L&A at the national level. This national CSO coalition and other actors were able to contribute to the formulation of the 2019 National Climate Change Policy, which now includes gender and social inclusion as a major cross-cutting area in climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes. This provision was not there in the 2011 version of the policy.

Following different workshops provided by **Women Action Towards Entrepreneurship Development (WATED)** to local women's and environmental justice groups in five counties of Tanzania in 2018, in 2019 WATED organised a national symposium with these groups, the Senior Gender representatives of the Ministry of State for Union and Environment and the Parliament's Environmental Committee, regional and local government authorities, GCF Accredited Entities and the Tanzanian National Designated Authority (NDA). WATED is a recognised actor on climate finance and an important link between local groups, national GCF discussions and international networks [36]. Through their work, they consolidated a continuously growing national GCF CSO network. They also were invited to explore possible collaborations to solicit GCF funding with Accredited Entities active in Tanzania.

[36] For example, WATED translated the Climate Finance videos developed by the Heinrich Boll Stiftung- North America (<https://us.boell.org/2019/08/12/climate-finance-101>) to Kiswahili, and shared it via WhatsApp with local groups.

L&A results for Women's Rights and Environmental Justice towards Donors

In 2019, GAGGA had to re-strategise its approach to influencing donors. Given the increased global attention on the climate crisis, many funders (private and public) made a significant shift in their priorities towards climate change. From GAGGA, we saw this as a pivotal opportunity to show the continued importance of supporting local women-led groups and communities that are at the forefront of environmental and climate action. It is the moment to bring forward those proposals for a much-needed transition to more sustainable and community-based models, particularly as these groups continue to be severely underfunded and at the margins of the international debates and decision-making processes around climate change.

GAGGA and allies identified key paths forward to strategically influence the donor community, by producing and publishing different communications pieces [37] and speaking at various in-person and online meetings to share our experiences and knowledge. These included different sessions at the Aligned Funders on International Energy Network and the Funder Learning Community for Women and the Environment, the latter organised by Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) and Prospera – the International Network of Women's Funds; "Patriarchy is toxic for people and the planet" workshop organised by GGF and Comic Relief; and the Regional Gender Workshop of the Open Society Initiative for Europe. We also worked towards the organisation of two major events in 2020: the [Women, Inclusion and the Environment Roundtable](#), co-organised with the Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) Department of the MFA, and the Summit on Women Leading Environmental Action, co-organised with GGF and Prospera. Through these events, in 2020 we hope that critical discussions on the importance of inclusive, flexible, feminist and community-driven resourcing for gender, environmental and climate justice work can continue and potential future collaborations identified.

The **Funder Learning Community for Women and the Environment** was launched on Earth Day, April 22nd, 2019, by **GGF** and **Prospera** and co-sponsored by Ford Foundation and MacArthur Foundation, facilitating monthly calls with about 20 key environmental funders on the connections between women's rights and environmental justice. The community includes four of the top five largest environmental funders and provides a unique opportunity for funders to engage in peer-to-peer learning and exchange to shift strategies and resources in the environmental funding space to be more gender-responsive. Conversation topics in 2019 included an introduction into women and environment, women and sustainable livelihoods, and women's roles in biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation through seed-saving. Participating funders have expressed passion and questions about integrating gender equity into their environmental grantmaking and have identified feeling supported by peers as one of the most beneficial elements of the learning community. It has become clear that one of the critical enabling factors for funders to explore funding this intersection is their ability to call on others in the community for help and support.

In 2019, GAGGA also successfully influenced donors to provide more support for women-led, gender-responsive environmental work. Philanthropy Advancing Women's Human Rights and Dietel and Partners provided support in 2019 and 2020 for collective reflection, analyses and planning amongst the three alliance members, as there is a clear commitment to continue GAGGA's work post-2020. Furthermore, FCAM, Both ENDS and Mama Cash secured funding for some of their institutional work on women's rights and environmental justice. In the case of FCAM, together with Fondo Semillas (a women's fund in Mexico), they received funding to support women's groups and collectives working on

[37] This included:

- Alliance Magazine (2019) [Climate Change is not gender neutral](#).

- ViceVersa (2019) Tip 3 aan Kaag: [Lever in op je privilege en geef zuidelijke organisaties meer inspraak bij het bepalen van prioriteiten](#):



livelihoods, including food sovereignty. Both ENDS secured funding from the Climate Justice Resilience Fund to strengthen partners' work on the GCF, in collaboration with national and regional organisations, including GAGGA partners MONES and C21st in Nigeria. They also received funding from DOB Ecology to support the study and publication "[Putting people first: the transformational impact of small grants funds](#)". Mama Cash led a fundraising drive at the end of 2019 with a focus on environmental and climate justice [38], which led to more support from individual donors.

It is also very positive to note that almost half of partner funds and NGOs (48%) have reported receiving at least **€5,1 million** [39] from new donors to work on women's rights and environmental justice, additional to the funding received from GAGGA.

STRENGTHENED CROSS-MOVEMENT COLLABORATION AND ALLIANCE BUILDING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

GAGGA's increased understanding on women's rights and environmental justice as well as the contexts and realities of our partners; the strong linkages between FCAM, Both ENDS and Mama Cash; and the opportunity to work with committed and passionate staff within partner organisations, continues to strengthen our cross-movement work. There is tremendous potential for this work to ensure sustainability in advocacy efforts, as they are developed based on shared goals of partners, in which each organisation involved contributes with the knowledge, expertise and resources they have available and feel could most strategically contribute to this process. In 2019, GAGGA led and contributed to different cross-movement initiatives, building from our experiences in previous years as well as identifying new opportunities:

#Las Mujeres Somos Agua 2019 (2019 We, Women Are Water Latin America Campaign): from the successful experiences in 2017 and 2018, in 2019, 16 partner organisations of GAGGA and a great number of grassroots groups and collectives came together to develop a strategic campaign to raise the profile of women water defenders in Latin America through postcards and videos that represented their voices, stories and demands [40]. This campaign highlighted the multiple threats and pressures that women experience throughout the region when protecting their water resources as well as the differentiated impacts and violence women face due to the lack of access to water. It also made evident how women take on the additional caregiving roles and tasks to guarantee water for their families, without the latter implying their recognition and political participation in decision-making processes for this common good. The campaign culminated with an [online panel](#) with women from Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Paraguay, who spoke of their experiences in self-organizing, their advocacy actions and demands, and how women have become leaders in the collective struggle to defend water and their territories. The campaign reached over 18,000 people [41], mostly in Latin America, and 436 people registered to participate in the online panel.

[38] Mama Cash (2019) [Make way for feminist climate activism](#).

[39] This does not include funding received by Both ENDS, FCAM and Mama Cash from new donors.

[40] GAGGA (2019) [We, Women are Water Campaign 2019](#).

[41] Based on FCAM's Institutional Campaign Evaluation.



International Rivers

Building networks at the first Women and Rivers Congress

GAGGA partners from different countries (Bolivia, Colombia, DRC, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) were able to bring their vast knowledge and experiences to this space, which was organised by International Rivers in collaboration with the Nepal Water Conservation Foundation. This congress provided participants with the opportunity for collective analysis on the inequality in women’s access in water resources use and management and on how local women-led movements defending water sources begin and can sustain themselves. Through this exchange, participants recognised that although they come from very different countries and contexts, they face very similar struggles: opposing unsustainable dams, mining, and monoculture plantations; addressing degrading and destroyed freshwater ecosystems; and addressing the systematic exclusion of women from decision-making processes on the use and governance of water resources. Valuable connections were established between women’s rights and environmental actors and between the GAGGA partners present. This network has continued, sharing information online and providing solidarity and support where possible.



International Rivers



WoMin, Africa

Strengthening south-south collaboration

Building on the linkages created between partner organisations from Africa, Asia and Latin America in 2018 at the Thematic Social Forum on Mining and Extractivist Economy and the GAGGA Global Meeting, we supported a south-south collaboration in November 2019 in Guatemala between the Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales (Latin America), WoMin (Africa) and WAMA (Asia). This space was important as it continued strengthening the relationship between these regional networks and identified possible joint positioning and actions for the upcoming 2020 Thematic Social Forum on Mining and Extractivist Economy. Similarly, with support from GAGGA, a cross-regional network evolving between Central and South America, South-East Asia and West Africa for information exchange and mutual support to address the effects of monoculture palm oil expansion on the rights of women and communities at large and their natural resources.



Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales



GAGGA at UNFCCC COP25

Ensuring local women’s voices and agendas at the UNFCCC COP25

Different GAGGA partners including FMS, FRIDA, Colectivo CASA, Fundación Plurales, AIDA and Both ENDS, and through the leadership of FCAM, collectively submitted and hosted parallel sessions at the UNFCCC COP25, particularly to ensure that local groups and collectives could be part of this space (given the last-minute change to Madrid [42]).

In preparation to the COP25, GAGGA provided support to FRIDA for the organisation of the Ayni Climático (Ayni Climate Camp) [43], which took place in October, as a space for convergence and collective action between organisations, activists and socio-environmental youth leaders to strengthen the intersections between the social and environmental justice struggles in Latin America. GAGGA also supported a year-long participatory scoping research, led by 14 women environmental defenders in Bolivia and Paraguay, grantees of different funds working in the region. Through the facilitation of Colectivo CASA, these women environmental defenders gained practical community-focused methodologies and tools to collect, systemize and analyse information on what is happening in their communities and strengthened their political discourse, contributing to their advocacy plans in defence of their territories. The evidence collected led to the publication: “El Resguardo de la Vida – Situación de las defensoras del territorio frente a los extractivismos y otras formas de despojo” and presented at one of the sessions GAGGA hosted during the COP 25 [44].



Pavel Martiarena, TierrActiva Perú



GAGGA at UNFCCC COP25

At the COP25 itself, GAGGA was able to host five parallel sessions [45], which focused on cross-movement feminist organising, the role of young women in local climate adaptation solutions, the access to and importance of GCF funding for local women-led organisations, and the effects of extractive industries on women and women’s health in particular. COP25 was a critical international advocacy space for GAGGA, particularly as the debates around the climate crisis increasingly need community-based voices and perspectives.

[42] Due to the socio-political crisis that erupted in Chile in October 2019, the UNFCCC COP25 moved to Madrid, Spain.

[43] GAGGA (2020) [Organizing collectively for resistance: conversations from diverse viewpoints.](#)

[44] Euroclima+ (2019) Session: [Mujeres defensoras ambientales y el cambio climático: Estrategias de incidencia y resistencia ante el avance del modelo extractivista.](#)

COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NETHERLANDS



Red Chimpu Warni, Bolivia

In 2019, GAGGA continued its engagement and collaboration with the MFA. For example:

- As indicated previously, in the second half of the year, GAGGA worked closely with the ICG Department at the MFA in preparation to the Roundtable on Women, Inclusiveness and the Environment (January 2020). This work has been an important and valued collaboration, as it provided an opportunity to work together as peers and leverage strengths (networks and knowledge) for this event.
- GAGGA, together with other organisations and Strategic Partnerships, actively engaged and provided detailed recommendations to the MFA's subsidy framework Power of Voices and SDG5, amongst others to ensure that gender equality is both a cross-cutting and a stand-alone theme.
- With the Dutch Embassy in Costa Rica, FCAM and Both ENDS got involved in the project "Closing Civic Space in Central America" with different Strategic Partnerships of the D&D programme in the region and provided continued situational analysis. GAGGA also maintained outreach and information sharing with embassies in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal and Tanzania.

[45] The five GAGGA sessions at the UNFCCC COP 25 were: "Gender Equality and Women's Rights in Climate Action: Lessons Learned and Opportunities from Latin America" - GAGGA and UNDP; "Global South women and young feminist meet the climate crisis: alternatives, solutions and narrative" - FCAM and FRIDA; "Women Environmental Defenders and Climate Change: resistance and advocacy strategies in response to the advance of the extractivist model"- Colectivo CASA, Fundación Plurales and FMS; "Climate Change, Women and Indigenous peoples - tensions between self-determination for indigenous peoples and the advance of extractives industries" - Fundación Plurales, FCAM and FMS; and "Can the GCF Catalyze Inclusive, Gender-Responsive Local Climate Action Globally & in Latin America?" - Heinrich Böll Stiftung and Both ENDS.

2019 MAIN LESSONS



- **Cross-sectoral movement-building requires prioritising people and connections:** GAGGA has extensively invested in building strong relationships with each other and partners and in creating processes for collaboration that recognise the diversity and complementarity of experience and knowledge of all actors involved. After four years, we see that prioritising people and connections contributes significantly to partners' sense of ownership of GAGGA and has catalysed our cross-movement collaboration work. Partner organisations are building linkages across regions, cultures and languages, collectively taking on challenges and strengthening their advocacy processes.
- **Feedback loops and inclusive reflection spaces with partners are essential:** GAGGA partners have made significant contributions to our Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning processes throughout the years; however, we have had limited moments to share back and collectively reflect on the evidence and findings from those processes. From our experiences this year, we realize this is important and we aim to continue doing similar events such as the 2018 Annual Report Webinar, as these spaces ensure that we are accountable towards our partners, provides us with other perspectives and insights and strengthens our partners' understanding of GAGGA as a global movement.
- **GAGGA's knowledge and experience are contributing to building broader understanding amongst a variety of networks:** local groups, NGOs, funds, governments and donors are increasingly recognising GAGGA as a relevant actor working on women's rights and environmental justice, given our experiences gained as the largest program funding the nexus on different levels. We are learning a lot on how to enter into open dialogues with different actors, particularly donors, and jointly reflect on the importance of ensuring inclusive, flexible, feminist and community-driven approaches in addressing environmental issues. We hope to continue this learning with allies and enhance our reach.

As we finalise this report (April 2020), the globe is witnessing an unprecedented context with the COVID-19 outbreak. The realities of communities across the world have radically changed, particularly deepening existing conflicts and worsening scarcities for the most marginalised communities, including women. It is also being used by some governments to negatively affect civic freedoms and citizens' human rights [46]. While this health crisis lays bare many existing social inequalities and injustices, it provides an opportunity to bring forward the voices and visions of women environmental defenders, who, based on their traditional knowledge and practices, center the preservation and care of life and our planet. More than ever, women-led local groups, networks and movements need inclusive and flexible resourcing and accompaniment to ensure we can face this crisis, and future crises, together as resilient movements. Although these are testing times, we hope that in 2020, we can further consolidate GAGGA as a strategic and political alliance and move towards a better future collectively.

[46] CIVICUS (2020) [Civic Freedoms and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Snapshot of Restrictions and Attacks](#)