

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a black t-shirt with a large, intricate, brown and white patterned graphic on the front, and a light-colored shawl draped over her shoulders. She is walking through a field of tall grass, carrying a woven basket in her left hand. The background is a blurred field of green grass and some distant structures.

2016–2020

Final Narrative Report

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Acronyms

AIDA – Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente
COP - Conference of the Parties
CSO - Civil Society Organisation
D&D - Dialogue and Dissent
FCAM – Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres
FEE – Final External Evaluation
FLC – Funder Learning Community on Women and the Environment
GAGGA – Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action
GCF – Green Climate Fund
IFIs – International Financial Institutions
L&A – Lobby and Advocacy
MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands
NDA – National Designated Authority
NGO – Non Governmental Organisation
UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WEHRD – Women Environmental Human Rights Defender

INTRODUCTION

Launched in 2016, the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) rallies the collective power of women's rights, environmental and climate justice movements around the world. GAGGA's vision is a world where women's rights to water, food security, and a clean, healthy and safe environment are recognised and respected. Facilitated by the [Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres \(FCAM\)](#), in cooperation with [Mama Cash](#) and [Both ENDS](#), GAGGA is a network that involves partners working at local, national, regional and international levels in more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe (Georgia) and Latin America. GAGGA partners include 20 women's rights and environmental justice funds, more than 40 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and more than 400 women-led community-based organisations. GAGGA also collaborates with Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera – the International Network of Women's Funds, as Strategic Allies.

This Final Narrative Report covers GAGGA's progress in the final year of its five-year strategic partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (MFA) under their Dialogue and Dissent (D&D) policy framework. It also provides an overview of its key results between 2016-2020, in relation to the GAGGA Theory of Change.



For more: www.gaggaalliance.org

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2020: Unprecedented realities and building resilience

CONTEXT

The year 2020 started off with a lot of momentum for GAGGA. Across the globe, international actors placed urgent and much-needed attention on the environmental and climate crises. We were motivated to catalyse on and trusted the work we had built as a unique network since 2016, centered on the demands and priorities of the mostly women-led local movements we had been supporting. However, as the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 began to unfold, we all had to come to grips with an unprecedented reality.

As we write this report, we have been living/surviving with COVID-19 for more than a year, confronted with devastating multi-layered impacts on communities across the globe. COVID-19 has deepened existing systemic inequalities, with effects that we will see for many years to come. Many governments were ill-equipped to respond to the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic, coupled with ineffective governance, high levels of corruption and power capture by political and economic elites. For GAGGA partners, particularly in the Global South, COVID-19 not only impacted their physical, mental and emotional well-being, but also their food security, livelihoods, social fabric and environment¹, as well as having impacts on their work:

Momentum was lost in key international advocacy spaces to ensure political will and commitments for women's rights and climate justice. Advocacy spaces and policy processes were cancelled, postponed or abruptly changed to virtual settings, limiting accessibility for many. For example, the bulk of the Commission on the Status of Women 64 was suspended and the Generation Equality Forums were postponed, both key spaces to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and build commitment by governments to advance the human rights of women, girls and gender-non-confirming people in all their diversities. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 26, viewed as one of the last opportunities to ensure the world gets back on track to uphold the Paris Agreement, was also postponed to 2021, derailing the many efforts to take on urgent action to tackle the climate crisis.

¹ The information shared below comes directly from GAGGA partners. It has been collected through the responses to the 2020 GAGGA Annual Survey; responses to the survey and interviews for the research and publication "[GAGGA Autonomy and Resilience Fund - Transforming fear into hope](#)"; and the "[GAGGA COVID-19 Voices](#)" audio stories.

² OECD (2020) [The territorial impact of COVID-19: Managing the crisis across levels of government](#)

Lockdowns limited necessary and meaningful organising by civil society in national and local policy making spaces, which is at the core of GAGGA partners' advocacy work. Initial responses to the pandemic have been varied, with governments trading-off political and economic stability for the well-being and human rights of their diverse populations. By spring 2020, more than half of the world's population had experienced a lockdown with strong containment measures², including enforced partial or complete lockdowns, imposed curfews and restrictions on social activities, closed educational institutions and reprioritised public health services. Although lockdowns were an initial necessary measure to contain COVID-19, in various countries it also meant that citizens were criminalised for disobeying curfews, and in many cases, Indigenous and rural communities were completely isolated and disconnected due to limited access to internet and telephone service. In some cases, policymakers simply did not plan for including the perspectives and voices of civil society and local communities, and moved forward without proper consultation.

Extractive industries, agribusinesses and large infrastructure projects were deemed as "essential services" or "priority areas", particularly as economic recovery mechanisms. In some local communities' territories, governments relaxed the standards and requirement procedures for the activities of agribusiness, large infrastructure projects, and extractive industries. This included opening direct online channels for companies to secure licenses for the extraction of resources and not requiring proper community consultations, which is a prerequisite for the granting of licenses in many countries. Many GAGGA partners who were advocating towards governments and investors implementing these projects prior to COVID-19, were unable to directly participate in these processes once the pandemic hit.

Local communities faced extremely difficult circumstances in relation to their basic human needs, including food shortages, limited access to water and lack of income. Due to the lockdowns, many communities could not leave their houses to work their land for the purposes of subsistence or walk the long distances to fetch water for their household. Furthermore, many people became unemployed, as they were prevented from engaging in income generating activities, including selling their products at local markets. GAGGA partners reported that governments' promised emergency support never reached many of the Indigenous and rural communities that needed it the most.

Violence against environmental human rights defenders increased further. On average, four environmental defenders have been killed every week since December 2015³. However, with COVID-19, many Indigenous and rural communities faced an increase in abuse of power and direct violence by local authorities and private companies wanting to access their territories, using COVID-19 measures to justify their actions. New types of risks have emerged for land and environmental defenders and in the current context, Indigenous peoples are particularly exposed to threats and attacks⁴.

Increased gender-based violence. COVID-19 intensified domestic and gender-based violence globally, as many of the factors that trigger and/or perpetuate violence against women and girls in the so-called private sphere, such as isolation, are compounded by confinement measures⁵.

Women faced increased unpaid labour and direct impacts on their physical and mental health. Driven by patriarchy and gender discrimination, women were confronted with intensified pressures and increasingly difficult circumstances, given that they needed to secure food for their families, care for their children and manage their schooling, as well as tend to their family's health issues, including COVID-19 illness. We received many reports from women involved in GAGGA partner organisations about the severe impacts this has had on their physical, mental, and emotional health.

Even with the many challenges faced, within GAGGA we were also fortified in 2020 by the undeniable importance and power of social movements and civil society to drive transformative change in our societies. The Black Lives Matter movement triggered a global demand to abolish systemic racial injustices not only in the United States, but also in societies worldwide. In Chile, driven by the social protests in 2019, a democratic process took place to decide whether a new constitution should be developed and how, with an astounding 80 percent of the Chilean population voting in favour and demanding guaranteed gender parity and Indigenous representation in this process. In India, farmers and farmer unions across the country came together to push back on different agriculture bills, which were passed in September 2020 without their prior consultation. 2020 was also the year in which abortion was legalised in Argentina. We are seeing more diverse, intersectional and connected social movements, in which youth, Indigenous and LGBTQI communities have stronger leadership and voice. Women, in particular, are increasingly being recognised as the faces and thinkers of protest movements⁶.

³ Global Witness (2020) [Defending Tomorrow - The climate crisis and threats against land and environmental defenders](#)

⁴ International Land Coalition (2020) [Risks to Indigenous and other land and environmental defenders heightened during COVID-19](#)

⁵ United Nations (2020) [Addressing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Violence Against Women and Girls](#)

We cannot deny the overwhelming challenges the globe and our movements are facing. The United Nations Secretary General's 2020 progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals provides some insight on these challenges indicating that "climate change is occurring much faster than anticipated" and that "the promise of a world in which every woman and girl enjoy full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed remains unfulfilled"⁷. Moving forward, we must build on and support local movements fighting for social, gender, and environmental justice and urge governments to prioritise collective care, equity and solidarity for all people and our planet, in our recovery from COVID-19.

GAGGA IN 2020

For GAGGA and its partner organisations, 2020 was an extremely challenging year. The unprecedented situation described above demanded a swift review of priorities and necessary adjustments to plans, in close consultation and dialogue with our partners, to be able to respond to a shifting context. Despite the significant challenges, GAGGA partners continued organising, strengthening their own and their community's resilience, and finding alternate ways to build connections and solidarity.

The following section provides GAGGA's progress in 2020⁸ towards its three main strategies: strengthening capacities for lobby and advocacy (L&A) on women's rights and environmental justice; direct L&A for women's rights and environmental justice; and cross-movement collaboration. We have included examples from partners' work, acknowledging that this is only a small sample of their diverse and transformative work.

⁶ CIVICUS (2021), 2021 [State of Civil Society Report](#)

⁷ United Nations (2020) [Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals - Report of the Secretary-General](#)

⁸ Data presented in this report was collected through different sources, including the 2020 Annual Survey to Funds and NGOs (online survey completed by 14 women's funds, six environmental justice funds, 40 NGOs, as well as the three alliance members); GAGGA alliance members annual reflections tools; and regional and global Linking and Learning initiatives reports from partners.



Strengthening capacities for L&A on women's rights and environmental justice

Through the commitment and work of our partners, GAGGA was able to provide much needed financial and non-financial support to **426 grassroots groups across Africa, Asia, Europe (Georgia) and Latin America** in 2020⁹. 79 percent of these groups (336 of 426 groups¹⁰) received in total €2,2 million in grants from national, regional and international women's and environmental justice funds as well as some NGOs. The remaining 21 percent (90 of 426 groups) received non-financial support exclusively.

Women's and environmental justice funds

Percentage of their 2020 annual GAGGA budget was allocated to the following:



NGOs

Percentage of their 2020 annual GAGGA budget was allocated to the following:



Please refer to Annex 1 for more information on these figures, including regional distribution.

Women's and environmental justice funds and NGOs found different and creative ways to support grassroots groups and local communities during the pandemic. More than 50 percent of grassroots groups in the GAGGA network are from Indigenous and rural communities¹¹, who often have limited access to internet and telephone services, exemplifying the existing digital gender divide across the globe. GAGGA partners made major efforts to ensure the safe and effective participation of women-led grassroots groups in digital spaces and their use of digital tools. This included: purchasing data packages for mobile phones; providing safe travel to the nearest town or village with access to internet; strengthening computer skills; as well as providing trainings on how to participate in national and international virtual spaces. This capacity strengthening also contributed to ensuring partner groups and organisations could find new ways of connecting, building solidarity, and sharing pertinent and relevant information in a time when physical contact was not possible.

GAGGA held collective knowledge building and reflection spaces virtually with partner funds, NGOs and grassroots groups, which contributed to our external evaluation process as well as envisioning ideas and ambitions for the future as a network. Together, we strengthened our knowledge on the nexus of gender, environment and climate, rooted in the realities of local movements working on gender and climate justice. This in turn, fed into different processes and products, including: the proposal development of the GAGGA "Women Leading Climate Action" programme, which was awarded funding under the Power of Voices (2021-2025) policy framework; the launch of a [specific newsletter focused on women's leadership in climate justice](#); and the co-development of the session "Feminist Climate Action: Building Power at all Levels", at the global gathering From the Ground Up, hosted by the COP26 Coalition. This session, co-organised with the Women's Environment & Development Organization and Friends of the Earth International, was attended by over 150 people.

⁹ Refer to Figure 1 in Appendix 1 to see the regional distribution of grassroots groups supported by GAGGA in 2020.

¹⁰ 67 in Africa, 106 in Asia, 28 in Europe (Georgia) and 135 in Latin America.

¹¹ In the 2020 Annual Survey completed by funds and NGOs, they reported that 28% of grassroots groups (121 out of 426) indicated their main identity to be indigenous; and 25% (103 out of 426) indicated their main identity to be rural. Please note, this categorisation only captures the main identity of the groups, however we recognise that different groups have intersecting identities.

The **International Analog Forestry Network**, a network of organisations promoting and applying Analog Forestry, set up a [digital space for Analog Forestry Women Promoters in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador](#). Via audio messages and videos, shared through messaging apps like WhatsApp and Signal, they shared technical know-how about analog forestry, the design and implementation of regenerative plots by women, as well as educational methodologies to support their outreach to rural communities, particularly women. Beyond knowledge sharing, this digital space organically created small circles of trust and mutual support among the women promoters and their collaboration continues to this day.

International
Analog Forestry
Network

As activism, advocacy and resistance moved primarily online due to COVID-19 restrictions, this was accompanied by an increase in digital violence, attacks and surveillance. FRIDA, the Young Feminist Fund, released a [content series on digital care and security](#), covering topics such as basic internet infrastructure, safe messaging apps, as well as digital care when using devices. In these resources, specific attention was given to young feminist climate and environmental defenders, by including information on phone and off-internet digital security.

FRIDA | The
Young Feminist
Fund

Direct L&A for women's rights and environmental justice

From 2018 onwards¹², we have seen continuity across the main advocacy topics, tactics and target actors of GAGGA partners, particularly grassroots groups. The focus on economic autonomy, restoration and sustainable agriculture is not surprising. As highlighted in the 2019 GAGGA Annual Report, this is linked to groups strengthening their sustainable, community-based practices to not only ensure their livelihoods, food security and access to safe water, which are needed alongside their advocacy work, but also as a means to claim back and maintain control of their land and territory.

This continuity also speaks to the true nature of advocacy processes for systems change, which require long-term commitment, time and resources. Across the GAGGA network, many partners have been working together year after year (in many cases, even before GAGGA was set up), building relationships based on trust, shared knowledge and experience, and providing the sustained support needed by local movements to continue their work. In 2020, for those grassroots groups that received a grant from GAGGA, **66 percent (223 groups out of 336) had already received a GAGGA grant at least once before since 2016.**

In relation to the advocacy work led by NGOs, **80 percent of these organisations (32 NGOs out of 40) reported having contributed to successfully influencing women's rights and environmental justice policies at local, national, regional and/or international levels.**

Specifically, at the international level, GAGGA continued to influence different actors, spaces and processes, including International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and donors who are resourcing and financing environmental and climate action.

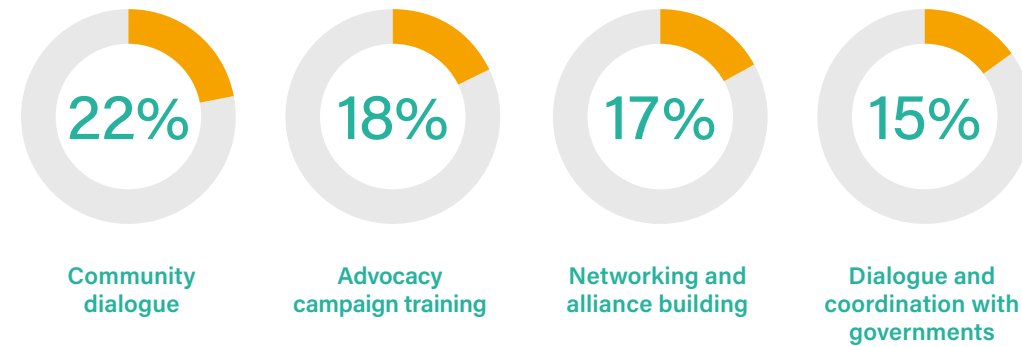
¹² Since 2018, GAGGA rolled out a highly participatory PME&L approach to ensure the participation and input of all partners, working at different levels. This has ensured more systematic data collection on an annual basis.

Grassroots groups

In 2020, the main topics prioritized in their L&A initiatives were:



The main advocacy tactics they used were:



The focus of their advocacy were:



Please refer to Annex 1 for more information on these figures, including regional distribution.

Although Indonesia's government has pledged to source 23 percent of its power from renewables by 2025 and 31 percent by 2050, plans for the development of geothermal, hydropower and wind farm projects have never included proper consultation with the local communities these would affect.

Between February to September 2020, GAGGA partner **Aksi!** [compiled testimonies from more than 50 women](#) on how they've been negatively impacted by the renewable energy projects across Indonesia, through Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR). Based on this research, Aksi! together with Save Gunung Slamet, submitted a report to the CEDAW Committee, which led to direct follow-up with the Indonesian government. They also held various roundtable discussions and a webinar 'Women from Energy Project Areas Speak Out', which highlighted the need for people-centered solutions and alternatives that are applied democratically and inclusively with the input, consent and control of women and local communities. Aksi! will build on this work to continue the conversation with the Indonesian government.

Kebetkache Women Development & Resource Centre and Lokiaka Community Development Centre are civil society organisations (CSOs) based in Port Harcourt – Nigeria, aiming to raise awareness on the issues faced by women and local communities in the Niger Delta, related to the impacts of gas flaring and oil extraction. At the end of 2019, GAGGA provided a Linking and Learning grant to strengthen the complementarity of these organisations' work in that area.

Through this support, Kebetkache has been able to strengthen the awareness of women in Kolokuma and Umuechem communities on their right to say "No" to gas flaring and their capacities to identify and engage with stakeholders on this issue. This led to the organisation of a forum between community members, CSOs, and representatives of the Ministry of Environment, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, Ministry of Women Affairs and National Orientation Agency. Through this forum, the Rivers State Ministry of Women Affairs committed to pay more attention to issues of women and environment, particularly the impacts of gas flaring, pollution and other environmental issues.

Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice

Kebetkache Women Development & Resource Centre

International financial institutions (IFIs)

GAGGA partners were able to engage, influence and contribute to the development, strengthening and monitoring of social and environmental policies of International Financial Institutions (IFIs). This work was done jointly by partners in Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mongolia, Senegal and Tanzania with GAGGA alliance members, engaging with the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Interamerican Development Bank. In particular, GAGGA partners centered their work through a human rights approach, focusing on the assessment of project proposals and implementation and the adherence of these projects to the social and environmental policies of IFIs.

In 2020, the Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA) had planned different international advocacy campaigns to demand action and follow-up to their complaint presented in 2018 to the Interamerican Development Bank (IADB)'s Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI) for violating, among others, its Operation Policy on Gender Equality, in relation to the large scale hydro projects Pojom II and San Andrés in Guatemala. AIDA had to cancel many plans and were unable to directly participate and engage in official IADB-related spaces. AIDA was committed to continue raising awareness and denouncing the situation in Ixquisis, and most importantly ensure continued contact and solidarity with the local women and their communities that have been central in this case. They were able to organise different virtual spaces and an [online petition and communications campaign](#), leading to increased understanding across the region about the consequences of these IADB-funded projects and build solidarity for the Ixquisis case.

Asociación
Interamericana
para la Defensa
del Ambiente

Green climate fund (GCF)

GAGGA partners have continued to conduct learning sessions and capacity building trainings to raise awareness and mobilise grassroots groups to engage in national Green Climate Fund (GCF) related decision-making processes. Specifically, GAGGA has been able to support women's rights organisations in Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal and Tanzania to enter into policy dialogues with their GCF National Designated Authority (NDA); increase their engagement in national decision-making processes, for example by providing gender expertise for the implementation of projects and using formal avenues to engage with the government/NDA; and monitor current or planned GCF projects in their country.

GAGGA, along with other actors, also continued to center partners' demands and needs in international GCF decision-making processes, and promote local access, gender responsiveness and inclusive decision-making. During the board meetings of 2020, we advocated to improve the gender action plans and gender assessments of different funding proposals and ensured direct participation and representation of women from different regions and communities in these spaces. For example, Wanun Permpibul, from Climate Watch Thailand and the GCF Regional Gender Monitor for Asia, was supported to participate in the GCF board meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. The fact that Wanun has been elected to the Active Observer Team of CSOs in 2020 shows that the capacity strengthening support provided in previous years has been successful.

As part of the larger international CSO group monitoring the GCF, GAGGA, through Both ENDS, advocated against the accreditation of the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), given that they are the world's third largest lender to coal plan developers. Echoing the voices of women and men in communities suffering from adverse health and environmental impacts brought by coal-fired power plants, this collective advocacy action has resulted in the temporary retraction of SMBC from the GCF agenda in order for their entity to improve their application.

Both ENDS

Donors

In 2020, GAGGA, together with its strategic allies Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera – the International Network for Women’s Funds, worked towards strengthening the interest and momentum amongst government donors and the philanthropic community in ensuring more and better resourcing for the nexus. Furthermore, with COVID-19, it became imperative to convey the urgent need for inclusive, flexible, feminist, and community-driven resourcing for local women-led movements leading environmental and climate action.

“Very few people are understanding that this pandemic is the result of a model that no longer works, a model that weakened our immune system. Health has to do with food, with the environment, with water, with the territory... Health is territory and territory is health. It is important to open the discussion umbrella and tackle what a real health model should be. This is an opportunity for donors to debate what health should be, but not understood as getting attention at a hospital or a clinic and having access to medicines...But discussing what is around it: the security that a healthy diet provides, stopping the destruction of nature, guaranteeing access to clean water...”
Woman Environmental Human Rights Defender (WEHRD) from Latin America who participated in an internal GAGGA scoping study for donors and WEHRDs.

GAGGA was able able to engage with different government donors in 2020 and advocate for centering and supporting the voices and demands of women in all their diversity in environmental and climate action. The alliance was invited to several meetings with different units within Global Affairs Canada (GAC), including the Climate Finance and Food Systems and Environment Divisions to share more about our work and results, and also engaged with various representatives from the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, including a high-level meeting between GAGGA partners based in the Global South and the then Permanent Secretary Baroness Sugg.

Our Strategic Allies, Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera also continued their work with the Funder Learning Community for Women and the Environment (FLC), consisting of 10-15 private foundations. A recent external evaluation of the

FLC, showed that **82 percent of respondents strongly agreed that they had learned how women are leading critical initiatives to combat climate change and other environmental damage and that their knowledge changed/increased “to a great extent” for the majority of the topics covered over the past two years**¹³.

Finally, in 2020, GAGGA also successfully influenced donors to provide more support for women-led, gender-responsive environmental and climate work:

GAGGA was selected as a Strategic Partner of the Power of Voices policy framework of the MFA, under the climate theme, based on the GAGGA – Women Leading Climate Action programme proposal presented. GAGGA was awarded **€34 million EUR** and will be able to continue its work strengthening and supporting women’s leadership and action in environmental and climate work until 2025.

Under their new initiative Resilient Women and Natural Resources Plus Fund, the Ford Foundation provided GAGGA a grant of **\$100,000 USD** to lead a mapping of community-based women-led groups, collectives and organisations in the Global South working at the intersection of women’s rights, environmental and climate justice, focused on addressing different types/forms of structural violence faced by women and girl environmental defenders and/or women and girls defending their land and territories. This mapping will be completed in June 2021.

In 2020, **53 percent of GAGGA partners (32 funds and NGOs of 60) indicated they received funding from new donors**, adding up to at least **€1.9 million EUR**¹⁴. It is important to note that in 2020, partners reported a reduced amount of new funding in comparison to previous years. In 2019, partners reported receiving €5,1 million and in 2018: €2.3million¹⁵.

¹³ As reported by Global Greengrants Fund, based on the external evaluation of the Funder Learning Community for Women and the Environment.

¹⁴ This does not include new funding received by GAGGA Alliance Members FCAM, Both ENDS and Mama Cash.

¹⁵ GAGGA 2018 and 2019 Annual Narrative Reports.

Strengthened cross-movement collaboration and alliance building for women's rights and environmental justice

In 2020, with the COVID-19 crisis, we were able to once more see the strengths of GAGGA's unique cross-movement work. As an alliance we came together for different actions and initiatives, always centred upon the priorities, demands and resilience of the women and their groups that we support.

Now, more than ever, we highlight that #WeWomenAreWater: For the fourth consecutive year, partner organisations in Latin America launched the ["We, Women are Water" campaign](#), running between International Women's Day (8th March) and World Water Day (22nd March). The campaign aimed to recognise the role and leadership of Latin American women in defending and protecting water, and to bring to light the impacts that women in particular suffer due to the exploitation and contamination of this common good. The campaign was launched at the time when impacts of COVID-19 were becoming more evident, and so partners adjusted quickly to strengthen their messaging on the importance of access to water, particularly as the simple measure of washing hands requires this. In fact, the [top post during the campaign](#), which got over 4,900 impressions on Twitter, focused on ensuring the human right to water in the face of COVID-19.

GAGGA Voices on COVID-19: We raised awareness and made visible the realities of local women and their communities in the context of COVID-19, given that their voices were largely missing in the conversations on the short and medium-term responses to this crisis. Through our close relations with funds and NGOs, GAGGA collected 60 recordings from partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in which grassroots groups share their lived realities during the first months of the pandemic. The audio stories focused on three overarching issues: [Alternative Economies](#); [Food Sovereignty](#) and [Human Rights](#), and exemplified how women lead in times of crisis. These audio stories, mainly shared through our Twitter account, were seen over 17,500 times and led to over 600 engagements with Twitter users. They were also picked up by other external news outlets, including [Mongabay](#) and [DW Living Planet](#). A shorter version of the audio stories is also available [here](#).

GAGGA Autonomy and Resilience Fund: As we learnt more about the realities and needs of the local movements we supported, and as we were readjusting plans, in May GAGGA decided to launch the Autonomy and Resilience Fund (ARF). This was a one-time funding initiative aimed to address the urgent needs of women environmental defenders and their communities through the strengthening of community-driven systems of

resilience and autonomy that are based on principles of equity, solidarity, and collective care for people and nature. The structure of the GAGGA network – and the relationships and trust it facilitates with partner funds and NGOs – proved crucial to the success of the ARF. In a period of just six weeks, GAGGA received a total of 211 applications, including 193 from women-led community-based organisations and 18 from GAGGA's NGO partners. Within a period of three months, GAGGA granted **€214,108 to 41 grassroots groups** and **€40,292 to seven NGOs** in 21 countries around the world.

Following the conclusion of the grantmaking process, GAGGA commissioned a study of the fund to further learn about and understand the experiences and perspectives of women environmental defenders and their communities in times of crisis, particularly around resilience and autonomy. Key findings include:

- Women environmental defenders and their communities see resilience and autonomy as deeply influenced by an ethics of care for oneself, for one's community and nature, and that they reinforce each other.
- Local women are playing a leading role in their communities to ensure both survival and resilience, as well as achieving collective goals.
- There is a need for ensuring inclusive, community-driven mechanisms that support and accompany local movements during emergencies and crises, as these efforts contribute to not only reducing vulnerability and augmenting their capacity to respond to crises in the short term, but also strengthen communities based on social and environmental justice, and respect for women's, and rural and Indigenous communities' rights¹⁶.

The study resulted in the publication ["The Autonomy and Resilience Fund: Transforming fear into hope"](#), which was launched in early 2021. It will be used to contribute to the critical discussions about inclusive, flexible, feminist, and community-driven resourcing, in the short and long-term, for gender, environmental and climate justice work.

¹⁶ GAGGA (2021) [The Autonomy and Resilience Fund: Transforming fear into hope](#).

COLLABORATION WITH THE MFA IN 2020

Throughout 2020, GAGGA continued in direct dialogue with the MFA, which resulted in several concrete activities of which we include two examples below:

In January, GAGGA and the Inclusive Green Growth Department of the MFA co-organised the **Women, Inclusion and Environmental Roundtable**, bringing together 40 representatives from the Canadian, Dutch, German, Swiss and United Kingdom governments working on environmental and climate policymaking, as well as from private foundations from the US and Europe, interested in funding at this intersection. This was a space for peer-to-peer exchange and learning on key practices, opportunities and challenges related to resourcing gender, environment and climate justice, building on the key findings of a [mapping GAGGA conducted in 2019 on relevant policies, mechanisms, tools and funding channels of five government donors](#). Participants felt part of a connected group and more committed to working towards transformative change¹⁷, and some expressed interest in setting up a learning community to delve deeper into these topics including using a gender-just lens when directing climate finance.

GAGGA advocated to ensure that **MFA's COVID-19 crisis funding** reached local people and communities, especially from disenfranchised groups – women, Indigenous peoples, rural and coastal farmers, and fishing communities – via existing innovative funding mechanisms. The Director-General for International Cooperation at the MFA expressed her interest and we will continue this dialogue further.

¹⁷ GAGGA Final Participants' Report for the Women, Inclusion and Environmental Roundtable.

2020 LESSONS LEARNED

Despite the significant challenges faced in 2020, GAGGA partners continued organising, strengthening their own and their community's resilience, and finding alternatives to build connections and solidarity. They also found creative ways to monitor policies, stay engaged in policy influencing and find alternative ways to mobilise civil society. Most importantly, they continued to emphasise the importance of valuing and centering life, well-being and integrity in all that we do. Below we share our key lessons from the past year:

GAGGA is a resilient and creative network that is able to respond in a timely matter to adverse situations: we found new and creative ways to approach our work, including setting up a specialised fund for groups across the network, to better support their resilience, in response to the impacts of COVID-19.

As a global consortium and at all levels, we need to strengthen our digital infrastructure and capacities to better adapt to the increased virtual engagement: in the implementation of different processes and initiatives, we realised that we lacked some key digital capacities (including facilitation for virtual meetings, accompaniment to local groups and digital security) to ensure a smoother transition to a virtual work environment. As GAGGA continues, taking into account the travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19 as well as the longer-term considerations around the environment and climate, we need to prioritise strengthening our digital skill set, infrastructure and security.

The support and accompaniment we provide to grassroots groups and their local communities should be adapted to their contexts, lived realities and ways of working. The majority of groups supported by GAGGA do not solely work on environmental and climate action, as they are also continuously facing and responding to systemic inequalities and multiple crises within their communities and countries. For this reason, it is imperative that our support provides the flexibility to ensure their safety and wellbeing in their climate action. GAGGA aims to continue strengthening flexible support mechanisms, including for times of crises, however always ensuring that these mechanisms don't create additional burdens or risks for organisations and their members.

2016-2020: Five years of building solidarity across movements¹⁸

GAGGA'S FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

The Final External Evaluation (FEE) process that was conducted in 2020 concluded that GAGGA had made significant progress towards achieving its five-year goals, as set out in the ToC. This evaluation process evidenced that women's rights and environmental justice (in the context of widespread environmental degradation and the global climate crisis) remain central topics in contemporary political, social and environmental discourse and highly pertinent. Furthermore it showed that the work that GAGGA does is highly relevant and innovative, in terms of its:

- a) **Strategies:** strengthening of women's leadership, financial support and capacity building in grassroots groups, Funds and NGOs, and cross-movement collaboration for L&A at the Intersection;
- b) **Content:** women's rights — and as an extension those of their communities — to water, food security, and a clean, healthy and safe environment;
- c) **Levels of intervention** — local, national, regional and international L&A at the intersection of women's rights and environmental justice.

Through the FEE¹⁹, we were able to collectively recognise three key areas that contributed to the observed outcomes over the five years:

GAGGA's collaboration with funds and NGOs strengthened their capacities around women's rights and environmental justice, in turn better supporting the lobby and advocacy work of grassroots groups. A significant percentage from the total GAGGA budget (69%) was directly allocated to providing financial and non-financial support to grassroots groups, funds and NGOs. Furthermore, there was an increase in the number of grassroots groups supported and accompanied by GAGGA over the years (from 300 to 426 groups). Since 2016, through women's and environmental justice funds, GAGGA has provided €10.24 million to grassroots groups working on women's rights and environmental justice through 1,518 grants.

Funds played a key role in strengthening the leadership of women environmental defenders and the organisational capacities of local groups and facilitating links between groups and CSOs in advocacy spaces at the national and international level. NGOs contributed to strengthening

¹⁸ Please refer to Annex 2 for an overview of GAGGA's quantitative information for 2016-2020.

¹⁹ For more information on these findings, please refer to the GAGGA Final External Evaluation Report.

the technical capacities of women to lead environmental restoration and sustainable livelihoods initiatives for their and their communities' well-being as well as providing multi-level political support to local groups' L&A, targeting key decision makers (e.g. traditional and government authorities, private companies and IFIs).

GAGGA's decentralised support contributed to women environmental defenders, their organisations and communities being able to lead transformative work for themselves and their communities. At the **individual level**, there has been an emergence of new leaders among women (including youth) and an increased awareness of their role as rights holders and agents of change for the defence of women's rights and environmental justice in their communities. At the **community level**, there was increased prioritisation of women's rights and environmental justice in local policy agendas and plans; as well as increased support for women's rights to land, clean water, and to a safe environment and active involvement by different members of the community in women-led initiatives for protecting their territories and environment.

In relation to the governments and policy makers at local, national and international level, there where: the adoption of new policies and legislation in favour of women's rights and environmental justice and improved implementation of existing policies; justice for women and the environment, achieved by legal means (i.e. trials, lawsuits, strategic litigation); affirmative actions by governments in favour of women's rights, the well-being of the environment, and of the community in general; interventions by the State facilitating the solution of local land conflicts; as well as preventative measures and compensation by private companies to avoid negative social and environmental damage caused by their operations.

The cross-movement collaboration work that GAGGA supported, provided a clear added value to the work of women's rights and environmental justice organisations. GAGGA contributed to creating synergies and complementarity of capacities, knowledge, strategies, constituencies and access to diverse political spaces at local, national and international levels. It is important to highlight that there was no single model of cross-movement collaboration that worked in all cases, and this was highly dependent on the context, priorities and issues being addressed.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Below we provide key reflections from the past five years that we hope to carry forward in our work as an alliance.

Environmental, climate, social and gender injustices are understood as having common origins and their effects interconnected. By specifically committing to work on the nexus of women's rights and environmental justice and moving beyond a siloed approach, GAGGA has been able to support organisations and movements that are strategically addressing the interconnected root causes of women's rights violations, environmental degradation and the climate crisis, which include patriarchy, extractive development models, racism and neo-colonialism.

Through our experience over the past years, we have confirmed the importance of centering the knowledge and experience of women-led community-based organisations in environmental and climate action. Women, in all their diversity, are taking forward bold, creative and holistic solutions not only to address the environmental degradation and negative climate impacts they face and will be facing, but also to positively transform their realities, and that of their communities.

We have been able to build a network, based on trust, communication and diversity. Working together through a decentralised approach with women's and environmental justice funds and NGOs, organisations that are based in countries and regions across the Global South and ingrained in the social movements we want to support, has meant we can provide direct and flexible accompaniment to local groups based on their realities and needs, ensuring their sustainability, integrity and autonomy.

Through the investment of time and resources, GAGGA has been able to lead and support cross-movement collaboration centred on collective leadership, driven by common objectives that brings together the strengths of different organisations involved.

As we close these first five years of GAGGA, we are proud of what the alliance has achieved together with its partners and strategic allies and are looking forward to seeing how this network will grow and expand. Having a more focused approach on climate justice will allow us to further strengthen the support and accompaniment provided to local women-led movements who, in many cases, have been denouncing the direct impacts of climate change but are also proposing different ways forward to ensure care and equity for all people and our environment. As we continue to learn and strengthen our work, we also hope to continue building bridges and solidarity across movements and allies and further expand the ecosystem of actors needed to ensure transformative systems change for gender, environmental and climate justice.



Annex

ANNEX 1 — Further quantitative information on 2020 data

Figure 1: Regional distribution of grassroots groups supported by GAGGA in 2020

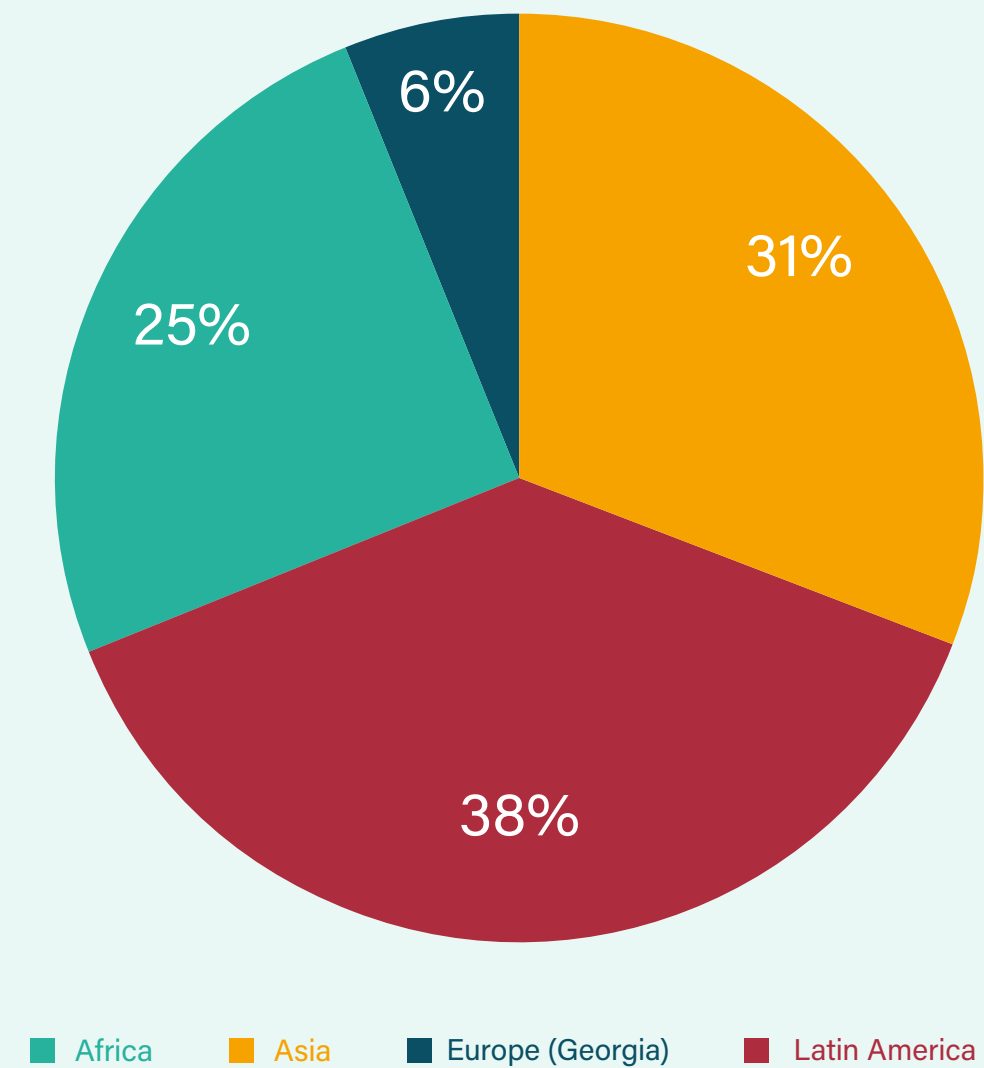


Figure 2: Main types of capacity strengthening support provided by women's and environmental justice funds to grassroots groups to strengthen their L&A

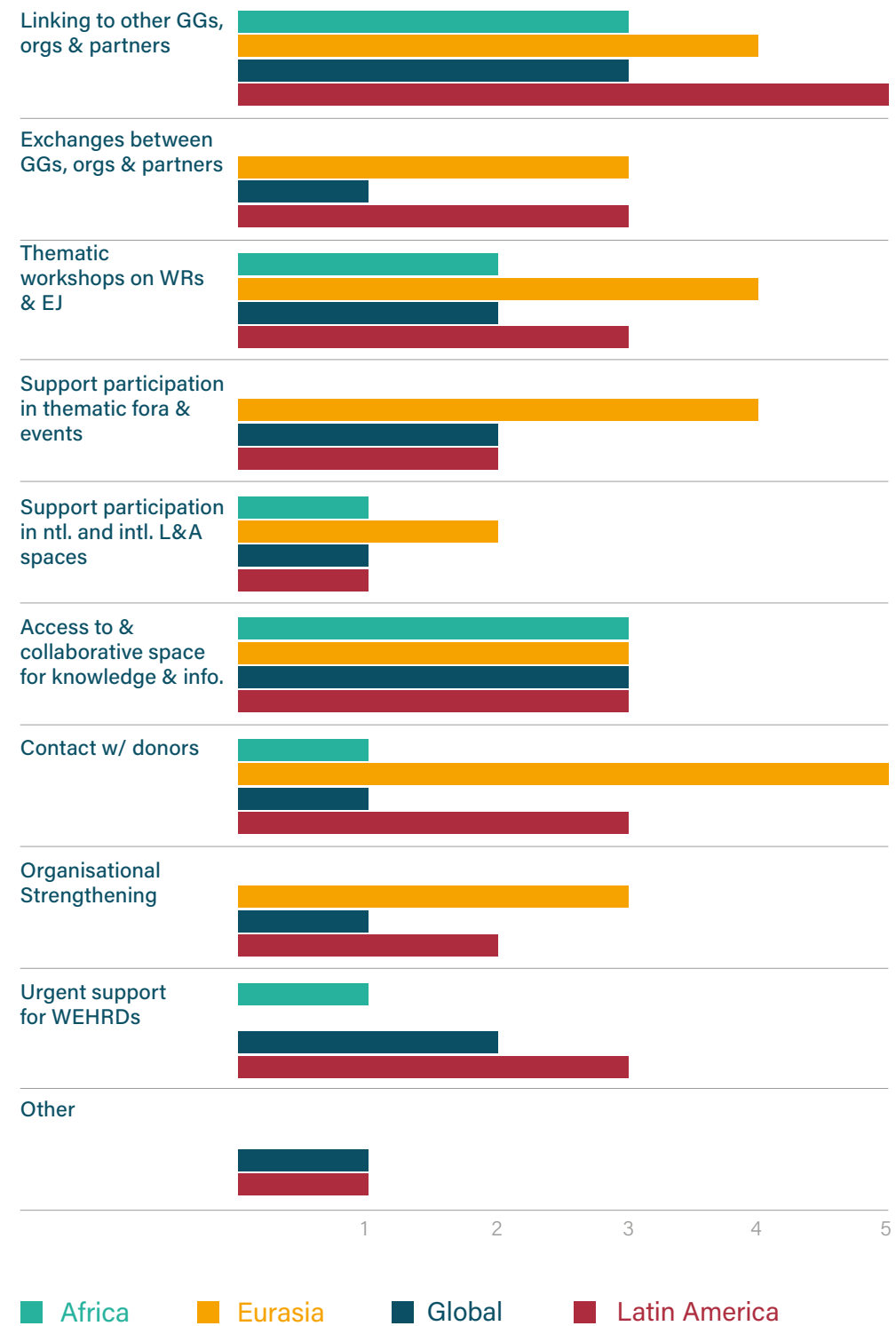


Figure 3: Main types of capacity strengthening support provided by NGOs to grassroots groups to strengthen their L&A

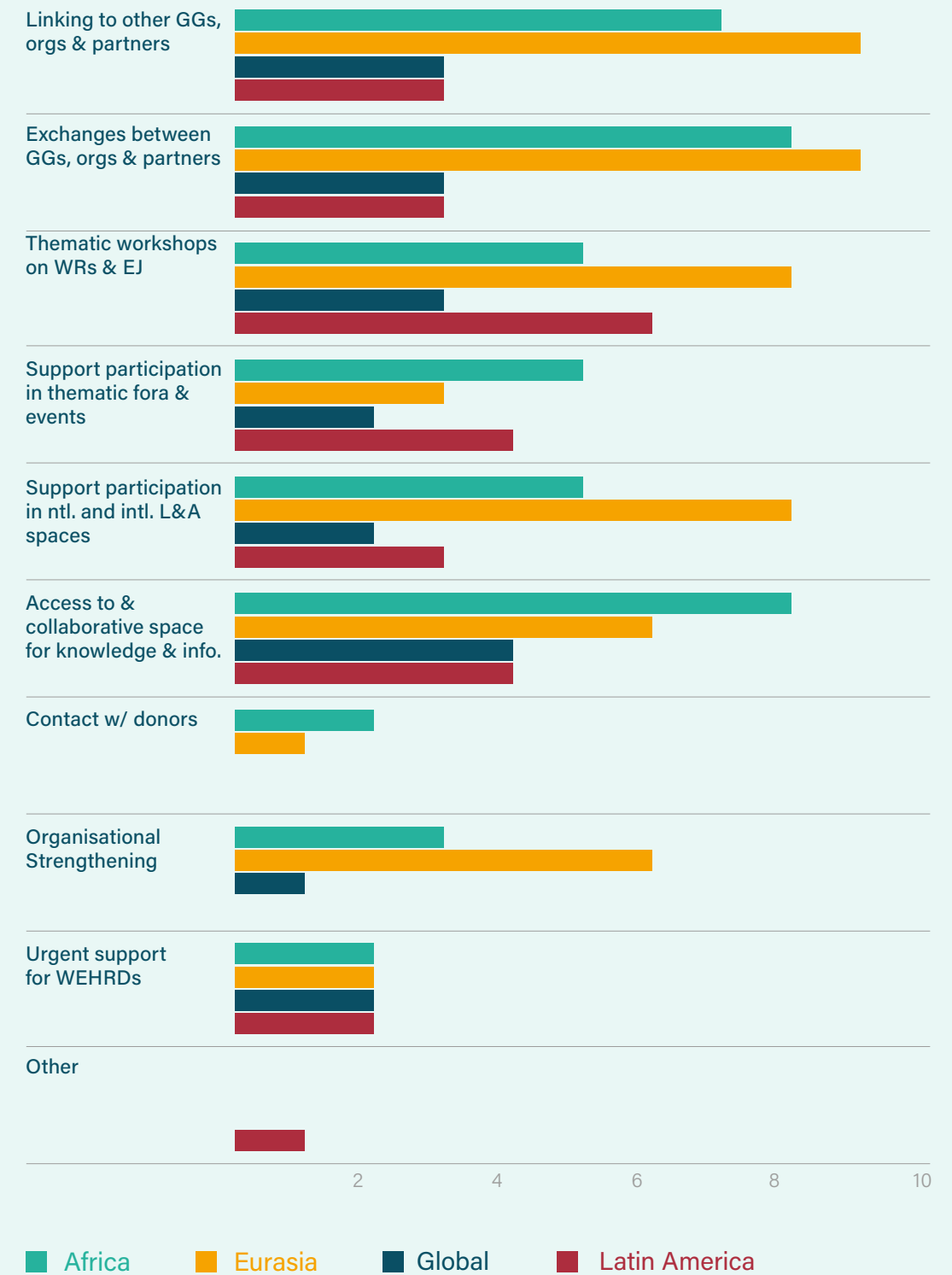


Figure 4: Main L&A Topics for Grassroots Groups

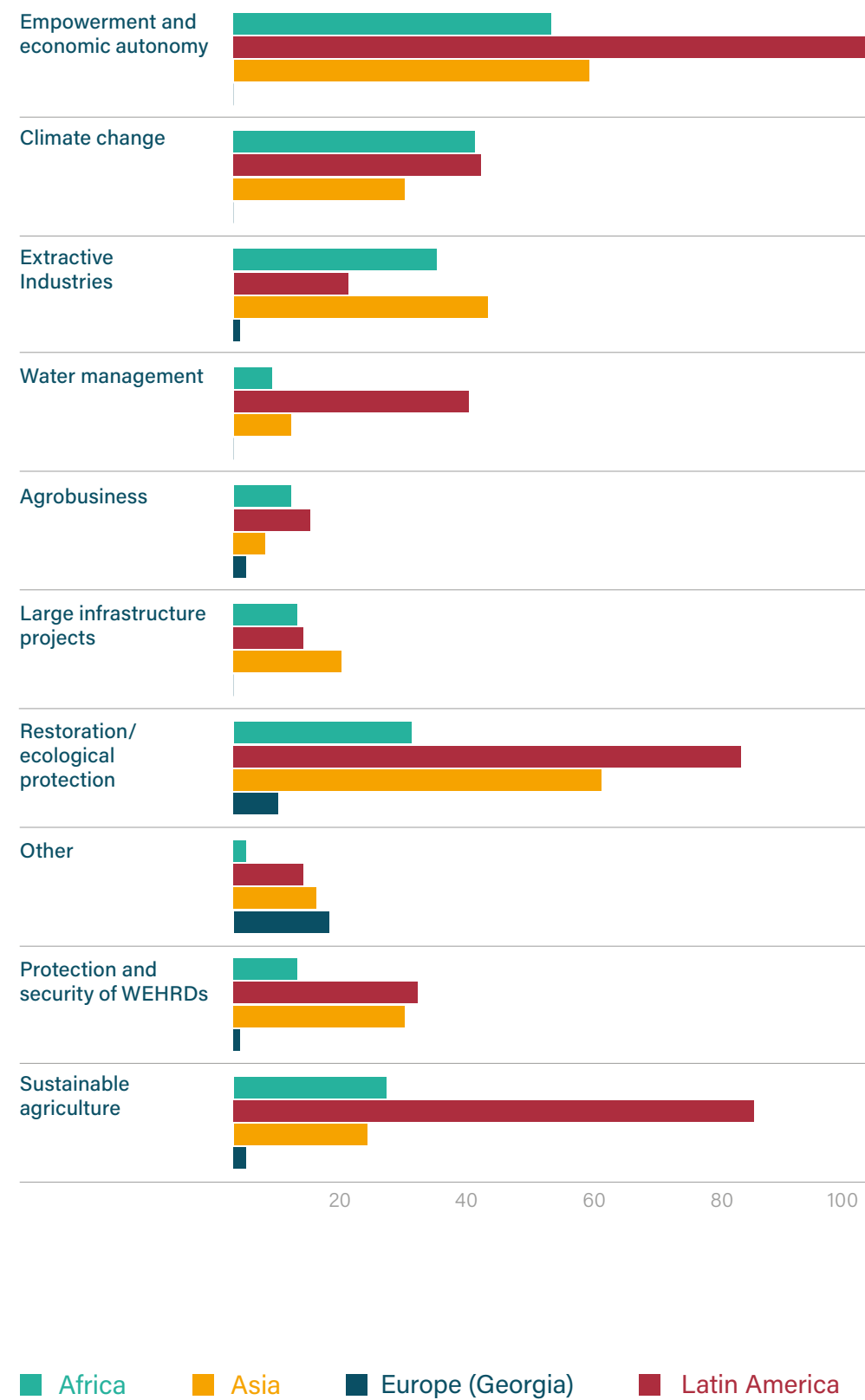


Figure 5: Main L&A Tactics for Grassroots Groups

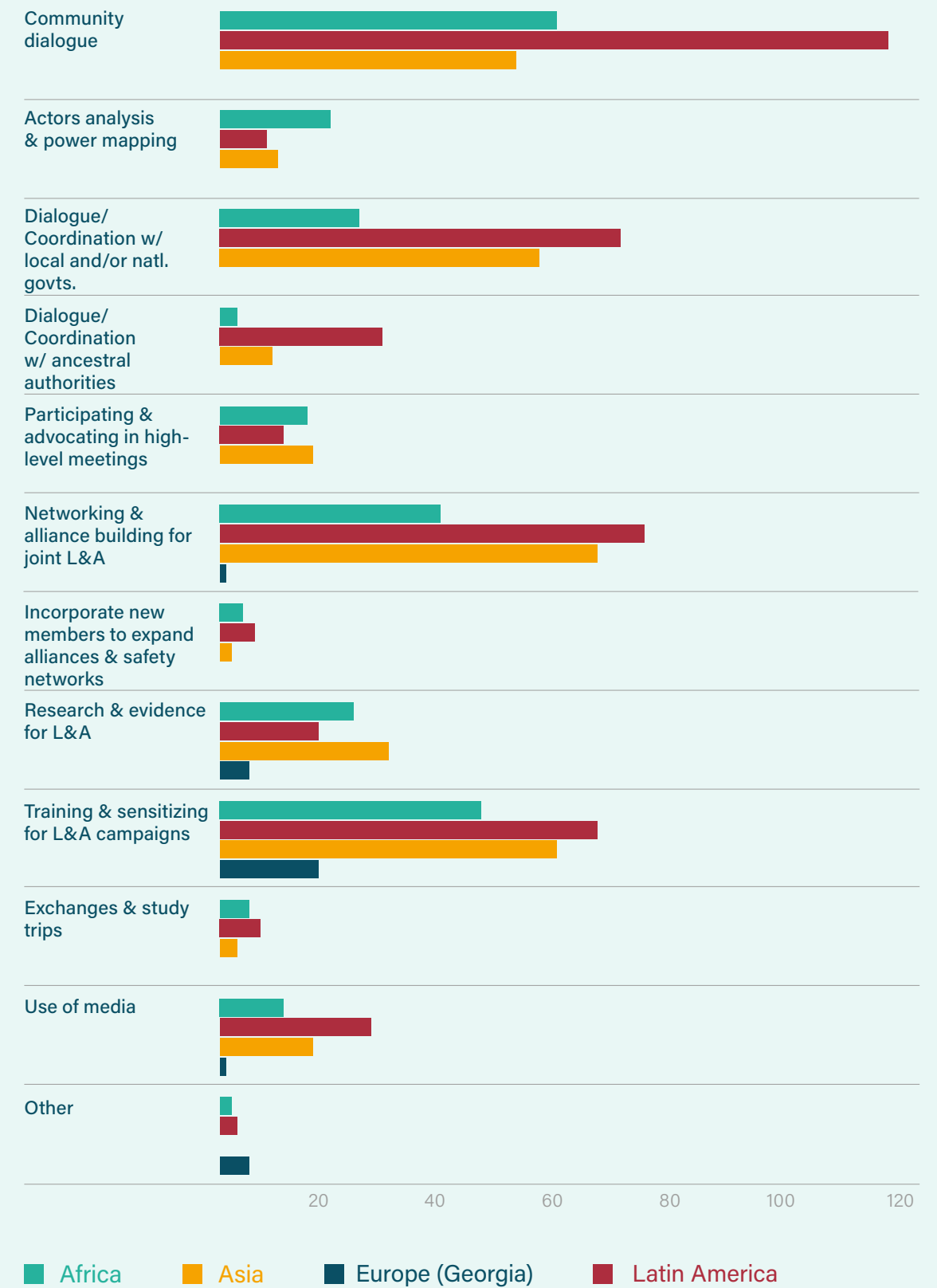
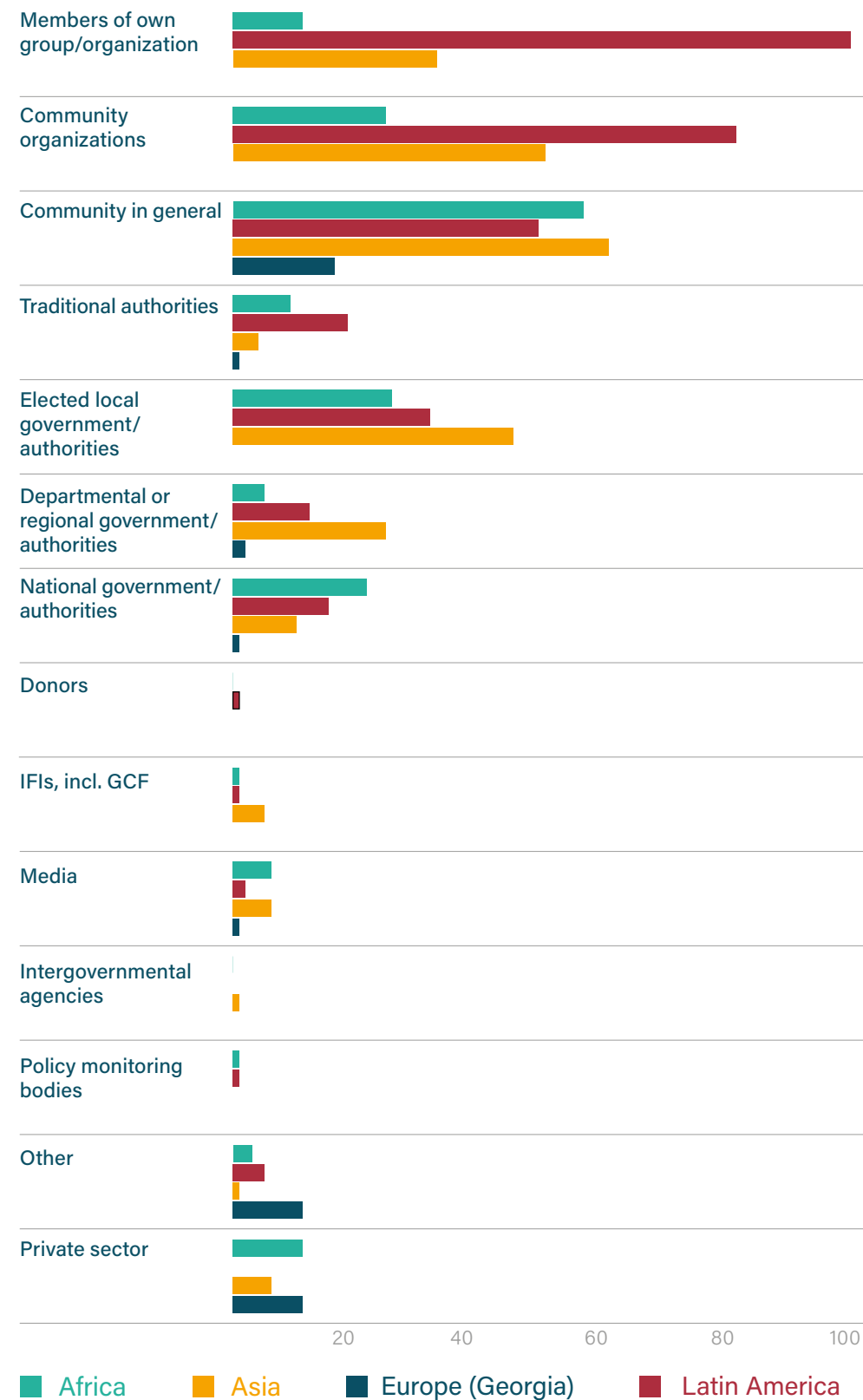


Figure 6: Main L&A Target Actors for Grassroots Groups



ANNEX 2 – Further quantitative information on 2016-2020 data

2016-2020 GAGGA Partners²⁰

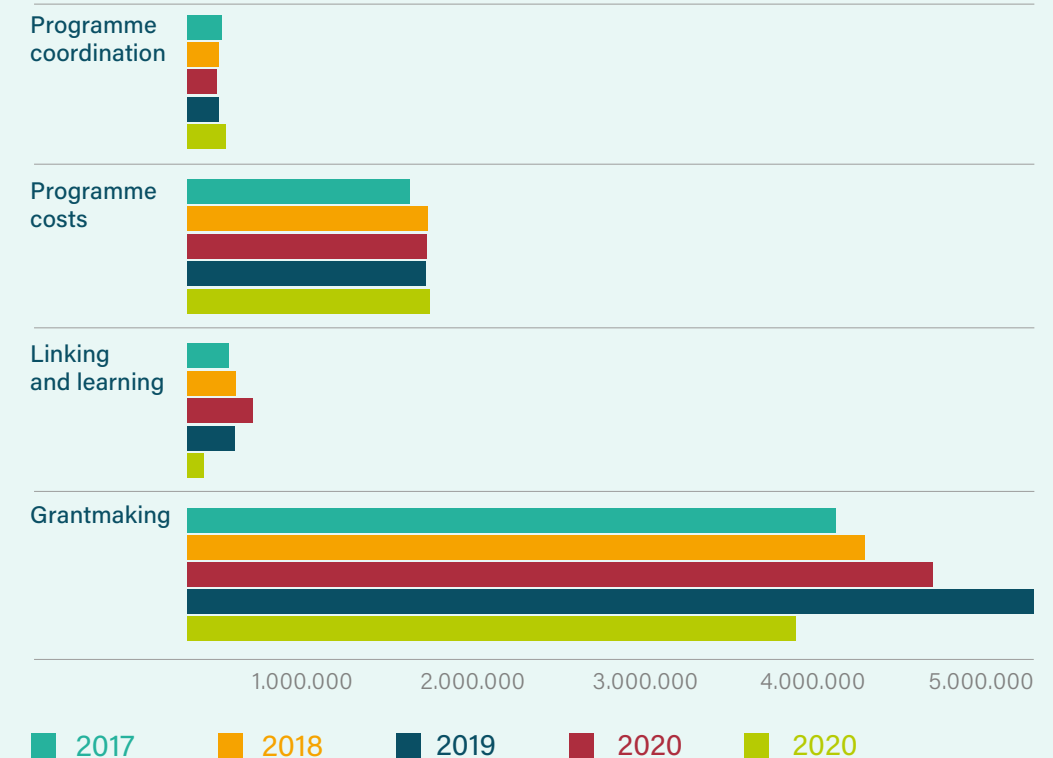
Organisation Type	2016-2017	2018	2019	2020
Grassroots Groups	300	364	418	426
Environmental Justice Funds	6	6	5	6
Women's Funds	14	14	14	14
NGOs	36	57	44	40

Table 1: Number of GAGGA partners (2016-2020)

2016-2020 Total funding provided

According to the financial audit report of GAGGA, the alliance implemented a total of €31,987,154.00 in the period 2016-2020²¹. Of this total amount, 69% was directed to grantmaking, 23% to programme costs, 5% to linking and learning and 3% to programme coordination.

Figure 7: Total Funding Distribution (2016-2020)

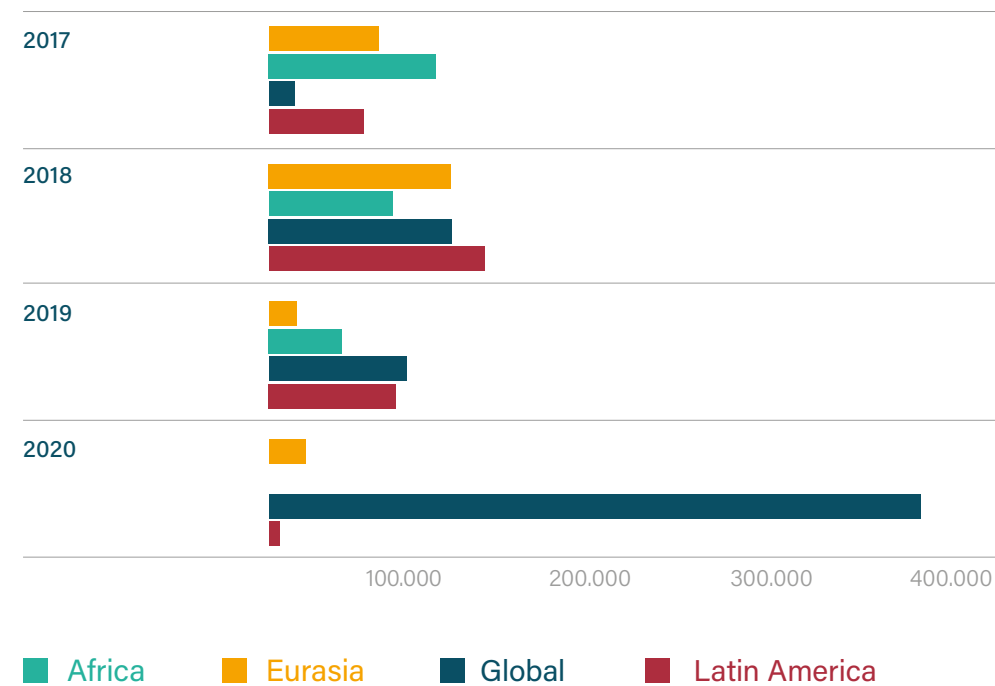


²⁰ Data collected through GAGGA's Mid Term Review Process and GAGGA's Annual Survey (2018, 2019 and 2020) and ²¹ GAGGA 2016-2020 Audited Financial Report

Linking and Learning Activities

Across the five years GAGGA supported **43 linking and learning activities with €1.2 million**, including the initiatives supported under the Autonomy and Resilience Fund in 2020. These activities facilitated the creation of autonomous meeting spaces and the development of joint actions that laid the foundations for larger-scale collaboration in the future.

Figure 8: Funds allocated for L&L activities (2016-2020)



ANNEX 3 — 2020 progress based on results framework

Outcome	Indicators	Progress 2020
Capacity Building for L&A for Women's Rights and Environmental Justice		
1. Grassroots groups have developed the skills and infrastructure to conduct L&A for women's rights and environmental justice	1. Number of grassroots groups reporting an increase in their knowledge of advocacy tactics.	292 grassroots groups ²² Africa: 34 grassroots groups Asia: 96 grassroots groups Europe (Georgia): 28 grassroots groups Latin America: 134 grassroots groups
	1.2 Types of advocacy tactics used by grassroots groups	Community dialogue – 22% Training and sensitizing on specific issues for advocacy campaigns - 18% Networking and alliances for the joint lobby and advocacy – 17% Dialogue/Coordination with local and/or national governments – 15% Research and documentation of evidence for advocacy – 7% Use of media – 5% Participating and advocating in conferences and/or high-level meetings – 4% Dialogue/coordination with ancestral authorities – 4% Analysis of actors and power mapping – 4% Exchanges and study trips – 2% Incorporation of new members to expand alliances and safety networks – 1% Other – 1%
	1.3 Number of grassroots groups that have developed their financial and human resources to deliver on L&A objectives	34 groups ²³ Africa: 3 groups Asia: 14 groups Europe (Georgia): 0 Latin America: 17 groups

2.Grassroots Funds and NGOs demonstrate the capacity to identify and support grassroots groups pursuing L&A on women's rights and environmental justice	2.1a Percentage of total programming budget that goes to direct grants to grassroots groups pursuing L&A on women's rights and environmental justice. 2.1b Percentage of direct grants to grassroots groups pursuing L&A on women's rights and environmental justice coming from GAGGA financial support.	36% ²⁴ 46% ²⁵
	2.2 Total number of grassroots groups funded by GAGGA (directly and indirectly)	336 grassroots groups Africa: 67 grassroots groups Asia: 102 grassroots groups Europe (Georgia): 28 grassroots groups Latin America: 135 grassroots groups
	2.3a Number of groups supported to build their capacity on L&A for women's rights and environmental justice 2.3b Type of capacity building activities:	426 grassroots groups ²⁶ Africa: 108 grassroots groups Asia: 131 grassroots groups Europe (Georgia): 28 grassroots groups Latin America: 159 grassroots groups Linking to other grassroots groups, organisations and partners – 24% Thematic workshops on women's rights and environmental justice – 21% Access to knowledge and information as well as collaborative spaces for knowledge building/sharing – 16% Exchanges between grassroots groups, organisations and partners – 11% Other – 9% Contact with donors – 6% Organisational strengthening (monitoring, financial systems, etc.) – 5% Support to participate in thematic fora and events – 5% Support to participate in national and international lobby and advocacy spaces – 2% Urgent support for defenders at risk – 1%

3. Grassroots groups and NGOs supported by GAGGA are articulating common political agendas on women's rights and environmental justice	3.1a Number of and extent to which women's groups include environmental justice issues in their activities, objectives and/or strategies. 3.1b Number of women's groups articulating with environmental justice organisations/groups to develop a common political agenda. 3.2a Number of and extent to which environmental justice groups include women's rights issues in their activities, objectives and/or strategies. 3.2b Number of environmental justice groups articulating with women's groups to develop a common political agenda. 3.3 Number of NGOs advocating for environmental justice and women's rights issues	91% (128 groups out of 140) ²⁷ Africa: 33 groups Asia: 41 groups Europe (Georgia): 10 groups Latin America: 44 groups 88% (123 groups out of 140) ²⁸ Africa: 36 groups Asia: 33 groups Europe (Georgia): 10 groups Latin America: 44 groups 90% (108 groups out of 120) ²⁹ Africa: 30 groups Asia: 40 groups Europe (Georgia): 4 groups Latin America: 34 groups 91% (109 groups out of 120) ³⁰ Africa: 32 groups Asia: 37 groups Europe (Georgia): 4 groups Latin America: 36 groups 80% (32 out of 40)
4.Grassroots Funds supported by GAGGA are articulating a common political agenda to donors about the importance of funding the grassroots to advance women's rights and environmental justice	4.1 Number of and extent to which women's funds are advocating for environmental justice issues towards the donor community.	93% (13 out of 14) of Women's Funds said they advocated for environmental justice issues
	4.2 Number of and extent to which environmental justice funds are advocating for women's issues towards the donor community	100% (6 out of 6) Environmental Justice Funds said they advocated for women's rights issues.
	4.3a Number of joint actions between women and environmental funds 4.3b Type of joint actions led by women's funds and environmental justice funds.	15 joint actions Presentation of joint proposals to funders; participation in conferences and events; thematic forums, for example on Analog Forestry; joint research.

5.Grassroots groups supported by GAGGA will have built or strengthened alliances with other groups – between women’s rights and environmental justice groups and between the local, the national and global	5.1 Number of groups reporting links to new alliances (both formal and informal) or strengthening their participation in existing alliances (both formal and informal) to enhance their work.	381 groups Africa: 97 groups Asia: 117 groups Europe (Georgia): 1 group Latin America: 166 groups
	5.2 Type of activities carried out by these local, national and or global alliances	Research, training and joint advocacy.
Direct L&A for Women’s Rights and Environmental Justice		
6. Respect for women’s rights to water, to food and a clean, healthy and safe environment are part of societies’ norms and values systems through more favourable public opinion and greater attention to these issues at all levels of society	6.1 Number of grassroots groups reporting changes and nature of changes in attitudes towards women’s rights to water, to food and a clean, healthy and safe environment: a) Within their organisation/group b) In their community	Please refer to section 3.2.1 in the GAGGA Final External Evaluation Report for more information on the types of changes reported by grassroots groups.
7. Grassroots groups and NGOs successfully influence policies on women’s rights and environmental justice	7.1a Number of policies successfully influenced at the local, national, regional and international level, which grassroots groups and NGOs have contributed to.	56 policies
	7.1b Type of change occurred due to the influencing.	Please refer to: - Section “Direct L&A for women’s rights and environmental justice” above. - section 3.2.2 of the GAGGA Final External Evaluation Report.
	7.2 Number of groups and NGOs participating in policy monitoring bodies and/or other processes to monitor policy implementation on women’s rights and environmental justice.	33% (13 out of 40) of NGOs reported being part of a policy monitoring group ³¹
8. International financial institutions and donors working on environmental justice have more gender- and grassroots responsive policies and financing mechanisms	8.1 Number of funders that shift their funding practice as a result of L&A by GAGGA partners	47% (28 out of 60) partner funds and NGOs reported having received funding from new donors to work on women’s rights and environmental justice and were able to fundraise at least.
	8.2 Total funding received by GAGGA grassroots partners and NGOs	€1.9m

	8.3a Number of direct interventions on gender- and grassroots responsiveness with IFIs by GAGGA partners	69 direct interventions ³²
	8.3b Type of direct interventions on gender- and grassroots responsiveness with IFIs by GAGGA partners	Please refer to: Section “Direct L&A for women’s rights and environmental justice” above.

²² This number has been calculated through a proxy: from the 2020 Annual Survey, it includes groups that received thematic workshops on women’s rights and environmental justice; had access to knowledge and information as well as collaborative spaces for knowledge building/sharing; and participated in exchanges between grassroots groups, organisations and partners (as indicated by the funds and NGOs).

²³ This number has been calculated through a proxy: from the 2020 Annual Survey, it includes those groups that received support for their Organisational strengthening (monitoring, financial systems, etc.) (as indicated by the funds and NGOs)

²⁴ This percentage has been calculated based on information submitted only by environmental justice and women’s rights funds in the 2020 Annual Survey.

²⁵ This percentage has been calculated based on information submitted only by environmental justice and women’s rights funds in the 2020 Annual Survey

²⁶ Total number of groups supported (financially and non-financially) by GAGGA in 2020.

²⁷ This number includes only those grassroots groups that were identified as a women’s rights group.

²⁸ This number includes only those grassroots groups that were identified as a women’s rights group.

²⁹ This number includes only those grassroots groups that were identified as an environmental justice group.

³⁰ This number includes those grassroots groups that were identified as an environmental justice group.

³¹ Please note: this does not include information from grassroots groups.

³² Please note: this does not include information from grassroots groups.