SUSTAINING LIFE, BUILDING POWER

ANNUAL REPORT 2021
Over 2021, while continuing the essential emergency response and care work they had been doing since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, social movements increasingly got back into the streets. They mobilized with the conviction that not doing so was too great a risk. With ever-intensifying climate chaos, crack-downs on civil society, war and militarization, gender violence, hunger, inequality, and more, the issues that drove them to mobilize were matters of life and death.

Through these actions, movements built power as they built community. Their efforts made a major impact, achieving critical wins in some cases, and keeping essential struggles going in others. Organizing continues across all sectors as we write, from Amazon workers to Amazonian communities.

In addition to accompanying social movement mobilizations through grantmaking and advocacy, Grassroots International has been mobilizing too, from within our own sector. Together with allied funders, movement partners, and solidarity donors, we are pushing for much-needed shifts in philanthropy. We are convinced that centering support for social movements could not be a clearer mandate for progressive philanthropy. While we amplify this message within the funder community, we are also striving to embody our values about what true solidarity from a movement support organization looks like.

As the world feels on the brink of a precipice, social movements are both sustaining life through their practices and building power to radically transform the very systems threatening life. Now is the time to scale up movement-support infrastructure to match the enormity of the challenges at hand and the tremendous capacity for societal transformation that social movements have shown themselves to have. We thank you for joining us.

In solidarity,

Chung-Wha Hong
Executive Director

Maria Aguiar
Board Chair
2021 SNAPSHOT

In 2021, Grassroots International:

✔ Distributed $5.9 million to social movements

Distributed $5.9 million to our movement partners and allies for transformative work in 20 countries and at the regional and global levels. (Financial Report, p. 14)

✔ Defended human rights

Activated our networks and mobilized resources in response to human rights violations against activists and frontline communities – with important wins in Brazil, Honduras, and beyond. (Defending Human Rights, p. 4)

✔ Responded to crises

Distributed more than $900,000 in emergency grants for social movement-led disaster relief and recovery, plus additional support for ongoing pandemic response. (Responding to Covid and Converging Crises, p. 6)

✔ Accompanied mobilizations

Supported vibrant social movement mobilizations at multiple scales – from a caravan across West Africa of peasants fighting land and water grabs to Brazil’s largest-ever Indigenous mobilizations. (Mobilizing from the Local to Global Levels, p. 8)

✔ Advanced transformative visions

Accompanied social movements in advancing life-sustaining visions and practices, like agroecology, food sovereignty, and grassroots feminist economies. (Advancing Transformative Visions, p. 10)

✔ Pushed the bounds of philanthropy

Worked to decolonize philanthropy by bringing movement voices into key funding spaces, fostering innovative forms of donor-activism, and mobilizing with others to push for change within the sector. (Shifting Philanthropy, p. 12)
Whether it’s unjust imprisonment or outright kidnappings and assassinations, social and environmental justice activists are targets of human rights violations around the world. Our grantmaking supports movements to strengthen collective security; campaign against impunity; expand legal service capacity and litigate; monitor and document human rights violations; and promote mental health and healing as human rights. This work over 2021 included some important wins.

In Brazil’s megadiverse Cerrado region, when armed men appeared with huge tractors ready to rip through Afrodescendant Quilombola land, communities rallied to defend their territory. They confiscated the tractors, and, through the Movimento Quilombola da Maranhão (MOQUIBOM), called for international solidarity. The armed men were hired by soybean corporations, whose encroachments were being facilitated through faulty environmental licenses from a state agency. As a Grassroots International grantee, MOQUIBOM reached out to us for support and solidarity. In response, we put out an e-action targeting the state agency in question. The licenses were revoked, in a victory for the communities.

In Honduras, a particularly hostile environment for human rights, we closely accompanied our partners in their struggles against state and corporate impunity. As the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras, OFRANEH, pushed for investigation into the 2020 kidnapping and disappearance of four Garifuna (Afro-Indigenous) leaders, we amplified their demands through e-actions and connections with US congressional representatives. We also stood with the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras, COPINH, in demanding justice for the assassination of beloved Lenca leader Berta Cáceres, achieving a monumental win with the conviction of one of the corporate heads responsible.

As part of the ongoing targeting of Palestinian human rights defenders by the Israeli government, six prominent Palestinian human rights groups were falsely labeled “terrorist organizations” by the Israeli Minister of Defense in October 2021. This hinders the ability of these groups to receive funding from international sources and sets a dangerous precedent for similar attacks on civil society elsewhere. In response, Grassroots International joined forces with others to take a vocal stand against the designation through a widely publicized sign-on letter from philanthropic groups and donors, and other still-ongoing actions.

We have also been working with partners and allies at the global level – through the international Alliance for Solidarity, Resistance, and Hope – to strengthen response to the increased repression facing those who defend land, water, and other forms of territory.

Our work on human rights is inextricably linked to our work on healing justice, through which we support efforts to address trauma and create spaces for restoration and sanctuary. Our main vehicle is the Martín-Baró Initiative (MBI). In 2021, $108,300 in MBI grants went to 11 groups in Palestine, Guatemala, El Salvador, Brazil, Haiti, Liberia, and the US.
When beloved social movement leader Berta Cáceres, co-founder of our Honduran partner COPINH, was assassinated in 2016 for her opposition to a major hydropower project threatening Indigenous territory in Honduras, the reverberations were felt by movements worldwide. Since then, Grassroots International has joined with others in Honduras and beyond to demand justice. The summer of 2021 brought a major milestone in this collective struggle with the conviction of David Castillo, a corporate executive who was among the masterminds of the assassination. This was the first time a business leader was prosecuted for a crime against Indigenous People in Honduras, speaking to the power of COPINH’s organizing amplified by international solidarity.

Locally, COPINH employs creative forms of popular education, such as community radio and training centers focused on agroecology and grassroots feminisms. Nationally, COPINH works with allied social movements, including our other Honduran partner OFRANEH, to form powerful alliances. Last year, COPINH, OFRANEH, and others held a feminist encampment outside the Honduran supreme court during the Castillo trial, which likely played a decisive role in ensuring justice. Internationally, COPINH and allies have led successful pressure campaigns against institutions implicated in the megaproject that Berta had opposed.

In late 2021, an oppressive 12-year narco-military regime ended with the election a progressive leader, the first female president of Honduras – another achievement hard won by Honduran movements. As our partners face new possibilities moving forward, Grassroots International will continue to accompany them on their journey.

“This historic ruling would not have been possible without the determined, constant support and solidarity of each and every one of you – people and organizations who have followed this process.”
— COPINH
RESPONDING TO COVID AND CONVERGING CRISSES

While wealthier countries opened up with largely vaccinated populations over 2021, both the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic fall-out remained widespread and devastating for much of the world.

Part of what exacerbated and prolonged the pandemic in the Global South were the multiple, overlapping crises that were already facing frontline communities, from ecological disasters caused by the climate crisis, to increasing authoritarianism and militarization, to growing economic inequality.

Social movements approached the pandemic with the conviction that if Covid could not be separated from other crises at present, neither could its response. Grassroots International has made a special effort to support our movement partners and allies in holistic responses to the pandemic, while bolstering their critical ongoing work. Highlights of the work supported by our Covid response grants, from ancestral healing houses in Garifuna communities of Honduras to mass distribution of agroecologically produced food in Brazil, are detailed in our recent report *Response and Resistance: Social Movements, Covid & Converging Crises*.

Beyond emergency Covid grants, the flexible nature of our core support to our partners over 2020 and 2021 enabled them to confront the pandemic through multiple other facets of their work.

In addition to Covid response, we also provided other emergency response grants, as the number and intensity of crisis situations facing our partners increased. This includes emergency grants for relief and recovery work by social movements in:

- **Central America**, when Hurricanes Eta and Iota struck back-to-back, leaving more than 200,000 people without homes while still at the height of the pandemic
- **Haiti**, when a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake rocked the southern part of the country, hitting peasant communities hard
- **Palestine**, when the Israeli government launched its fourth war on Gaza with deadly airstrikes, in tandem with violent expulsions of Palestinians from the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem

Grassroots International disbursed a total of $905,000 in emergency grants in 2021. Our emergency funding (including 100% of funds raised from emergency appeals) always goes to frontline movement organizations, so they can meet the immediate needs of people in crisis while also continuing their ongoing work to address the root causes of these crises.
Social movements remind us that there is nothing natural about the level of devastation and destruction caused by “natural” disasters when people are already living a precarious existence. This was seen when a 7.2-magnitude earthquake rocked southern Haiti in August 2021, layering upon preexisting political, economic, and environmental crises. More than 2,000 deaths were recorded, with many more injured and around 100,000 families left homeless. There was also damage to water systems and other infrastructure, as well as loss of livestock, impacting food and economic security. Our partner National Congress of Papaye Peasant Movement (MPNKP) reported, when seeking emergency support from Grassroots International:

"[The earthquake] killed many peasants who worked in their fields...In a communal section of Camp Perin, for example, more than 100 peasants died trapped between two mountains. They do not enter the balance sheet... In the communal section of Fonds Cochon in the Commune of Roseaux, entire communities are destroyed. There is no way to reach them. The smell of corpses is rising."

Adding to this already dire scenario was the additional tragedy of tropical storm Grace striking while so many were completely unsheltered, and with many people still trapped under the rubble.

Against this backdrop, our Haitian partners kicked into gear, supported by Grassroots International’s Haiti Earthquake Emergency Fund. Beyond tending to urgent needs like food, water, and shelter, a key focus has been distribution of local seeds, plant cuttings, livestock, and farm tools. The vision is for peasant-based agroecology to serve as a basis for food access and economic recovery for impacted communities in the medium term while building food sovereignty over the long term.

“We do not intend to intervene as the others do by providing only emergency aid...Organizing is key to our interventions, because it is a question of allowing local organizations to continue their fight for public policies articulated according to their demands.” — Haitian Platform to Advocate Alternative Development (PAPDA)
While the motto coined by La Via Campesina “stay home but not silent” reflected the approach of many social movements over 2020, the circumstances of 2021 drove some, with caution, back into the streets to mobilize at a mass scale. Here are a few of the inspiring mobilizations that Grassroots International was honored to support over the past year:

**Promoting Real Solutions at COP26:** We eagerly followed the reports coming out of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow by our partners and allies whose travel we funded – movements of peasants, Indigenous People, and frontline communities of color, including La Via Campesina, the Indigenous Environmental Network, and the It Takes Roots delegation, among others. There, they exposed false solutions like “net zero” carbon mitigation schemes and called for an end to fossil fuel dependency, reparations for environmental injustices, and support for community-based solutions.

**Mobilizing for Indigenous Rights in Brazil:** When Brazil’s far-right, xenophobic government under Jair Bolsonaro threatened to further strip Indigenous communities of territorial rights through a major supreme court ruling, the largest national mobilization of Indigenous People in the history of Brazil took place in the capital of Brasília. Among them were our grantee ally the Federation of the Huni Kui People of the State of Acre, as part of a 100-person delegation supported by Grassroots International.

**Caravanning Against Land Grabbing Across West Africa:** The West African Caravan for Land, Water and Seeds made its way across Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone denouncing land grabbing and promoting peasant-based agroecology. Leadership included our grantee the Malian Convergence against Land Grabbing, CMAT. The Caravan provided a platform for impacted communities to communicate with authorities, while also celebrating movement victories and forging new alliances.

**Fighting Gender-Based Violence Through Feminist Organizing in Puerto Rico:** Through tireless intersectional feminist organizing by our partner La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción (La Cole) and others, the governor of Puerto Rico declared a state of emergency for gender-based violence in early 2021. The declaration recognizes a mounting crisis for women and gender non-conforming people since Hurricane Maria in 2017, compounded by austerity measures and Covid. La Cole continues to mobilize for the government to match its words with action.

**Advancing Environmental Justice in the US:** Our grantee Rise St. James won a major victory in Louisiana by stalling a multibillion-dollar project to build a massive, polluting plastics facility. We also supported the Indigenous Environmental Network in helping to lead a valiant struggle against the Line 3 pipeline threatening Indigenous territory in the midwestern US. The “water protectors” movement fighting Line 3 and other pipelines continues to grow.
With an avidly anti-Indigenous president and a national congress biased toward big business, Indigenous People in Brazil have experienced extreme setbacks to their constitutionally guaranteed rights in recent years. Last year saw a host of threats, including the Federal Supreme Court Extraordinary Appeal (RE) 1,017,365, which would make government recognition and protection of Indigenous territories practically impossible and would open Indigenous territories to mining and other extractive industries.

When the supreme court was scheduled to make a ruling on the Extraordinary Appeal in August 2021, Indigenous movements organized a mass mobilization in Brasília, known as Levante pela Vida (Uprising for Life). Grassroots International supported the participation of a delegation of 100 Indigenous People from Acre and southern Amazonas. Significantly, 80% of the delegation were youth, as a means of bolstering youth leadership and as a form of political formation through the practice of struggle.

With over 6,000 Indigenous People from across the country, the Levante pela Vida was the largest national mobilization of Indigenous People in the history of Brazil. The supreme court ruling was suspended at the time, but is expected to be taken up again in 2022. As Indigenous People across Brazil continue to mobilize, Grassroots International will continue to accompany them.

“We are in favor of life. We are for the wellbeing of everyone and all things sacred.”

— Chief Ninawa, President of the Federation of the Huni Kui People of the State of Acre, Brazil (FEPHAC)
Advancing transformative visions such as agroecology, food sovereignty, and grassroots feminist economies requires popular education and training; on-the-ground action; collective political analysis; and articulation of common visions. The following is a sampling of this work, supported by Grassroots International:

Expanding the Reach of Agroecology: Across the world, our movement partners and allies are demonstrating that farming naturally through agroecology not only feeds communities – it can be scaled up and out to feed towns, cities, and regions. Brazil’s Landless Workers Movement has distributed more than one million meals and more than 6,000 tons of food produced agroecologically on its settlements to those facing hunger during the pandemic. In Haiti, peasant movements are promoting agroecology on a mass scale for hunger alleviation, economic recovery, and environmental resiliency. In West Africa, We Are the Solution is scaling agroecology across seven countries, led by peasant women.

Advancing Food Sovereignty: Agroecology forms a central pillar of food sovereignty, a framework for food system transformation based on the principle that people should control their own food systems. Food sovereignty was developed by our partner La Via Campesina in the 1990s in response to increasing corporate control of the food system. In the years since, social movements have achieved numerous wins. Among the highlights of 2021 is the move by the Mexican government to ban genetically modified corn. Our Mexican partners had long been working toward this, given the cultural, economic, dietary, and ecological importance of corn as a native crop of Mexico. They are now mobilizing to protect and enact the ban in the face of industry push-back.

Building Grassroots Feminist Economies: The pandemic underscored the importance of movement work around grassroots feminist solidarity economies. These approaches de-center the market, value care work, and prioritize the sustainability of life. And they involve building new types of relationships among people and with the natural world, including uplifting traditional practices rooted in Indigenous wisdom. Over 2021, feminist movements from more than 40 countries joined together through the Berta Cáceres International Feminist Organizing School to articulate shared analysis and visions around “feminist economies for the sustainability of life.” Grassroots International was honored to accompany this process, alongside Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, Indigenous Environmental Network, and World March of Women.
Twenty-five years ago, when world leaders gathered in Rome for the World Food Summit, key voices were conspicuously missing – those of the small-scale food producers who provided most of the world’s food while also making up most of the world’s hungry. United under the banner of La Via Campesina, the largest global movement of small-scale food producers, peasants from across the globe converged outside the Summit. There, they demanded food sovereignty – “the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.”

Today, there is much to celebrate, including wins against free trade, industrial agriculture, and other corporate-driven approaches. Food sovereignty has inspired progressive policies from the local to global levels, shifted debates on food and agriculture, emerged as a leading climate solution, and served as a framework for convergence for a growing number of movements worldwide.

However, together with increased recognition of food sovereignty come new attempts at both cooptation and weakening of it. A striking example was the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) held in September 2021. Despite being touted as a “people’s summit,” the UNFSS was the latest attempt at the corporate takeover of the world’s food systems, harkening back to the 1996 World Food Summit in its exclusion of those most impacted.

After a successful boycott and protest of the UNFSS, La Via Campesina and allies announced their own bottom-up global summit for 2023. Grassroots International is proud to have accompanied food sovereignty movements since their early days and is excited to support them in envisioning and planning for the next 25 years of food sovereignty and beyond.

“Food Sovereignty offers a manifesto for the future, a feminist vision that embraces diversity. It is an idea that unites humanity and puts us at the service of Mother Earth that feeds and nourishes us. In its defense, we stand united. #NoFutureWithoutFoodSovereignty”

— La Via Campesina
Grassroots International’s commitment to deep transformation shapes not only our relationships with social movements but also our engagement within the philanthropic sector. In concert with others, we seek to decolonize philanthropy by shifting power as we move resources. We do this through our solidarity philanthropy approach involving movement-centered practices based on long-term partnerships, political education, reciprocity, trust, and shared visions between donors and movement groups.

A key collaboration in this area of our work is the CLIMA Fund. Through CLIMA, we partner with three sister foundations to channel major philanthropic dollars to grassroots organizations working on the front lines of the climate crisis. In 2021, the CLIMA Fund reached the milestone of raising and disbursing over $10 million, through 300+ grants to grassroots groups in 71 countries. Among the aims of CLIMA is to shift trends in philanthropic responses to the climate crisis toward grassroots solutions while building stronger movement support infrastructure.

Other funder collaboratives in which we are active include the REO (Regenerative Economies Organizing) Collaborative, the Charity and Security Network, and the Feminist Funder Organizing Committee. We work through these networks to collaborate with other funders and advocates to mobilize greater resources for civil society and to foster greater accountability in climate, human rights, and gender justice funding.

In addition to these and other ongoing efforts, Grassroots International also regularly joins with other progressive funders around timely issues and events. A recent example is the above-mentioned funder open letter taking a stand against the targeting of Palestinian civil society organizations, signed by more than 150 foundations and donors.

An additional way in which we push for shifts from within philanthropy is through bringing movement voices into key funding spaces. Over 2021, Grassroots International organized and/or sponsored workshops for conferences of the EDGE Funders Alliance, the Environmental Grantmakers Association, and Hispanics in Philanthropy. We also participated, and supported the participation of our movement partners, in a wide variety of webinars.

Finally, our Donor Engagement Groups (DEGs) organize cohorts of donors to learn about global social movements and to raise funds together. DEGs are learning spaces where donors engage in processes of deep political formation; come to stand in greater solidarity with global grassroots movements; commit to move resources to the front lines of movement struggle; and raise funds from their networks in accordance with the principles of solidarity philanthropy.
SUSTAINING THE GLOBAL STRUGGLE IN DEFENSE OF BLACK LIVES

Following 2020, when mobilizations in defense of Black lives in the US and around the world exploded in number, power, and visibility, we saw a continuation of this momentum in many inspiring ways in 2021. As a contribution to these efforts, Grassroots International expanded grantmaking to Black/Afrodescendant partners around the world and organized the Global Black Liberation Donor Engagement Group (DEG) in partnership with Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity (BOLD) and the Giving Project Network.

Held over six months, the DEG broke fresh ground in encouraging an internationalist lens on struggles for Black liberation, and new forms of Black-led donor organizing to sustain these struggles – directly informed by movements across the African diaspora, from Haiti to West Africa. The donor-activists engaged in the DEG raised nearly $170,000 from donors in the United States for grantmaking to global Black and Afrodescendant movements engaged in land defense, grassroots feminisms, food sovereignty, and environmental justice.

“For me, it wasn’t just about raising the most amount of money I could. It was about living my commitment and creating space for conversations about Black internationalism with my family, colleagues, and friends. It made Black internationalism real for so many of us. It is just the beginning of what is possible when we understand solidarity as a verb.”

— Maria Fernandez, participant in 2021 Global Black Liberation Donor Engagement Group (pictured here on a Grassroots International delegation to Haiti)
In the face of a continuing pandemic and violent repression by right-wing regimes, Grassroots International continued its support of frontline movements with $5.9M in grants. As during the previous year, Grassroots funded both emergency response and long-term efforts in movement building and environmental justice.

Grassroots’ ability to sustain and nurture global movements through adversity depends on the shared vision and commitment of our supporters. Their unstinting solidarity allows Grassroots to stay focused on the work of movements. It also enables a high proportion of spending on grants, education, and program activities. Grassroots will continue building and strengthening its programs so it can be a growing source of support to movements in the years to come.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support and Revenues</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>Board-designated</td>
<td>With Restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institutional grants and contributions</strong></td>
<td>5,354,585</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,774,971</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individual contributions</strong></td>
<td>1,266,831</td>
<td>560,993</td>
<td>1,827,824</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Debt forgiveness</strong></td>
<td>254,862</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Donated professional services</strong></td>
<td>23,338</td>
<td>23,338</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Investment and other income</strong></td>
<td>624,932</td>
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<td>624,960</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>7,524,548</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,335,992</td>
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| Net assets released from program restrictions | 5,590,110 | - | (5,590,110) | - |
| Net assets released from board designation | 548,000   | (548,000) | - | - |

**Without Donor Restrictions** | 13,662,658 | (548,000) | (254,118) | 12,860,540

**SUPPORT AND REVENUES**

- Institutional grants and contributions: 78.7%
- Individual contributions: 14.2%
- Donated professional services: 0.2%
- Debt forgiveness: 2.0%
- Investment and other income: 4.9%

**EXPENSES**

- Programs and education: 82.7%
- Management and general: 8.2%
- Fundraising: 9.1%
## Balance Sheet

**As of October 21, 2021**

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program service receivables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and pledges receivable</td>
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<td>Certificate of deposit</td>
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<td>Investments - securities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed and other assets, net</td>
<td>43,497</td>
<td>43,497</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,759,969</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,759,969</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Liabilities

- Grants Payable: 1,730,929
- Accounts payable and accrued expenses: 273,316
- Deferred revenue: 11,000
- **Total liabilities**: 2,015,245

#### Net Assets

- Without donor restrictions
  - Undesignated: 5,362,744
  - Board-designated: 4,842,738
- With donor restrictions: 1,539,242
- **Total net assets**: 11,744,724
- **Total liabilities and net assets**: 13,759,969
At the end of 2021, we lost our dear board member and comrade Janet Axelrod. Janet’s legacy will endure through the work of Grassroots International that she helped to nurture, and through the many other efforts she supported and lives she touched. Janet Axelrod, presente!
STAFF

Saulo Araujo, Director of Global Philanthropy
Katherine Asuncion, Project Manager for Donor Engagement
Owen Berson, Philanthropic Partnerships Manager
Jovanna Garcia Soto, Senior Solidarity Program Officer – Latin America
Chung-Wha Hong, Executive Director
Trina Jackson, Senior Solidarity Program Officer – US Internationalist Program
Sara Mersha, Director of Grantmaking and Advocacy
Opal Mita, Administrative Coordinator
Orson Moon, Director of Administration and Finance
Chris Morrill, Donor and Online Communications Coordinator
Emily Rose Navarro, Advancement Associate
Ayman Nijim, Solidarity Program Officer for the Middle East
Maggie Russell-Ciardi, Managing Director of Donor Engagement
Jhenny Saint-Surin, Solidarity Program Officer for West Africa and Haiti
Carol Schachet, Director of Planning and Special Initiatives
Christina M. Schiavoni, Senior Communications Coordinator
Lydia Simas, Solidarity Program Officer for Special Projects
Devin Smith, HR and Planning Coordinator
Salena Tramel, Senior Global Learning Coordinator
Diana Villa, Grantmaking Systems Officer
Sam Yoon, Administrative/Executive/Program Associate
Ivan Yung, Finance Coordinator
THANK YOU!

Grassroots International extends its deepest gratitude to our amazing community of supporters, partners, and allies. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to justice. Through your efforts, together with those of others across the globe, we are building critical momentum!

“Often, partnerships with donors are based on unequal power dynamics and relations...With Grassroots International, things are different. For Grassroots International, we are not just another project on the list with a number of activities, but rather organizations leading the process of change.”

– Nidaa Nassar, Baladna - Association for Arab Youth

“I have had the opportunity to be on delegations to meet the partners with Grassroots International staff, so I know first-hand how respectfully they work with the groups we met. I love that they make long-term relationships with the groups they fund. So I’m making a long-term relationship with Grassroots International!”

– Micky McKinley, long-time donor of Grassroots International

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WHO WE ARE

Grassroots International partners with, funds, and works in solidarity with movements and organizations around the world in order to nurture sustainable and equitable relationships between people, with the Earth and all its living systems.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to connect people in the US with global movements that defend land, territory, water, food, seeds, and the Earth. Together, we address the root causes of injustice and oppression, and build alternatives that nurture human rights, ecological justice, and liberation. We do this through grantmaking, social action, and philanthropic leadership.

GLOBALIZING JUSTICE: OUR VISION

Grassroots International envisions a world in which a universal commitment to the health and wellbeing of the Earth and all its peoples, fueled by successful global movements for economic and climate justice, has transformed production practices, consumption patterns, and economic and social relations to ones based on sustainability, equity, and dignity. Our partnerships recognize that change is successful only when people in their own communities organize to confront the root causes of their problems.

SOLIDARITY PHILANTHROPY: OUR APPROACH

Through our approach of solidarity philanthropy, we:

- focus on funding social movements;
- accompany social movements through long-term partnerships;
- work to make our own organizational practices consistent with social justice values;
- form partnerships with our funders to decolonize philanthropy, promote funder-activism, and move financial resources toward social movements; and
- participate in alliances, campaigns and other forms of social action.