



SUPPORTING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

A Guide for Wealth, Financial, and Philanthropic Advisors,
Family Foundations & Prospective Donors





Introducing GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL

Established in 1983, Grassroots International is a movement support organization that partners with social movements and grassroots organizations.

We partner, fund, and work in solidarity with organizations, predominantly in the Global South and the U.S., to nurture sustainable and equitable relationships between people, the Earth, and all its living systems.

We believe social movements drive transformative changes in a world steeped in multiple prolonged, intersecting crises.

Together with our donor partners, Grassroots International is building a new model of philanthropy – Solidarity Philanthropy. In contrast to the traditional charity, development, or top-down philanthropy-directed modes, we operate based on principles of solidarity, trust, transparency, reparative action, and the centering of movements. This involves acting out of personal and collective responsibility to dismantle the root causes of social and economic injustices and build toward a new vision.



What is a social movement?

Often narrowly understood in the United States as “protest groups,” social movements do more than organize marches and demonstrations.

Social movements, formed by hundreds or thousands of people and communities, work to advance transformative solutions to chronic social problems such as hunger, biodiversity loss, and violence against women. They are regional, national, and international in scale, with coordinating bodies and trained members in a variety of skills, such as health care, food production, and communications.

Led by those most impacted by systems of oppression, social movements are characterized by a belief in community self-determination and a commitment to building grassroots power, capacity, and leadership for systemic change.



WHY IS INTERNATIONAL GIVING IMPORTANT?

Only a small fraction of all the donations by US donors and funders go to communities outside of the U.S., while most of the wealth accumulated comes from extracting resources from those very regions and communities. International philanthropy working hand-in-hand with social movements can be a critical vehicle to address that.

International giving is not only possible; it is necessary to address issues affecting everyone on Earth. Grassroots International and social movements working together have proven that we can create change on a global scale.

WHAT MAKES GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL'S MODEL UNIQUE?

For more than 40 years, it has been our privilege to fund and form long-term, trusting partnerships with some of the most vibrant and effective movements and organizations in the world. Our steadfast commitment to supporting social movements to create lasting change in unjust systems is driven by a powerful practice of Solidarity Philanthropy.

At the core of our approach is a dedication to working alongside our partners and allies, learning from their experiences, and strategizing together. We believe that the frontline communities most directly impacted by multiple crises -- such as the climate crisis -- have the clearest vision, best solutions, courage, and capacity to achieve them. We also believe their success will benefit all of us because our liberation is bound together.

Our model is "wide and deep," working with social movements, connecting thousands of communities worldwide, and developing trusting relationships through long-term commitment. By supporting local, nationwide, regional, and international groups, Grassroots International knows its contribution will travel far — community by community, continent by continent — thanks to the solidarity web created through global social movements.

Expertise and consistency are fundamental for a lasting impact.

Another aspect that sets Grassroots International apart is our deep expertise developed over four decades of working alongside our partners. Each of our movement relationships has been forged following an extensive learning and vetting process by our board and staff. The relationships are then sustained through continuous accompaniment by dedicated staff, many of whom are from the regions where we work and have lived experience with the challenges our partners face.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WITH GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL

We invite donors and advisors to join a global effort of philanthropic actions based on solidarity. Joining our donor community is also an opportunity for personal growth by engaging in educational activities that will inspire and connect donors with the solutions they are so invested in.

Giving is an initial step to learning, engaging, and participating in building a better future for everyone. By donating to Grassroots International, donors not only contribute to the expertise of those on the frontlines; they are able to join them as co-participants in positive change.

We are not interested in an extractive or transactional model of fundraising. Similar to our relationships with movement partners, we want to cultivate long-term, reciprocal relationships with donors based on open communication and trust. We want to know who our donors are, what inspires them to give, what their vision is for a better world, and how they are hoping to be able to contribute to the creation of that new world. And we want to support them in making that contribution.

As with our movement partners, we understand that donors are also on a personal journey and that if we do our jobs well, this can be a journey of ongoing growth and transformation and ever-deepening solidarity with social movements. We seek to accompany donors on this journey and offer them spaces to connect with grassroots organizations and social movements meaningfully.

For those interested in deepening their knowledge and solidarity, Grassroots International offers the following engagement opportunities:

Solidarity Encounters are online, one-hour-long educational events offered multiple times a year with the participation of our Program Team and partners. English interpretation is offered when needed. Solidarity encounters are important for those who have recently started their international giving and are looking for exposure to social movements and connection with the community of donors.

International Delegations (site visits to Grassroots International partners) are for donors, advisors, and family members interested in seeing firsthand the work of Grassroots International and its partners. Participants have a chance to meet with organizers as well as farmers, fisherfolk, and other community members. Once donors have had an opportunity to participate in Solidarity Encounters and other related opportunities, delegations are a powerful way of deepening their relationship with Grassroots and our partners.

Solidarity Philanthropy Cohorts are multiple-day gatherings for donors and advisors interested in in-depth learning about the work of social movements and grantmaking strategies of Grassroots International. You will hear directly from movement partners and Program Team members and have the opportunity to exchange ideas with other donors.



WAYS TO GIVE

Donate Online

Donate once or make a recurring monthly gift using your credit card through our website:
<https://grassrootsonline.org/get-involved/donate>

Donate by Check

Please make checks payable to Grassroots International and mail them to Grassroots International, 179 Boylston Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

Donate by Electronic Fund Transfer

Please email development@grassrootsonline.org for electronic fund transfer instructions. We recommend this option only for gifts of \$5,000 or more.

Donate from a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

To donate from a DAF, you can request a grant distribution through your DAF sponsor to **Grassroots International**. Address: **179 Boylston Street, 4th Floor. Boston, MA 02130**. Our tax ID Number is **04-2791159**. When you make a donation through a DAF, we would greatly appreciate it if you or your advisor would email development@grassrootsonline.org to let us know to expect the donation, so we can connect the donation with you when we receive it.

See the Frequently Asked Questions section for more information about Donor Advised Funds.

Donate Stocks

Transferring stock electronically is the easiest and quickest way to process your gift. Please provide your broker with the following information:

Account Name: Grassroots International

Account Number: 672-335983

Custodian: National Financial Services

DTC Number: 0226

Tax ID: 04-2791159

Please note that when you donate stocks, your name does not typically accompany the transfer of shares. So that we can properly and promptly process and acknowledge your donation, please email development@grassrootsonline.org with the following information:

Donor(s):

Stock symbol:

Number of shares:

Institution transfer is coming from:

Any restrictions on the use of this gift? If yes, please specify:

Other notes:

Leave a Planned Gift in your Will

Grassroots International accepts gifts by will. You may leave Grassroots International a stated dollar amount, a percentage of your residual estate, or a specific asset. If you have named us in your will, please email development@grassrootsinline.org to let us know. How to name Grassroots International in your will:

Legal name: Grassroots International

Address: 179 Boylston Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Tax ID: 04-2791159

The following language may be useful: "I give and bequeath to Grassroots International, 179 Boylston Street, Jamaica Plain, MA, [the sum of _____ Dollars (\$____)] [_____ % of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate], to be used for its general charitable purposes."

Additionally, Grassroots International has partnered with FreeWill, a platform that allows our donors to make free, legally binding wills and to list Grassroots International as a beneficiary of that will if they wish. To take advantage of this free resource, please visit <https://www.freewill.com/grassroots>.

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA

If you are over age 70½, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA. Because the gift goes directly to the charity without passing through your hands, the dollar amount of the gift may be excluded from your taxable income up to a maximum of \$100,000 annually, with some exceptions. Please consult your tax advisor for information regarding your specific exceptions.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What designations can I make with my donation?

There are ways that you can designate donations over the threshold of \$5,000. Under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations, Grassroots International can accept designations to countries, regions, and thematic areas in which we currently work.

Countries & Regions

North America
≈ United States
≈ Mexico
Latin America
≈ Mexico
≈ Guatemala
≈ Honduras
≈ Nicaragua
≈ Brazil
Caribbean Region
≈ Puerto Rico
≈ Haiti
Middle East
≈ Palestine
West Africa
≈ Ghana
≈ Mali
≈ Ivory Coast
≈ Senegal
≈ Burkina Faso
≈ Niger
≈ Nigeria

Thematic Areas

Agroecology
Anti-militarism
Black Liberation
Climate Justice
Ecological Justice
Food Sovereignty
Grassroots Feminisms & Gender Justice
Healing Justice
Human Rights
Indigenous Sovereignty & Rights
Land & Territory
Movement Building

However, Grassroots International encourages donors to offer our partners and us the flexibility to use the resources most efficiently through general support. General support allows us to allocate spending to areas with the highest opportunity or the most emergent need. Further, our partners are national and international organizations representing over 300 million people in more than 82 countries. Your donation will go a long way, touching many lives long after your contribution.

Can I direct my donation to a specific organization outside the United States?

Grassroots International does not accept donations earmarked for another organization, even for one of our long-term partners.

There are several reasons for this:

≈ As a public charity, we must exercise independent “control and discretion” over the funds we accept and spend. The IRS has long held that an organization accepting donations intended for another organization is “only nominally the donee; the real donee is the ultimate... recipient.” (Rev. Rul. 66-79, Rev. Rul. 63-252).

≈ If a donor designates a contribution to Grassroots for another organization, the IRS does not consider it tax deductible, even though it goes through a public charity.

≈ For failing to exercise control and discretion over funds held for charitable purposes, Grassroots could face significant penalties from the IRS, including forfeiture of its exempt status.

By donating to Grassroots International, you can be sure your support will reach critical efforts on the frontlines, given our strong track record and expertise.

What are the advantages of giving to a public charity?

≈ For individuals, a gift to a public charity is deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.

≈ For private foundations, a grant to Grassroots International as a public charity counts toward the payout requirement. Furthermore, when Grassroots International makes an international grant, it is not required to do an equivalency determination or to exercise expenditure responsibility as prescribed by the IRS. We have the discretion to set sensible procedures for ensuring that the grant is used for its intended purposes. This is generally less complicated and onerous than either equivalency or expenditure responsibility.

What if a donor or a private foundation wants to make an international grant?

A private foundation grant to a non-US organization requires either:

≈ A determination that the organization is the equivalent of a public charity; or

≈ The imposition of expenditure responsibility, as prescribed by the IRS.

As noted above, neither of those requirements apply to international grants made by public charities like Grassroots International.

I have a small family foundation. How can we partner with Grassroots International?

Please visit our website and contact us to schedule a conversation with a staff member. This will provide you with an opportunity to share with us about your giving plans and expectations for this collaboration with Grassroots International; to ask any questions; and to see if we are a mutual fit. After this initial conversation, we will coordinate with you on making your donation and on deepening your engagement through activities such as delegations and donor engagement groups.

What is a Donor Advised Fund?

A Donor Advised Fund (or DAF) is an account for philanthropic purposes. To open such an account, you must identify a sponsor or administrator organization that will direct your giving at your will. You can decide to whom, how much, and how often you give. You also can transfer your DAF to members of your family and dedicate a percentage or the remaining balance of your DAF as a legacy gift to Grassroots International. The administrator of your DAF will offer more information on how to transfer rights to individuals, family members, or an organization.

I want to advise a donation through a DAF. How can I make it anonymous?

We are not required to identify the advisor or fund of a donation made through a Donor Advised Fund in our public filings or reports. If you do not wish to be publicly identified, please let us know. You also have the option to request that the administrator of your Donor Advised Fund make a gift to Grassroots without naming you directly.

I want to visit partners my money supports. Is that possible?

Grassroots International organizes donor visits once or twice a year. We believe it is essential for our supporters to learn firsthand about our work, the history and method of our collaboration with donors and partners, and our partners' work. But remember, you are not funding a specific organization but our work and partnerships. However, we are committed to ensuring that you are able to hear about and witness the work of various partners to understand the overall impacts of your donations, including in cases where you have directed your donation to a particular country or thematic area.

How do I know my money is not being used for illegal activities?

As a public foundation and international grantmaker, Grassroots International has to follow regulations set by the Internal Revenue Service and the US Department of the Treasury. Our due diligence process includes following 12 steps before disbursing any funds, including gathering written information from our grantees and cross-checking it against US government databases. Most importantly, we work with organizations with long-term relationships long vetted through site visits by our program staff. Furthermore, our partners are organizations recognized by local authorities in their respective locations and undergo strict annual audits, among other required activities.

READY TO ENGAGE IN DEEPER CONVERSATIONS

about your intent to collaborate with us?
Let us know!



Eva Blake, Managing Director of Philanthropic Partnerships

Eva Blake (she/nâkum) is an enrolled member of the Assonet Band of the Wampanoag Nation living and working in her homelands. As the daughter of a traditional chief and environmental activist, Eva has participated in community-based social and environmental justice organizing all her life. Before joining Grassroots International, Eva served as the Philanthropic Relations Manager for the Indigenous Environmental Network and has 20+ years experience in social movement support work. She received degrees in Community Studies and Art from the University of California Santa Cruz in 1999 with a concentration in Indigenous environmental justice on Turtle Island. She currently serves on the Native Voices Rising Advisory Committee and the EDGE Americas Steering Group.

Please contact Eva with questions from family foundations, wealth and financial advisors, and funder education activities. Eva's email address is eblake@grassrootsonline.org



Maggie Russell-Ciardi, Managing Director of Donor Engagement

Maggie Russell-Ciardi (she/her) studied Spanish, Labor Studies, and Latin American Studies, and spent time in Buenos Aires, learning about Latin American social movements. She spent more than two decades doing education, program development, fundraising, management, and leadership work for immigrant and economic justice organizations and progressive cultural institutions in New York City, including serving for seven years as the Executive Director of a grassroots tenants' rights organization. Maggie has a MA in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and translated a novel by Poli Delano about the student movement in Chile during Allende. Based in Northampton, MA, she also studies and teaches ashtanga yoga, makes plant-based medicines, plays the flute and harmonium, and raises her young child.

Maggie can help with questions about individual giving, including planned gifts, as well as with questions about how donors can continue to deepen their knowledge about solidarity with social movements in the Global South. Maggie's email address is maggie@grassrootsonline.org





Owen Berson, Philanthropic Partnerships Manager

Owen Berson (they/them) joined Grassroots International in 2021 after spending nearly five years as a nonprofit consultant focused on values-aligned human resources and racial equity. They have volunteered as an advisory board member for the immigrant solidarity economy organization Center for Cooperative Development and Solidarity, where they serve on the fundraising committee. Owen is a member of Resource Generation, a network of young people with wealth. As part of their BA in Latin American Studies at Oberlin College, Owen had the opportunity to study immigration and the impact of US policy in Guatemala, southern Mexico, and on the US/Mexico border. They also led a solidarity partnership between their student cooperatives and the national farmers and ranchers union in Nicaragua. Owen is fluent in Spanish and has completed legal and social justice interpreter training. They also participated in a yearlong fellowship on community organizing with a Jewish and disability justice lens. They are passionate about fundraising, facilitation, research, and writing to further racial, gender, and disability justice and food sovereignty.

Contact Owen with questions from young donors and family foundations or related to solidarity philanthropy and impact investing with our partners. Owen's email address is oberson@grassrootsonline.org



Saulo Araujo, Director of Global Philanthropy

Saulo Araujo (he/him) works to mobilize financial and other resources to initiatives led by grassroots organizations and social movements worldwide. He has served as a philanthropic advisor for the International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) — a coordination space of social movements and allies on global policies around food, biodiversity, peasant and Indigenous rights, and the livelihoods of fishing, pastoralist, and peasant families. He also worked as the director of the Global Movements Program at WhyHunger and the Latin America Program Coordinator at Grassroots International. Saulo is a senior fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program and has served as a board member and advisor for many organizations, including The Food Project, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and Justice at Work.

Saulo can help with questions related to Grassroots International's international grantmaking and philanthropic initiatives, as well as suggestions for philanthropic advisors and DAFs' administrators. You can reach out to him at saulo@grassrootsonline.org



FUNDING GLOBAL MOVEMENTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

179 Boylston Street, 4th floor, Boston, MA 02130, USA

617-524-1400 • grassrootsonline.org

