Grassroots International

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

FEAR DIVIDES, MOVEMENTS RISE.



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LETTER FROM CO-EDS AND BOARD CO-CHAIRS

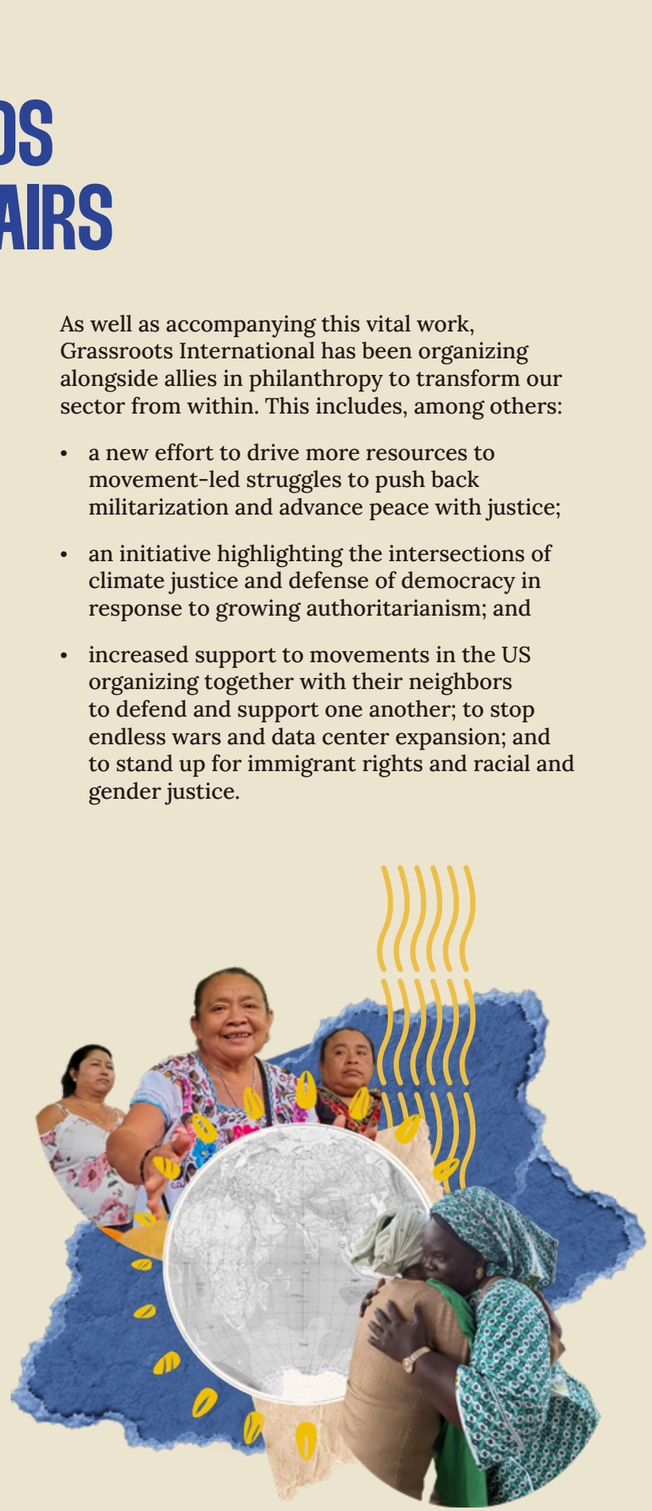
The past year has shown us, in no uncertain terms, what happens when authoritarianism meets unbridled technological power and control – from the AI-assisted data tracking and mass surveillance fueling ICE raids to algorithmic drone-based killings in Gaza, Iran, and beyond. While militarism has long been a force of death and destruction, rapid developments in technology are making it all the more pervasive in our culture, our economy, and our homes.

But if militarism is all around us, so too are movements – and they are continuing to build critical momentum. Last year Grassroots International was honored to participate in the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum, part of a decades-long organizing process around food sovereignty. The Forum's focus was systemic transformation, and the recently launched Common Political Action Agenda of Nyéléni put forth a bold future-facing roadmap for getting us there. This year we also closely accompanied social movements as they put agrarian reform back on the global agenda; organized caravans for the defense of land, water, seeds, and territory across West Africa en route to the World Social Forum; launched a Pan-African international feminist organizing school; held a global gathering uniting mobile Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists from the far reaches of the planet – and so much more.

None of these were one-off events, but part of long-term movement building processes that are ongoing and accelerating. The common denominator in each is a commitment to building the unity, power, and strength necessary to withstand the forces of death we are up against while building alternatives centered on life.

As well as accompanying this vital work, Grassroots International has been organizing alongside allies in philanthropy to transform our sector from within. This includes, among others:

- a new effort to drive more resources to movement-led struggles to push back militarization and advance peace with justice;
- an initiative highlighting the intersections of climate justice and defense of democracy in response to growing authoritarianism; and
- increased support to movements in the US organizing together with their neighbors to defend and support one another; to stop endless wars and data center expansion; and to stand up for immigrant rights and racial and gender justice.



In each of these cases, funders and grassroots communities are aligned in working to create the world we wish to see: protecting water, growing and sharing healthy food, multiplying local seeds, recuperating territory, caring for the Earth and one another. Indeed, we are learning together about how the practice of collective care is central to both sustain and strengthen our efforts, especially in the current context.

For Grassroots International, these and other efforts have been a natural extension of our longstanding work on solidarity philanthropy. Over the past year, we have continued to deepen this framework. One highlight among many was our Solidarity Philanthropy Praxis Retreat, through which we strengthened our praxis of solidarity philanthropy together with our peers, supporters, and movement partners. Most importantly, we have strengthened our praxis through the ongoing work of accompanying the movements who are standing up for justice and protecting the ultimate source of life – the Earth itself. Because much of this work is so rooted in community and in everyday acts of resistance, it might not always be as easy to see as the horrors we are up against. But it is there, and it continues to strengthen and multiply – inspiring us, humbling us, and spurring us onward.

We are deeply grateful to be together with you on this journey.

Chung-Wha, Jesenia, Kalila, and Sara
Co-EDs and Board Co-Chairs

> **Because much of this work is so rooted in community and in everyday acts of resistance, it might not always be as easy to see as the horrors we are up against. But it is there, and it continues to strengthen and multiply.**



216 GRANTS

supported by our funding and in collaboration with our trusted resource network in 2026.





121 GROUPS

in 20+ countries plus at the regional and global levels in 2026.

$130 MILLION+

moved to social movements across the globe since our founding in 1983.



BREAKING BORDERS WITH GLOBAL CONVERGENCES

Fear divides. But it's through borders that fear is built and expressed. Actions that build international unity, or internationalism, are how we concretely break down those divisions and cut away the fear.

It goes beyond looking past individual differences. It's about uniting our struggles. The crises we face spill across borders; our responses need to organize across borders, too.

Global convergences are one important aspect of that work for social movements. This year, the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples and Pastoralists (WAMIP) met in Mongolia for the World Pastoralist Assembly and government-organized Global Pastoral Gathering.

Movements mobilized across West and Central Africa for the fifth Caravan for the Right to Land, Water, and Peasant Seeds. Across four multi-country routes, hundreds of participants uplifted and linked rural communities' struggles together and brought these issues to the World Social Forum held in Benin.

In both cases, these global social movements built unity among themselves and their allies. But they also struggled against two ways the powerful have often silenced movements for social change: the co-optation of their voices and crackdowns on their ability to speak freely.



Mongolia

WAMIP and the World Pastoralist Assembly



Benin & the Sahel

The West African Caravan and World Social Forum

PUTTING PASTORALISTS ON THE MAP





Scan the QR code to watch a short video on YouTube.





Mongolia

Pastoralists steward some of the world's most critical ecosystems. They do so while feeding communities, fueling local economies, keeping cultural traditions alive, and playing major ecological functions, from restoring degraded lands to reducing the risk of wildfires. They are also on the frontlines of the climate crisis, land grabbing, and extractivism, among other threats to their existence. Yet both their vital contributions to food sovereignty and their many struggles are often overlooked.

The World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples and Pastoralists (WAMIP) is a global social movement of grassroots pastoralist organizations. It seeks to make both the contributions and struggles of pastoralists more visible and organizes them into a more powerful constituency to defend their rights from the local to global levels. By participating in a wide range of social movement spaces and intergovernmental processes, WAMIP brings the voices of pastoralists to the global stage while advancing food sovereignty on the ground. Within food sovereignty spaces, WAMIP has helped to bring about a shift from static conceptions of land and property to a more holistic understanding of territory as the ecosystems, watersheds, and webs of relationships connecting different people across geographies.

This past August, Grassroots International had the honor of joining WAMIP for a major milestone in its two decades of organizing, its World Pastoralist Assembly held outside Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The assembly coincided with two other gatherings in Mongolia. The first, right before WAMIP's, was similar in name though very different in nature. The "Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference" was organized by the UN and included pastoralist "representatives" hand picked by governments for their affinity with carbon trading schemes and mining concessions. WAMIP felt it was important to insert movement voices into this process shaping the future of pastoralism while at the same time building power in its own space. The other event, following WAMIP's gathering, was a UN conference on biodiversity, in which WAMIP also engaged.

At the WAMIP assembly, the energy was palpable as pastoralists converged from the far reaches of the globe – including East Asia, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union, among other areas often underrepresented in social movement gatherings. Among the main proposals was "building territories for life" as a counter to the global enclosure of the commons and the positioning of grasslands as the latest frontier for green grabbing for carbon schemes. A particularly moving moment was when participants all took out bells that they had brought from their livestock back home and rang them in unison, at once reflecting the unity, diversity, power, and beauty of this global movement. Another highlight was the announcement of WAMIP's winning the 2026 Food Sovereignty Prize, well-timed recognition for a movement coming of age.

CONNECTING WEST AFRICA'S STRUGGLES IN THE FACE OF RISING THREATS





Scan the QR code to watch a short video on YouTube.





Benin & the Sahel

In July and August 2026, social movements across Africa gathered and mobilized for two powerful convergences: the West and Central African Caravan for the Right to Land, Water and Peasant Seeds and the World Social Forum in Benin.

This year's caravan, its fifth iteration since 2016, traveled through communities most exposed to land grabbing, climate disruption, extractivist investment, and the slow dismantling of customary resource governance. They stopped in villages and cities to hold popular conferences, visited agroecological farms, met local chiefs and prefects, organized cultural events, and presented advocacy documents to government authorities.

One of its most powerful stops occurred in Togo, at the Maison des Esclaves (House of Slaves) where hundreds of thousands of enslaved people were held kidnapped on their way to the Americas. The caravan's visit drew connections between resistance to the theft of bodies and to the theft of territory in the global struggle for Black liberation.

Convergence Globale des Luttes pour la Terre et l'Eau - Afrique de l'Ouest (Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles - West Africa, or Convergence) organizes the caravans. This regional social movement is active in 14 West African countries and provides a key regional articulation for resisting land grabs and corporate power.

Grassroots International, just as in past years, accompanied the caravan – both with funding and by traveling with our movement partners for two weeks. The caravan serves two main purposes: to strengthen regional ties among different national peasant movements and to strengthen these communities' rights.

Unlike in past years, however, this fifth caravan served an additional purpose: mobilizing rural communities and movements to the World Social Forum in Cotonou, Benin.

For over 25 years, the World Social Forum (FSM) has served as a key space to build international solidarity and visionary alternatives among social movements. Leading a nearly two-year process, The Convergence drew together over 100 community and social movement organizations to plan and organize the forum in Benin.

Yet days before the event, the FSM nearly didn't happen. As the caravan converged in Lomé, Togo, the Benin government announced the forum's sudden "cancellation." Participants continued towards Benin, but were stopped by police after crossing the border and sent back to Togo. They were eventually allowed to re-enter Benin after the government reversed its decision and permitted the Forum to proceed, one day after its originally scheduled opening.

The WSF's near-cancellation highlighted a central aspect of today's global context: the shrinking and evermore precarious space for democracy, free speech, and the right to organize. Despite these challenges, movements across Africa and the world made the Forum a major success, grounded in large part by our partners in the West African Caravan. In a very concrete way, they showed that ordinary people can build power across borders.

ADVANCING SOLIDARITY PHILANTHROPY

As social movements and frontline communities around the world face increased threats with the global rise of authoritarianism, philanthropy finds itself in the crosshairs, too. The US government and other authoritarian governments are using a host of tactics to discredit, defund, and silence both progressive funders and those they fund, thus shrinking space for civil society and democracy more broadly.

This puts philanthropy at a critical crossroads. Do funders retract inwards, avoid controversy, and protect our assets? Or do we respond with boldness and principle, to help hold the line against attacks on our peers, partners, and ourselves?

We believe that the moment calls us to build solidarity, expand internationalism, and hold fast to our principles – and we offer the framework of solidarity philanthropy as a way forward. As we look to the challenges ahead, we invite you to be part of the living process of articulating solidarity philanthropy and deepening its praxis.









VISION AND STRATEGY

In 2025, we released Solidarity Philanthropy: Redefining Philanthropy's Relationship to Social Movements. This framework was informed by more than four decades of work and developed in deep dialogue with our movement partners, peers, and donors. A key moment in that process was our first Solidarity Philanthropy Praxis Retreat in Western Massachusetts, where our close allies in philanthropy and movement partners came together to refine the ideas reflected in the document.

Over the year since the framework's launching, we have been engaging in processes of learning and dialogue in both philanthropic and movement spaces. Within philanthropy, our aim is to reach new audiences in order to build greater collective understanding around social movements and their visions. And with our movement partners, our aim is to support them in sharpening their understanding of philanthropy and their strategies of engagement.

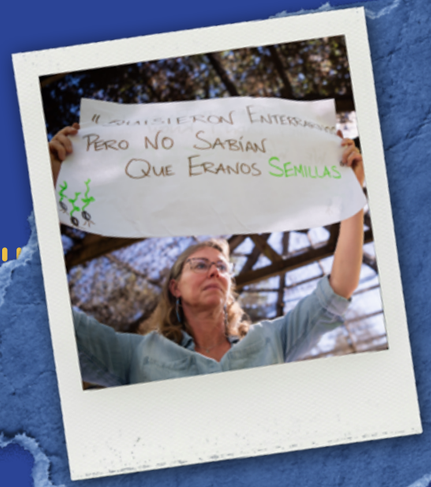
These interconnected strategies are guided by a vision where movements are well resourced and funders respect and protect their autonomy.

DEEPENING THE PRAXIS

Over the past year, we have deepened our praxis of solidarity philanthropy in a variety of ways, including:

- At our second Solidarity Philanthropy Praxis Retreat, 30+ leaders from philanthropy and social movements came together to further articulate shared visions and strategies. We launched the beta version of our Solidarity Philanthropy Toolkit, which we are continuing to refine and are excited to share soon.
- Through the Martín-Baró Giving Circle and our delegation to Guatemala, we are exploring the intersections of healing, wellbeing, and liberation work and have been raising funds to strengthen these efforts.
- Following last year's 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum on food sovereignty, we organized the Nyéléni Funders Circle to support and accompany the social movement process. We are recently back from meetings in Sri Lanka on next steps in implementing the Common Political Action Agenda of Nyéléni as a collective roadmap forward toward systemic transformation.
- At NYC Climate week, we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the CLIMA Fund, which has helped mobilize millions of dollars to movements on the front lines of climate justice struggles, and participated in the launch of a new CLIMA initiative on climate justice and democracy.
- We have been engaged in Funders for Demilitarization in partnership with Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, MADRE, and Peace Development Fund. This effort seeks to 1) increase philanthropic resources for work to confront US militarism and 2) strengthen engagement between funders and grassroots movements to advance alternatives rooted in community safety, human rights, peace, and justice.













WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

The receptivity with which the solidarity philanthropy framework has been embraced thus far tells us that its message is resonating within the sector and beyond. But getting the framework out there into the world is in many ways just the start of a much longer journey ahead.

How do we ensure that this remains a living framework, continually informed and refined in praxis with movements and others in philanthropy? This question gets to the heart of one of the learning processes that Grassroots International is currently undertaking as an integral part of our work on solidarity philanthropy.

This process involves moving away from limited notions of "impact" to ensure that how we understand, measure, and report on the work is reflective of our values. In doing so, we hope to contribute to the broader philanthropic sector's understanding of what it means to rethink impact in solidarity with social movements. Our goal is to support funders and social movements in learning together about how our actions create purposeful change – and to feed these learnings back into our shared praxis.



MOVEMENT-LED MOMENTUM

2026 was marked by extraordinary challenges. But across the globe social movements met the year with bold and powerful action.

In the face of rising authoritarianism, genocide, climate chaos, and more, our movement partners and allies have not wavered. Together, they have redoubled their efforts, building unity and power. Read below about the work Grassroots International has been honored to accompany.

- Human Rights Defense
- Climate/Ecological Justice
- Food Sovereignty
- Healing and Wellbeing
- Grassroots Feminisms
- Defense of Territory



LAUNCHING A GLOBAL ACTION AGENDA FOR SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATION

Nine months following the historic 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum in Sri Lanka, which brought together social movements from across the world in 2025, the Nyéléni process gave birth to the Common Political Action Agenda (CPAA). The CPAA is a comprehensive roadmap organized around six interrelated axes of struggle. Fisher movements and allies also launched the Nyéléni Global Campaign Against Industrial Aquaculture, which made a splash in September when the UN Committee on Fisheries convened.



"This is the tool that we built, as peoples and social movements from all across the globe, to forge the path for the systemic transformation that we want for a better world now and forever..."

– Nyéléni Common Political Action Agenda

INAUGURATING A PAN-AFRICAN GRASSROOTS FEMINIST ORGANIZING SCHOOL

Participants from 37 countries converged in Kenya for the first Afro-International Feminist Organizing School (Afro IFOS), a pan-African feminist political project working towards dismantling systems of oppression and building alternatives rooted in feminist economies for life.



"Because it is one thing to say that a system is oppressive. It is another to be able to ask: Where does the power sit? How is it maintained? Who gets to exercise it? And where is our own power to challenge it?"

– field note, Afro IFOS 2026

BUILDING A MOVEMENT-LED AGRARIAN REFORM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Movements converged in Colombia for the second International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20), where they advanced a bold framework for agrarian reform based on the 4 Rs of restitution, redistribution, recognition, and regulation.



"We belong to the land, waters, and forests. We are protecting them, but we do not have control; we are not part of the regulations. We are demanding recognition and reparation from our respective governments."

– member of La Via Campesina

PUERTO RICO: BUILDING FOOD AND TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY

Amidst intense water and energy shortages, movements are bringing attention beyond the headlines to an ongoing polycrisis rooted in colonialism, as they organize for food and territorial sovereignty.



"I think it's very important that people don't forget that hope is something you work for, and that it doesn't come as salvation from elsewhere. It's being nurtured here, and if we want to be part of that hope, it's important that we support each other."

– farmer involved in IALA-PR's Land Access Campaign

HAITI: STRENTHENING SOLIDARITY BETWEEN HAITIAN AND AFRICAN MOVEMENTS

As political and socio-economic crises persist, movements have continued their vital organizing within the country while building and strengthening relationships with their international counterparts – particularly those in Africa, through participation in the World Social Forum and Afro-International Feminist Organizing School.



"Our trip to Benin was a return to our origins, our roots, and our identity. It highlighted our historical and cultural heritage by recalling the deep bonds between Haiti and Benin, and demonstrating how this shared historical memory fuels the resistance and creativity of the Haitian people."

– member of Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) and National Congress of the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPNKP)

PALESTINE: DEFENDING LIFE AND DIGNITY, BUOYED BY GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Amidst genocide in Gaza and escalated ethnic cleansing across the West Bank, grassroots movements have continued the liberatory work of sustaining life, providing medical care, food, water, and other essentials to fight starvation as a weapon of war and assert self-determination. International solidarity continues to grow.



"Denied the chance to visit my Indigenous homeland throughout my lifetime, and with my Gaza being nearly obliterated, I found solace and chronal refuge in Boriken... Boricuas know very deeply what genocide and self-determination mean. It is embedded in their very souls and reflected in their activism."

- Solidarity Program Officer for the Middle East, Grassroots International, on visiting partners in Puerto Rico

BRAZIL: GAINING GROUND IN DEFENSE OF QUILOMBOLA TERRITORY

Afrodescendant Quilombola communities won a landmark victory with the granting of official land titles to 18 communities in 6 different states, impacting and reflecting the collective strength of around 1,780 families living in a combined 11,600+ hectares.



"Our production generates life. We fight for the titling of our territories because we need to protect our bodies and our history."

– member of National Coordination for the Articulation of Rural Black Quilombola Communities (CONAQ)

HONDURAS: BRINGING GLOBAL ATTENTION TO GARÍFUNA STRUGGLES

Faced with increased repression, Afro-Indigenous Garífuna movements have organized "Camps for the Life of the Garífuna People" in the capital city of Tegucigalpa and within their territories. They also organized an international solidarity delegation to amplify their demands for justice.



"There is a plan to exterminate the Garífuna people, but we won't allow this. We will be in permanent mobilization. And we are making a call to other social movements and organizations to join us in rebellion and struggle."

- member of the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH)

US/TURTLE ISLAND: PUSHING BACK AGAINST DATA CENTER EXPANSION AND RISING AUTHORITARIANISM

At Climate Week in New York City, grassroots movements connected the dots between rising authoritarianism, data center expansion, and attacks on Black and Brown communities, while also launching new tools for community organizing.



"Our community's heartbeat is more important than a data center's hum. While so many of us are navigating difficult times, one thing is clear: The Future is Ours to Build."

– Climate Justice Alliance





COMMUNITY VOICES: RELATIONSHIPS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Grassroots International's work is first and foremost about relationships: the decades of accompanying social movements; the deep conversations with donors and funders; the strategic planning with allies.

We're grateful for each and every relationship we have. Hear voices from this community and consider joining us.





Allistair
Funder

"HOW ARE YOU WILLING TO BE TRANSFORMED IN SERVICE OF THE MOVEMENT? ...SOLIDARITY PHILANTHROPY HAS GIVEN ME BACK MY HUMANITY, IN MANY WAYS."

"SOLIDARITY PHILANTHROPY PROVIDES A SPACE FOR US...TO HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S WORK, TO FIND COMMON GROUND, AND TO WORK TOGETHER."



Khalid
Pastoralist
movement representative



Mariama
Agroecology
movement representative

"WE MUST PLAY OUR PART IN BOOSTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COMMUNITIES, REGIONS, AND COUNTRIES TO MOVE TOWARD THE SOVEREIGNTY WE SEEK FOR AFRICA."

"WHAT'S KEEPING ME GOING IN THE WORK THESE DAYS IS ALL THE ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY... THERE'S NOT THIS TRANSACTIONAL NATURE. THIS IS PART OF BUILDING A COMMUNITY TOGETHER."



Orit
Donor



Meg
Funder

"I'M PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL FOR THE CONSTANT INVITATION FOR US TO SHOW UP WITH CURIOSITY."

"I WISH WE HAD MORE TIME IN TODAY'S WORLD TO SIT AND THINK ABOUT ROOT CAUSES, OR THE UNINTENTIONAL IMPACTS OF THINGS."



Michael
Funder



WHAT'S NEXT?

"Fear Divides, Movements Rise." We gave this year's annual report that title for a reason. Fear is an understandable response to the evermore dangerous rise of authoritarianism. But when we organize together, we can defeat that fear, defend our communities, and build a better world.

There is so much work to be done. We invite you to get involved with Grassroots International, and join us as we accompany global social movements. It's not to replace the work you may be doing already in your local community, but to bolster and link it to bigger, broader, systemic change.

Authoritarianism has gone global. Learning from and accompanying global social movements is key for pushing it back.

GET ENGAGED WITH GRASSROOTS INTERNATIONAL IN 2027



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Accompanying social movements includes making sure they have the resources to continue defending their communities and making change.

DONATE TODAY

GET CONNECTED

There are all sorts of ways to be involved. Sign up to join our activities in 2027.

SIGN UP



Grassroots International

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FEAR DIVIDES, MOVEMENTS RISE.

Photo credits: Afro-International Feminist Organizing School (Afro IFOS), Brooke Anderson, Caravane Ouest Africaine Terre et Eau, Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas (CONAQ), International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción, La Via Campesina, World Alliance of Mobile and Indigenous Peoples and Pastoralists (WAMIP), WhyHunger