ENCUENTRO DE TRABAJADORAS DE CASAS PARTICULARES DE ARGENTINA

SIN NOSOTRAS NO SE MUEVE EL MUNDO

8-9 DIC/2014 · Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires. ARGENTINA

Annual Report 2014
WOMEN’S FUND FROM THE SOUTH
FONDO DE MUJERES DEL SUR (FMS)

The Women’s Fund from the South (FMS, for its acronym in Spanish) was created in 2007 to promote women’s rights through the investment in women-led grassroots organizations. The FMS is the only women’s fund of Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay that mobilizes financial, political and technical resources to support the initiatives of women’s organizations that promote gender equality as a central strategy for social change.

The FMS is part of the International Network of Women’s Funds (INWF), a membership association that links 38 Women’s Funds around the whole world to promote philanthropy with a feminist perspective through diverse fundraising alliances.

OUR WORKING AREAS

- Economic, Social, and Labour Rights
- Environmental and Cultural Rights
- Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Rights to Political Participation
- Right to a life free of violence
- Rights of girls and young women

OUR TEAM

We have a Board of 5 feminists Advisors and an Executive Team. One head office in Córdoba, Argentina. One field office in Asunción, Paraguay.

Board of Advisors

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD: Mabel Busaniche
TREASURER: Carmen Colazo
SECRETARY: Ana Falú
VOWELS: Estela Díaz and Carmen Beramendi

Executive Team

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mariela Puga
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS: Rosa Dure, Ivan Maceda and Raquel Aveiro (Paraguay)
PROGRAMME OFFICERS: Virginia Bolatti and Natalia Eberbach
EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

Volunteers!

We have renewed our agreement with Siglo XXI University, adding regularly volunteers with a lot of commitment and passion for what we do.
More space

This year, the FMS Argentina moved to a more spacious office located in Cofico neighborhood of Córdoba city. The different salons in the house allow for more people to work at the same time, providing commodities for our volunteers and regular staff to blend in. Lately we have also invested in projection and audio equipment to be able to hold more comfortable and efficient virtual or local meetings.

Tech solutions!

After a year of development, we are proud to announce that during 2015 the FMS will count with its own programme for the administration area, simplifying the registration and computing of economical movements.

Communicated we stand

This year we have installed a new phone number with the 0800 characteristic, that allows the grassroots women groups to call as from anywhere in Argentina for free, simplifying the communication process.

OUR PROGRAMMES

Building Networks and Partnerships

Building Networks and Partnerships is a Programme for support that aims at strengthening groups of women who are at initial stages of setting up organizations. This Programme provides support to groups of women from urban, rural and low-income sectors. It mainly consists of groups of indigenous and rural women, grassroots women’s groups and also women’s groups within other community-based organizations.

On its 7th consecutive year, 5 visits of monitoring and evaluation were made, and continuous contact was held with the 8 supported groups. The annual meeting of November was an ideal moment to connect with them, and listen to their advances and challenges.

DID YOU KNOW?

Building Networks and Partnerships is our more lasting programme, and it’s financed with different strategies oriented to sustain it in spite of the changes in the international cooperation policies.
**Labor Rights**

The Programme binds together domestic, maquila and needlework female workers throughout South and Central America. These jobs are characterized by a high share of female workers, high levels of informality and low wages. The Programme aims to increase women's visibility as workers, to support their demands and initiatives, to advance towards legislative changes and international guidelines compliance and to empower the female workers’ movement. During 2014 there were amazing advances made by the supported groups, and encounters with no precedent took place. For detailed information see page 6.

**Empowering Environmental Defenders of the American Chaco**

We have gotten funding from the European Union to support our new Programme Empowering Environmental Defenders of the American Chaco. The proposal was presented in partnership with Fondo de Mujeres del Sur Paraguay, Fundación Plurales and Centro de Capacitación en Investigación de la Mujer Campesina de Tarija (CCIMCAT)

**BRAND NEW!!!**

The objective of the Programme is to contribute to the strengthening of women's grassroots groups and organizations located on the eco-region of the American Chaco, who are fighting for their social and economic rights from a perspective of sustainable development and with a gender focus. These are women in Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia fighting for the access to water, and land rights, and against pollution and deforestation of the eco-region.

The initiative will last 3 years and it's based on an excellent research work conducted by a team of 4 volunteers of the Fondo de Mujeres del Sur during 2013.
SOME LOCAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGIES

Alliances with gubernamental institutions
The National Institute Against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI, for its acronym in Spanish) sponsored the annual meeting of the Programme Building Networks and Partnerships in August.
The Provincial Council of Women in Córdoba provided the location to held the launch campaign of the Programme Strengthening Environmental Defenders of the American Chaco in December.
Strategic alliances with the National Ministry of Work were deepened, resulting on the participation of some of the most geographically distant groups from the capital of the country in important meetings regarding the regulation of the Law N°26.844.

Arrangements with companies
In March an agreement was signed with Fundación Flecha Bus; through it, Fondo de Mujeres del Sur has a 40% discount on the bus tickets among argentinean cities, allowing great savings on the annual activities held.

Solidarity even in the worst moments
We are very heartbroken due to the closing of the organization Doctors without Borders in Paraguay, and yet we want to reverence their commitment to women and thank them for the important donation in furniture they had made to Fondo de Mujeres del Sur. The donated assets are being distributed to the grassroots groups the FMS supports in the region.

First direct dialogue campaign
This year, we are proud to announce that we have launched a type of local resource mobilization strategy that hasn’t been implemented previously by Fondo de Mujeres del Sur. We are referring to Direct Dialogue Campaigns. In alliance with Proa Consulting, a vibrant young yet experienced company that conduces the Direct Dialogue Campaigns of renowned ONGs - such as Green Peace or Un Techo Para Mi País - we have planned and developed our pilot test on Direct Dialogue. With more work in the area, we hope that in a few years this can be translated to more flexible financial support for the groups, and more recognition of both, the social problems regarding women, and the Fondo de Mujeres del Sur’s mission and vision.
II regional Southern Cone conference of domestic and sewing workers

On June 27th, 28th, and 29th, the “II Encuentro Regional Cono Sur de Trabajadoras de Casas Particulares y de la Costura” (Second Regional Southern Cone Conference of Domestic and Sewing Workers) was held in Buenos Aires.

51 women from 33 organizations (10 from sewing workshops and 23 from TCP) within Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile participated in the conference.

The two networks affiliated with this Project, the Red de Solidaridad de la Maquila (RSM) and the Confederación Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Trabajadoras del Hogar (CONLACTRAHO) also participated. The Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM) was present at the conference as well.

It's nice to know that other women and us keep having accomplishments based on this conferences and meetings; the most important thing are the debates
Sindicato de Personal de Casas de Familia (SinPeCaF) – Córdoba - Argentina

The meeting started with an open activity which aimed to spread information about the Fondo de Mujeres del Sur.
Programme and to initiate a public debate concerning the labor conditions of these working sectors. The “Mesa-Debate: Without us the world doesn't move: Ongoing debates about working women” was held by Estela Díaz (Advisor of FMS and Coordinator of Centro de Estudios Mujer y Trabajo en la Argentina - CEMYT), Lynda Yanz from the Red Solidaridad de la Maquila de Canadá, Norma Sanchís (Co-Coordinator of Red Internacional de Género y Comercio - América Latina), María Rigat (Director of Projects, Friedrich Ebert Foundation) and the host, Mariana Winocur.

After the presentations, very interesting debates between the referents of the organizations and the other attendees could be carrying out. Both present sectors recapitulated regional agendas which had been developed in previous meetings (Domestic worker agenda Latinamerica and Sewing workers agenda in Southern Cone).

The goals were to deepen the debates, to strengthen the agreements of the organizations and to develop the outline for activities of the Southern Cone for the next year while concentrating on the main strategic plans for these four countries.

Red de Solidaridad de la Maquila held a workshop about “Woman, Brands and Labor Rights”, which, for the first time within the Southern Cone, provided the organizations from these countries with new tools to promote labor rights and initiated a debate in the context of each particular country.

Additionally, organizations of domestic workers took part in a virtual meeting with Carmen Cruz Martínez, General Secretary of the CONLACTRAHO and Marcelina Bautista, Representative of the International Network of Domestic Workers. Thereby the participants were able to discuss the process of the ratification of ILO Convention 189 in the region and talk about subsequent agendas. These include formal progress and the realization of their rights.

With the lack of participation and the growing apart of workers currently being a sensitive topic, a workshop was held to reflect political practices as well as ways to strengthen women's organizations from the base.

This workshop influenced interesting debates concerning leadership of the organization's, practices that reproduce oppression through patriarchy, and the system of capitalism and colonialism. The participants rated this workshop as one of the most important activities during the conference, when later evaluated it.
VI Annual Networks and Partnership Programme Encounter

During November 2014 the VI Annual Networks and Partnership Programme Encounter took place on the city of Cuesta Blanca, Córdoba. It gathered 12 women representing all of the organizations the Programme supports, coming from different Argentinean and Uruguayan provinces.

On a relaxed tone, the women worked and discussed over their challenges and achievements, and shared a workshop about acknowledge influent and power actors.

CONTEXT NEWSFLASH

- Argentina regulated the law 26.844 about a special regimen for women workers of particular houses, through the decree 467/2014.
- On November, more than 400 women participated of the first national feminist encounter in Uruguay.
- Argentina ratified the 189 ILO convention.

Domestic Workers National encounter “we are not alone”

On December 8th and 9th 2014, a historical meeting of organizations of domestic workers from all over Argentina took place in the City of Buenos Aires. After more than 20 years since the first and only meeting of workers from this sector had taken place, 12 organizations gathered a new to discuss their political needs, demands and goals.
The slogan “Without us the world doesn´t move!” explains the main goal of the conference, which was to make the sector and its organizations aware of the contribution they give to society and acknowledge they have something to say.

More than 130 domestic workers participated in the conference, coming from organizations located in Neuquén, Río Negro, Chubut, La Rioja, San Juan, Salta, Entre Ríos, the Province of Buenos Aires (La Matanza, San Nicolás, Azul, Sarmiento, Villa Gesell) and the City of Buenos Aires. For the first time an activity took place, in which organizations of domestic workers from all over the country participated together. The conference included debate workshops, a demonstration and the delivery of a document, which the participants had drafted together, to the president of the country.

The meeting was organized by a commission composed of Sindicato de Empleadas de Casa de Familia de San Juan, Sindicato de Personal del Servicio Doméstico de Río Negro y Neuquén, Asociación Neuquina de Trabajadoras Domésticas Asociación de Mujeres Migrantes y Refugiadas de Argentina (AMUMRA), La Marcha de las Escobas de la Matanza, Sindicato de Trabajadoras de Casas Particulares de Villa Gesell y Costa Atlántica, Sindicato del Personal de Casas de Familia de Córdoba and the feminist organization Red Nosotras en el Mundo de Córdoba and by the support of Fondo de Mujeres del Sur.

The enactment of the law 26.644 in 2013 finally removed legal discrimination against the domestic work sector, which had been existed for more than 50 years. Due to that new situation it was important to meet as companions again as well as to get to know each other in order to dive deeper into the debate and to think in this new context.

A lot of the women that participated had never been in the capital, or in a facility like the “House of Deputies”. After reading the conclusions, various women spoke out, filling the conference with their experiences, expressing their emotions and with their desire of unity in their fight for labor rights and dignity for domestic workers. “We are not alone”, was one of the most significant and often repeated slogans.

Later, the first national march of organizations of domestic workers took place on the streets of the City Buenos Aires, leading to the House of the Government. In the Casa Rosada, the referents waited various hours until they were received by officials of the “House of Government”. They were able to hand over the document of conclusions signed by all present organizations, which later got passed on to the president Cristina Fernández. The activities ended cheerfully with an open radio in the symbolic and important Plaza de Mayo.
Radio La Vaca interviewed Lohana Berkins, the president of the Textile Cooperative Nadia Echazú, one of the groups supported by Fondo de Mujeres del Sur on the Labour Rights Programme. The textile cooperative has become, with no little effort, a labor option for travestis. Some extracts of the interview:

*We insisted that the problem was identity; when that changed through the Law of Gender Identity, we realized that it wasn’t the whole problem. Now the issue was the lack of access to work, and the treatment that society gives as, as nothing but prostitutes. (...) It was in our place to give an answer to that, to say no. That’s why we created a cooperative, and sometimes many, other times a few, we started to dream. And then the Madres of Plaza de Mayo became our godmathers, with Eve de Bonaffini supporting our project.*

*We decided the name of the cooperative as an effort of creating collective memory, because it always seems like our movement doesn’t have a past. (...) We have to respect time and history; I mean, if today I am able to have a job and start a cooperative is because there were other before me who lost their lives on the fight to reach this point and brack heteronormativity.*

*Nadia Echazú was from Salta, from a place called Güemes. She was one of our fighters. She died very young, at the age of 33, on really bad conditions. We think she would be very proud to see her name in the cooperative. (...)*

**GROUPS NEWSFLASH**

The Sindicato de Personal de Casas de Familia de la Provincia de Córdoba* (Sin.Pe.Caf.) is using an open radio as a tool to promote labour rights information in strategical points of the province. *It’s very difficult for the women on this sector to access to information, due to the loneliness of the tasks and to the extensive daily working hours. That’s why we go to the streets, to scream out loud that we have rights (...) - Nelida Sosa*

*Women from the organization Lamalajunta along with Innombrables presented a mural on the 8th of March, the International women’s Day, paying tribute to disobedience and rebel, on the city of Junín de Los Andes.*