In 2019, feminisms and LBTIQ+ movements in our sub region faced significant challenges while also achieving significant advancements. In Argentina, the strength of feminism and organised women, through movements known as the Marea Verde (Green Tide - for legal abortion) and Ni Una Menos (Not One Woman Less – against femicides), spread across Latin America and gained international relevance. This context maximised the potential of joint actions, networks and alliances between organisations across multiple territories, and gave global visibility to feminist and women movements. In Uruguay, diversity movements managed to defend the Ley Integral para Personas Trans (Comprehensive Law for Trans People), a historic breakthrough for human rights. Through awareness-raising campaigns and communication actions spearheaded by diversity movements, activist organisations and groups managed to stop the referendum proposed by opponents to basic rights, which attempted to repeal this law. In Paraguay, after years of struggle unionised domestic workers managed to equalise their salaries to a hundred per cent of the minimum wage, which is an unprecedented advancement for women’s labour rights in this sector.

Fondo de Mujeres del Sur (FMS) celebrates that in 2019 the issues that cause the greatest gender inequalities and disparities have been placed on the public agenda. We will continue to work to raise awareness and draw in new resources for the defence of our causes while continuing to support women and LBTIQ+ people as key agents towards a social transformation.
During 2019, FMS strengthened our lines of work: We supported 126 groups and organisations as well as contributed to strengthening women and diversity movements through specific grants and the implementation of six strategic programmes.

We are excited that we were able to implement the Strengthening Environmental Defenders programme again in Argentina (together with Fundación Plurales). Through the Women Environmental Defenders Organised in their Fight for the Preservation of the Environment project, we support initiatives carried out by groups of indigenous, rural, peasant and urban women at the forefront implementing adaptation, mitigation and advocacy strategies to combat climate crisis in the Argentine Puna, Chaco and Wetlands.

We also started the programme called We Want Us Alive, Funding Feminist Core Strategies towards Women’s Bodily Autonomy in Argentina. This programme aims to strengthen the historical struggle of women for their sexual and (non) reproductive rights by supporting organisations and initiatives to advance towards the fulfilment of those rights.

Our complementary strategy, Let’s Get it, Sister: Towards a Feminist Philanthropy, was implemented again this year. As part of this complementary strategy, we held a workshop titled Sustainability and Collective Administration Strategies for WROs in March. More than 30 organisations from Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ecuador and Mexico travelled to take part in the meeting. The participant organisations were grantees of the following FMS programmes: Let’s Get It, Sister; Our Rights, Our Pride; and Networks and Alliances Free from Violence (REDAL).

As a member of the Latin American Alliance of Women’s Funds, we launched two initiatives: On the Right Track, a global project to counteract the advance of fundamentalisms and their devastating effects on women and LBTIQ+ people’s human rights; and Strengthening Knowledge and Learning across the Latin American Alliance of Women’s Funds, an initiative that seeks to strengthen the coordination between feminisms and the LBTIQ+ movements. Within this framework, we carried out an internal training plan for the executive team and an extensive exploratory study about LBTIQ+ organisations in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay with regards to the challenges and opportunities that the socio-political context of the sub region presents for sexual diversity activisms.
Grants to organisations per priority areas

1- Leadership, voice-agency and political participation
2- Economic justice
3- Eradication of violence and discrimination
4- Socio-environmental justice
5- Diverse identities and sexualities
Organisations supported per priority areas

- 30 in Paraguay
- 10 in Uruguay
- 44 in Argentina

1- Leadership, voice-agency and political participation
2- Economic justice
3- Eradication of violence and discrimination
4- Socio-environmental justice
5- Diverse identities and sexualities
FMS Strategic Programmes 2019

Three sub regional programmes

Network and Alliances Free From Violence – REDAL
(Argentina, Paraguay y Uruguay)

Our Rights, Our Pride
(Argentina, Paraguay y Uruguay)

Strengthening Women Environmental Defenders
(Argentina, Bolivia y Paraguay)

Two national programmes

Want Us Alive. Funding Feminist Core Strategies towards Women’s Bodily Autonomy in Argentina

Women Out Loud: Promoting Political Participation
(Paraguay)

One regional programme

Leading from the South
(22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean)
Supported organisations

- 97 Grassroots
- 23 Mid-sized
- 6 Large
- 126
- 75

Supported organisations that strengthened their participation in networks or alliances, whether formal or informal within the feminist and women’s movement.

General grants to develop and strengthen organisational capacities:
- 120

Grants for specific actions:
- 89

Supported activists:
- 1,754

Indirect beneficiaries:
- 143,448

FMS supported initiatives:
- 209

For a total amount of
- USD 1,995,395

Grants per priority areas

- 36 Leadership, voice-agency and political participation
- 16 Economic justice
- 46 Eradication of violence and discrimination
- 51 Socio-environmental justice
- 60 Diverse identities and sexualities
Strategic Programmes

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Networks and Alliances Free from Violence (REDAL)

REDAL is the programme that has been running the longest at FMS. It started when FMS was founded and it represents the essence of what we want to be: a fund that supports the grassroots of women’s and feminist movements in the countries where we work.

The programme focuses on the prevention of violence against women, using a double strategy: support women frontline defenders and support women’s organisations intersected by diverse identities. Through this programme, we seek to contribute to eradicating all types and expressions of violence against women and girls, promoting respect for autonomy and decision-making about our own bodies.

Grantee organisations within REDAL are deeply rooted in communities and are usually based in territories that have a lack of or weak institutional resources.

In 2019 REDAL grantees trained and raised awareness among 1948 people.
We want to share a few words from our board members Liliana Hendel and Alicia Soldevila about the struggle of feminist movements to achieve the eradication of gender violence, concerning the anniversary of the Ni Una Menos movement (June 3) and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25).
The Strengthening Environmental Women Defenders programme aims to strengthen grassroots women’s groups that struggle for their rights from a gender and socio-environmental justice perspective. We support groups led by women in the defence of environmental goods, women’s rights and those of their families and communities. Together with indigenous, rural and urban women we develop different strategies against socio-environmental violence, which affects these women in a particular way.

In 2019, we were able to implement this programme again in Argentina, as part of Women Environmental Defenders Organised in their Fight for the Preservation of the Environment, which was an action carried out by FMS as lead applicant together with Fundación Plurales (Argentina). This action aimed to strengthen women environmental defender’s groups from Argentina in their fight to implement strategies for the advocacy, mitigation and adaptation to the climate crisis.

Furthermore, we continue to support groups of women environmental defenders in Paraguay and Bolivia through the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA).

In August, we gathered with all our grantees from Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay in Salta, Argentina. We shared experiences and promoted strategies in defence of territory, water and the right to a healthy environment. Read more about this meeting! (Only available in Spanish)
Let our voices be heard!

The UN Climate Change Summit (COP25) was held in Madrid (Spain) in December 2019. Part of the FMS executive staff and representatives of our grantees participated in this global meeting, which is strategic for global agendas linked to the climate crisis.

Débora Sajama (Mujeres por el Hábitat Natural de Casa Grande, Vizcarra y El Portillo) and Lucía Ruiz (Mujeres Sembrando Esperanza) whom are both from grantee organisation of the Strengthening Environmental Women Defenders (Argentina) programme, spoke in the Blue Zone (official space) and the Green Zone (space for social organisations, civil society and the general public). In the EUROCLIMA + Pavilion, they presented at the conference called Women Environmental Defenders and Climate Change: Strategies of resistance and advocacy in the face of extractivism. Then in the Pavilion of Indigenous Peoples, they took part in the dialogue table titled Climate Change, Women and Indigenous Peoples: Tensions between the self-determination of peoples and the extractive industries.

Angelina Barrientos, leader of Red de Mujeres Guaraní de Macharety (Paraguay), described the situation that the Paraguayan Chaco communities are facing due to the shortage of drinking water, and the tools they generate from their territories to guarantee access to safe water for consumption and production. She spoke as part of the panel called Women and young feminists in the South face the climate crisis: alternatives, solutions and narrative in the Blue Zone.

The participation of these women at these events was part of a strategy to advocate for the struggles of women environmental defenders in Latin America. As well as to show resistance to climate change in the face of the vulnerability generated by the extractive industries in a local and global political context where the line between public actors and private is blurry.

The participation of women environmental defenders in COP25 was highly significant and moving given that indigenous and rural women were able to share concrete and direct situations that affect them and their communities. They spoke in front of company representatives, public and private actors, executive figures and the international press, an audience that they often struggle with in their territories.
For our right to wellbeing!

The group Vecinxs Unidxs por la Defensa del Ambiente- VUDAS has been fighting against the highly contaminant production of bioethanol by a plant located in the middle of their neighbourhood. With support from FMS, they were able to rapidly appeal a sentence passed by the National Court that ignores the risks and health problems driven by the bioethanol production activity. They included more than 10 results of blood tests that evidence respiratory problems, malformations in babies, heart conditions and cancer among the neighbours.

Click here and listen to an activist from VUDAS (only available in Spanish):

Community researchers

The community research training was finalised in October. Women from the groups Comisión de Mujeres Ava Guaraní Tekoha Sauce, Mujeres Guaraníes de Macharety; and Mujeres de la Comisión de Víctimas de la Masacre de Curuguaty (Paraguay), AMPRO and Asamblea del Pueblo Guaraní (APG) of Villa Montes (Bolivia) finished their training in community research. Through several meetings and courses, the women activists supported by FMS shared their learning to acknowledge the effects of displacement, extractivism and agriculture in their territories. These analyses were compiled in the report Dos países. Una amenaza compartida. Situación de defensoras del Territorio frente a los extractivismos y otras formas de despojo (Two countries. One common threat. Land defenders facing extractivism and other forms of displacement). Available only in Spanish at: www.gaggaalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Diagnostico-GAGGA_Publicacion.pdf
The Our Rights, Our Pride programme mobilises financial resources as well as provides technical and political support to intermediate and grassroots lesbian, bisexual, trans, queer and intersex organisations in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Through this programme, FMS aims to strengthen the work done by LBTIQ+ organisations as key agents of transformation towards fairer and more equal societies.

In October, we held the annual meeting with our grantees to which more than seventy activists from the three countries participated. The meeting focused on communication strategies for activism, which was a demand that originated from within the organisations themselves and that became a central issue in the current dispute about the significance of recognition of rights. You can click here to read more about the meeting! (only available in Spanish).

A collective background of transgender rights

In August, conservative sectors in Uruguay launched a pre-referendum with the aim to repealing the Ley Integral para Personas Trans (Comprehensive Trans People Law), sanctioned in the previous year. In this way, they tried to block key advances in the domain of human rights in the country, which had been settling a long-standing debt with the trans community. To delve into the political complexities of the issue, you can read the analysis (only available in Spanish) by Carmen Beramendi, an FMS board member.

The work of the Asociación Trans del Uruguay (ATRU), Diversidad Sexual Fray Bentos (DISEF) and the Colectivo Ovejas Negras (organisations supported by FMS) was fundamental in preventing the law from being repealed. Through the dissemination of informative material, participation in debates and key alliances with other actors, the organisations called on society not to participate in the vote to approve the referendum. The conservative sectors' campaign only managed to get 8% of the population to vote, when a minimum of 25% was needed for the initiative to become a referendum.
Read more (only available in Spanish) about the initiatives carried out by our grantees here:

www.mujeresdelsur.org/damas-de-hierro-inaugura-el-primer-refugio-para-personas-trans-en-tilcara

www.mujeresdelsur.org/la-casita-arpias-un-enclave-lesbofeminista-en-plexo-salta

www.mujeresdelsur.org/un-foro-diverso-y-plural-desde-el-pais-profundo

Watch these videos (only available in Spanish) of activists from our grantee organisations talking about key dates for LBTIQ+ people!
With three years of implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean, Leading from the South (LFS) is a feminist funding alliance conceptualised and led by four women's funds: Fondo de Mujeres del Sur (FMS), African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), International Women's Indigenous Forum (FIMI) / AYNI Fund (AYNI), and Women’s Fund Asia (WFA).

LFS supports women’s rights activism and lobbying efforts by women’s organisations, movements and networks at regional, national and grassroots levels in the Global South. It is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2019, we launched the second Call for Proposals for organisations and networks from Latin America and the Caribbean. We received more than 500 proposal submissions. After this call, 4 networks and large organisations, 5 intermediate organisations and 6 consortiums of grassroots groups joined the programme receiving annual grants between 22,500 and 125,000 euros. The selection process was carried out by the FMS’ Advisory Committee, made up of executive directors from regional women’s funds.

The 16 newly selected networks and organisations joined the 21 grassroots organisations supported since the first year of the programme.

Learn more about AMA Association’s experience in Guatemala!
In October, we gathered with all LFS grantees in Montevideo, Uruguay, to discuss the Latin-American juncture, to share strategies and to build and strengthen alliances.

Through the initiative called Participation of Events, special grants were given to 19 organisations to attend national, regional and international events that promoted women’s right and gender equality.

The remaining 16 grantees received economic support through the Exchange programme where they could visit another LFS grantee. This initiative seeks to promote the exchange of experiences, knowledge and strategies, as well as enable FMS to encourage grantees to get involved in actions carried out by other regional organisations.

In this video, two organisations that advocate for sexual and reproductive rights, from Mexico and Argentina, comment on their exchange experience in Córdoba, Argentina.

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**Grantees participated in**  
27 Advocacy events (in addition to 19 grantees from the Participation of Events initiative)

**Supported organisations produced**  
263 Advocacy and dissemination materials.

**Grantees established or strengthened alliances.**  
35

**Recommendations were issued by grantees to governments to develop the Volunteer National Reports (Reportes Nacionales Voluntarios).**  
4
The Women Out Loud programme aims to promote social and political participation and advocacy of indigenous, rural, or marginalised urban women in the different state and community decision-making realms. The programme was set up to strengthen capacity development and technology-based strategies to achieve that goal. It seeks to create an impact on the development of inclusive and gender-sensitive public and legislative policies, which guarantee the extension and exercise of their rights in Paraguay.

In March, we gathered with all the grantees in the First Workshop on Politics, where we reviewed political theory and women's historical political participation in Paraguay and all over the world. Click to read more (only available in Spanish).

In June, we invited various organisations supported by FMS and women in politics from Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay to the Forum “Building a feminist and social political agenda from the territories and communities”. It was a 2-day debate about the relationship between the struggle for land, territory, and environment; women's rights and citizenship, parity and the electoral system. Read the interviews with the main speakers (only available in Spanish).

The forum led to an exchange visit involving FMS staff and grantees to a political party and feminist and social movement from Rosario, Argentina called Ciudad Futura. This experience was enlightening and much was learned about the different ways Ciudad Futura coordinates territorial activism with political representation and the electoral system. Read more about the experience (only available in Spanish).
A historical accomplishment!

During 2019, the indigenous community of Yakye Axa was the protagonist of a historical event. They obtained the effective application of an Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IACHR) sentence, issued in 2005 against the Paraguayan State for the violation of this community’s civil rights.

The community, who had sustained a territorial claim against the State, agreed in 2012 and in the sentence’s execution process to obtain new land, different from the originally claimed one, under one condition: the construction of a road to access these lands. The road was not built and the community was practically abandoned, living by the highway in precarious housing. In 2019, the passing of the expropriation law (N° 6465) facilitated the State to build the road needed to access the lands. An indemnification for the community’s development and water access was also obtained. The Indigenous Women from Yakye Axa group, FMS’ grantee, had a key role advocating at the National Congress.
We Want Us Alive
Funding Feminist Core Strategies towards Women’s Bodily Autonomy in Argentina

Through this programme, FMS seeks to strengthen the long-time struggle women have battled in favour of sexual and reproductive and non-reproductive rights, bringing financial support and technical assistance to organisations that promote those rights and demand its effective fulfilment.

We believe autonomy over women’s bodies is a fundamental right. If we lack bodily autonomy, gender equality and eradication of violence cannot be considered.

FMS supports national networks, pioneer and emerging women rights organisations, experienced feminist organisations, grassroots organisations from 15 provinces in Argentina. We give priority support to those working in conservative regions, where religious fundamentalist movements are more deeply rooted, as well as the joint work of key women actors in communities in highly disadvantaged socio-economic, geographical and cultural situations, and also indigenous, young, peasant and rural women leaders and women leaders from marginalised urban sectors.

35 | Advocacy Actions
51 | Artistic and impact interventions in public spaces
26 | Legal, administrative strategies
61 | Training activities for key actors and trainers of trainers

5413 | Accompaniments during legal termination of pregnancy processes
82 | Publications of informative and dissemination material
42 | Instances of internal institutional strengthening and of the members of grantee organisations (meetings, training, internal evaluations)
22 | Support grants for strengthening national alliances
During 2019, we continued implementing the complementary strategy “Let’s Get It, Sister”. This strategy seeks to accompany organisations in their development of local resources from a feminist philanthropy perspective, a concept in permanent construction by women’s funds that intends to provide a gender sensitive and intersectional approach to traditional philanthropy.

This strategy seeks to support the long-term economic sustainability of groups and organisations, to guarantee continuity in their commitment to social transformation.

As part of Let’s Get it, Sister: Towards a Feminist Philanthropy, we organised a workshop called “Sustainability and Collective Administration Strategies for WROs”. More than 30 organisations from Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ecuador and Mexico travelled to take part in the meeting, which aimed to create a space to share experiences and knowledge about resource mobilisation. The participant organisations were grantees of “Our Rights, Our Pride”, “Let’s Get It, Sister” and Networks and Alliances Free from Violence (REDA) programmes.

Read more on the event (only available in Spanish).

Want to learn more? Click here to watch the video.
Organisations supported in

Strengthening organisations from a human rights perspective!

United Women, Migrants and Refugees in Argentina association (Asociación Civil de Mujeres Unidas, Migrantes y Refugiadas en Argentina (AMUMRA)) is an organisation that seeks the social, economic and cultural integration of migrant and refugees’ women and their families, from a gender, intercultural and human rights perspective. As part of their initiative supported by FMS and aiming to share strategies on sustainability and self-management, in April 2019 AMUMRA hosted the first Migrants Trade Fair, with participants from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Senegal, Uruguay and Venezuela. This event established synergy needed for better integration and mutual acknowledgment between migrants and local people, while strengthening strategies that promote and disseminate migrant’s human rights.
In June, the new fundraising campaign was launched at the opening of a photographic exhibition called Liderazgos Entrañables (Soulful Leadership) at the Women’s Museum in Córdoba. Natalia Roca’s documentary photos of FMS’ trajectory were exhibited as part of a collective work by the executive team and the photographer Natalia Roca, who has been working alongside FMS for over two years with her photographic productions and documentations.

In November 2018, we held a workshop on visual anthropology where we had the opportunity to think about the production of images, their use and circulation: how we represent ourselves, what do we share about the organizations and activists we support and how this ties into a larger narrative, regarding strategies and the movement’s struggles. As a result of this workshop, we decided to exhibit a selection of the material that had been produced over the previous two years. Over six months we worked collectively on the curatorship and assembling of the show. Liderazgos entrañables, a concept by the Mexican feminist anthropologist Marcela Lagarde, invokes the leaderships carried in our souls, with our hearts, with everything that we are and what we want to become, looking to reflect the history’s struggles and the organisation of the women’s and diversity movements in Latin America. It displayed portraits of women from different backgrounds and with different strengths, who took a chance and are fighting for a future that we imagine possible: societies where women and LBTTIQ+ people can fully enjoy their rights, where we feel empowered to defend them and where we can live free from violence and discrimination.

The opening was during the #NotOneLess/#NiUnaMenos month, a significant date on our agenda which reminds us of the significance of our work. It was an opportunity to engage with others and learn more about our campaign. Make your contribution, sister!

Read more about the opening (only available in Spanish).
In August 2019, FMS was once again on the streets with the Direct Dialogue campaign. This time, we presented “Make your contribution, Sister!” a fundraising campaign for the Networks and Alliances Free from Violence (REDAL) programme and its grantees.

Face-to-face is a fundraising strategy that helps sensitise potential donors on the streets and engage them to become individual donors. These small donations have minimal impacts on personal budgets but as a collective become an active and important element for social transformation. One of FMS’ central mandates is the promotion of Feminist Philanthropy, which advocates for a gender and socioeconomic justice perspective on traditional philanthropy.

The organisations supported as part of REDAL are grassroots women organisations, made up of frontline defenders, who are the first to respond to gender-based violence. “Make your contribution, Sister!” aims to strengthen these organisations and their networks in order to reduce isolation and to enforce the right of women, children and LBTIQ+ people to live free from violence.

Watch our campaign spots (in Spanish)!

Learn more on “Make your contribution, Sister!”
Once again, we certified our work process!

In 2019, the FMS Country Office in Paraguay certified processes for the first time and the FMS office in Córdoba went through the second audit by the Argentinean Institute of Normalisation and Certification (Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación (IRAM)). We succeeded in both! Therefore, FMS maintains the ISO 9001 – 2015 certification, international standard that regulates Quality Management Systems, for “Fundraising and distribution of financial and technical resources for the design, implementation and communication of programmes for the promotion of women’s rights in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay” within the context of Fondo de Mujeres del Sur headquarters office in Cordoba, Argentina.
In October 2019, FMS created a new Direction Area and hence implemented a collective leadership model, through the incorporation of Virginia Bolatti as Institutional Manager and Laura Leonelli Morey as International Resource Mobilisation Manager. We have accomplished this ground-breaking structure within the women’s funds movement which was designed and delivered to address and conduct the organisation with a wider and more diverse viewpoint, leaving behind an individual type of leadership. The Institutional Manager is responsible for guiding and giving support to the executive staff on a day-to-day basis, and the International Resource Mobilisation Manager is especially dedicated to fundraising and partnership building at an international level. A warm welcome to the new direction team!

We also want to share some exciting news from our Board of Directors. We welcome Alicia Soldevila as a Board Member. She is a teacher and researcher with a distinguished career. Additionally, Estela Díaz, founding member of FMS, was elected as Minister of Women, Sexual Diversity and Gender Policies for the Province of Buenos Aires. Estela took office on December 10 and has taken a leave of absence from FMS until the end of her term.

A new programme coordinator joined our executive staff to work on the “We Want Us Alive” and “Networks and Alliances Free of Violences” programmes. Furthermore, two volunteers donated their time to our Local Resources Area. Julianne and Abril left us with some inspiring words about their experiences (only available in Spanish).

Throughout 2019 we held many staff reflection and training sessions. We attended a workshop on Feminisms and the LBTIQ+ Movement, given by Eduardo Mattio, teacher, researcher and activist; and a workshop on Cyber Security as part of a systemic process to improve our standards on the subject, facilitated by TEDIC (a Paraguayan NGO specialised on digital citizenship and human rights on the internet). We ended 2019 with a meeting to reflect on our organisation, goals and collective efforts, which was guided by our board members Mabel Busaniche and Alicia Soldevila.
Women Resist! Women Transform!