



# APWLD

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development



BUILDING FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

# Contents

<b>List of Acronyms</b>	05
<b>About APWLD</b>	08
Who We Are	08
Our Work	08
Our Beliefs	08
Our Structure	08
Our Herstory	08
<b>Our Theory of Change</b>	09
<b>Message from Regional Coordinator</b>	10

<b>Our Impact: 2019 Snapshots</b>	12
Capacity Building	12
Movement Building	12
Advocacy to Change Laws and Policies	13
Knowledge, Tools and Resources	13
<b>Feminist Action from the Ground Up: Impact Stories</b>	15
Impact of our FPARs	16
Supporting Grassroots Women's Agendas for Change	21
Advancing Feminist Development Justice in the Region	27
<b>Hold Hands, Fight Back! Solidarity Actions in 2019</b>	31
Strategic Support to WHRDs at risk in the Philippines	33
Solidarity with Ban Sapwai Women Land and Human Rights Defenders in Thailand	34
Striking for Climate Justice	36
Women's Global Strike: When Women Stop, the World Stops	38
<b>Creating Democratic Feminist Spaces to Advance Accountability</b>	43
Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development	44
Ground Level Peoples' Forum	47
Democratising the Beijing+25 Review Process	50
<b>Programme Highlights</b>	55
Labour Programme: Women Organising Workers (WoW)	57
Migration Programme: Migrants United and Act for Human Rights(MUAH)	63
Breaking Out of Marginalisation (BOOM)	71
Climate Justice (CJ)	83
Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony (WITCH)	91
Women in Power (WiP)	103
Feminist Law and Practice (FLP)	111
Feminist Development Justice (FDJ)	117
Grounding the Global (GG)	125
<b>Information and Communications</b>	129
<b>Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability</b>	135
<b>Financial Narrative</b>	143
<b>Calender of Events</b>	150

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APF	ASEAN Peoples' Forum
APFF	Asia Pacific Feminist Forum
APFSD	Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development
APPFSD	Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum for Sustainable Development
APRCM	Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
APWLD	Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BOOM	Breaking out of Marginalisation
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CJ	Climate Justice
CSW	Committee on the Status of Women
FDJ	Feminist Development Justice
FLP	Feminist Law and Practice
FLTP	Feminist Legal Theory and Practice
FPAR	Feminist Participatory Action Research
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GG	Grounding the Global
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GFMP	Globalisation, Fundamentalisms, Militarism and Patriarchy
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ISDS	Investor State Dispute Settlement
LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
P&M	Programme and Management Committee
ReC	Regional Council
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United National Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
WGS	Women's Global Strike
WHRDs	Women Human Rights Defenders
WiP	Women in Power
WITCH	Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony
WMG	Women's Major Group
WTO	World Trade Organization





BOOM FPAR Partners at Indigenous Peoples Day Rally in Nepal

# About APWLD



## Who We Are

The Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) is the leading network of feminist organisations and individual activists in Asia and the Pacific. Our 248 members represent organisations and groups of diverse women from 27 countries in the region covering the five subregions of Central Asia, East Asia, Pacific, South Asia and Southeast Asia. We are an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation and hold consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Over the past 33 years, APWLD has actively worked towards advancing women's human rights and Development Justice.

## Our Work

APWLD fosters feminist movements to influence laws, policies and practices at the local, national, regional and international levels. We develop capacities, produce and disseminate feminist analyses, conduct advocacy, and foster networks and spaces for movement building to claim and strengthen women's human rights. APWLD empowers women in the region to use law as an instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and Development Justice.

## Our Beliefs

We believe that advances in women's human rights are achieved and sustained when autonomous feminist movements exist and have an enabling environment to work. We believe that law can be repressive as well as transformative. We use feminist analysis to dissect, engage with and transform laws, legal practices and the systems that shape and inform them. We believe that the nexus of patriarchy with militarism, fundamentalisms and neoliberal economic globalisation is responsible for gross violations of women's human rights and fundamental freedoms. We believe that equality, Development Justice and the realisation of human rights can only happen when women, particularly marginalised women, are empowered to lead policy and legal debates and determine solutions. We believe that to achieve lasting and sustainable change, engagement with women themselves, both at the grassroots and policy making levels, is needed to bring a feminist approach and perspective to their advocacy.

## Our Structure

Our diverse and active membership provides the strength and expertise that drives and executes our work. Members are actively involved in APWLD's programme work through taking part in Programme Organising Committees. APWLD is governed by a Programme and Management Committee composed from a larger Regional Council of active members. Our Secretariat in Chiang Mai and a satellite office in Penang carry out day-to-day operations and provide for programme implementation as well as financial and technical support.

## Our Herstory

APWLD is a regional membership-based feminist organisation founded in 1986, as a direct outcome of the 1985 Third World Conference on Women held in Nairobi. It was at the Nairobi meeting that the

idea for 'Women, Law and Development' networks was floated, resulting in the establishment of three such regional networks: APWLD in Asia and the Pacific, Comité de América Latina y El Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM) in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) in Africa. Participants in these dialogues recognised that gaining the capacity to mobilise people to understand social, economic, and political dimensions of women's oppression and take collective action for change required a clear focus and strong organisation. In 1986 women lawyers and activists in Asia and the Pacific formally launched APWLD and set up a Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Secretariat relocated to Chiang Mai, Thailand in 1997, and a satellite office in Penang, Malaysia opened in 2017 to support the growing work of APWLD.

## Our Theory of Change

We believe that advances in women's human rights are achieved when strong, autonomous, sustained and diverse feminist movements exist and thrive, free from any form of harassment and constraint. Our work is designed to support and foster movements and amplify their impact through four key elements:

- Building strong capacities to analyse, organise, advocate and drive social, economic and political change;
- Co-creating knowledge, evidence, tools and resources to advocate for change;
- Extending/Facilitating advocacy space and opportunities to engage with and influence policy makers at local, national, regional and international levels; and
- Enabling institutional structures and space to build alliances, coalitions and networks that amplify common demands and collectively drive change.

We believe that sustained movement building occurs when interventions are accompanied by a culture of solidarity with other networks and movements, as well as a **culture of accountability of state and non-state actors in the pursuit of women's human rights.**



## Message from Regional Coordinator



When I close my eyes and look back on the year 2019, there still is a vivid image of massive iron gates slowly shutting down in front of our eyes and shutting us out. The iron gates that removed civil society representing diverse peoples' movements from the UN Climate Change Conference COP25 space — making a clear statement of who will make decisions while peoples' movements can be removed from the process if we amplify uncomfortable yet daring truths.

Multilateralism is at a dangerous crossroads. What we have clearly witnessed in 2019 is the cautious efforts to blur the roles and responsibilities of the governments as duty bearers while shaping systems for large corporations to hold and exercise unlimited power to make decisions and interrupt participatory democracy. It was evident when formal pathways for businesses were strengthened by promoting private financing for sustainable develop-

ment; when the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review decided to have a parallel closed session for the outcome document, and when environmental and women human rights defenders are criminalised by governments instead of getting justice for their legitimate work.

Taking a deep breath, I close my eyes again and it leads me to a remote village in Nepal, where Mahjji indigenous women and their communities have been organising to resist the planned mega hydropower project; and to the streets where feminist and cross-movement are marching demanding climate justice, human rights, Development Justice and accountability. The spaces where the real hope and power lies — with peoples and their movements, and the very reason we continue our work and strengthen our collective power through solidarity organising.

We decided to title our 2019's annual report as "We are unstoppable" as that is what we truly are. The powerful waves of feminist movements — from grassroots organising to not only challenge patriarchy but of its all forms that are tactically fused into neoliberal capitalism, militarism and fundamentalisms to leading global people's solidarity movements — is what we saw and have been a part of. The waves of movements that work with diverse social justice and peoples' movements that support women's voices and feminist alternative visions. Our members and partners have been at the forefront in challenging political narratives through our Womanifesto initiative and our work with woman journalists, charting new pathways for Development Justice through our trade justice work, fostering democratic spaces through our work with regional and global advocacy grounded on feminist realities and solutions, and mobilising solidarity actions that will lead up to Women's Global Strike in 2020.

The systems are forging to take away sovereign power from the peoples. However, our work will continue with stronger determination to bring that power back to women, our sisters and brothers.

I am overwhelmed and humbled to be part of this movement and look forward to what seems to be ever more difficult but valuable journeys to bring women's human rights and Development Justice in the near future.

In Solidarity

Misun Woo



# OUR IMPACT

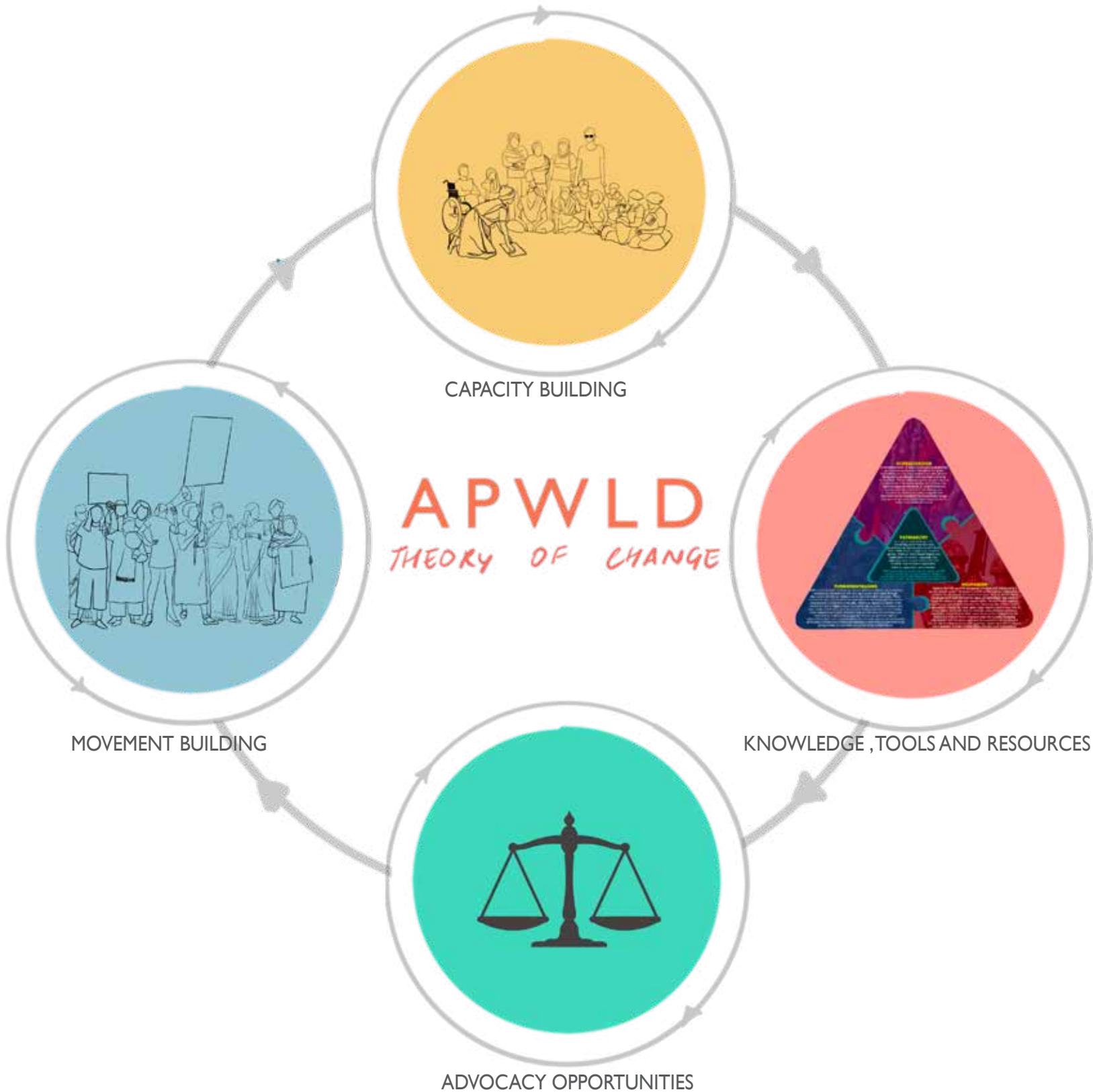
## 2019 Snapshots

### Capacity Building

We built the capacity of at least 7,900 grassroots women and their communities to document, analyse, lead political organising and amplifying Asia Pacific women’s voices to advance women’s human rights and Development Justice. We trained women and their communities in: evidence-based participatory action research, women’s political agenda or ‘Womanifesto’ building, labour union and political organising and campaign skills, trade and economic policy and feminist legal strategies.

### Movement Building

We continued fostering and sustaining new alliances, networks and cross-movement collaborations. We actively participated in and led 17 regional and international initiatives, networks or alliances. In 2019 in particular, our work with grassroots women and their communities through FPAR , Womenifesto and FDJ monitoring resulted in the formation of at least 22 new women’s groups in the local and grassroots level to advance women’s human rights and Development Justice.

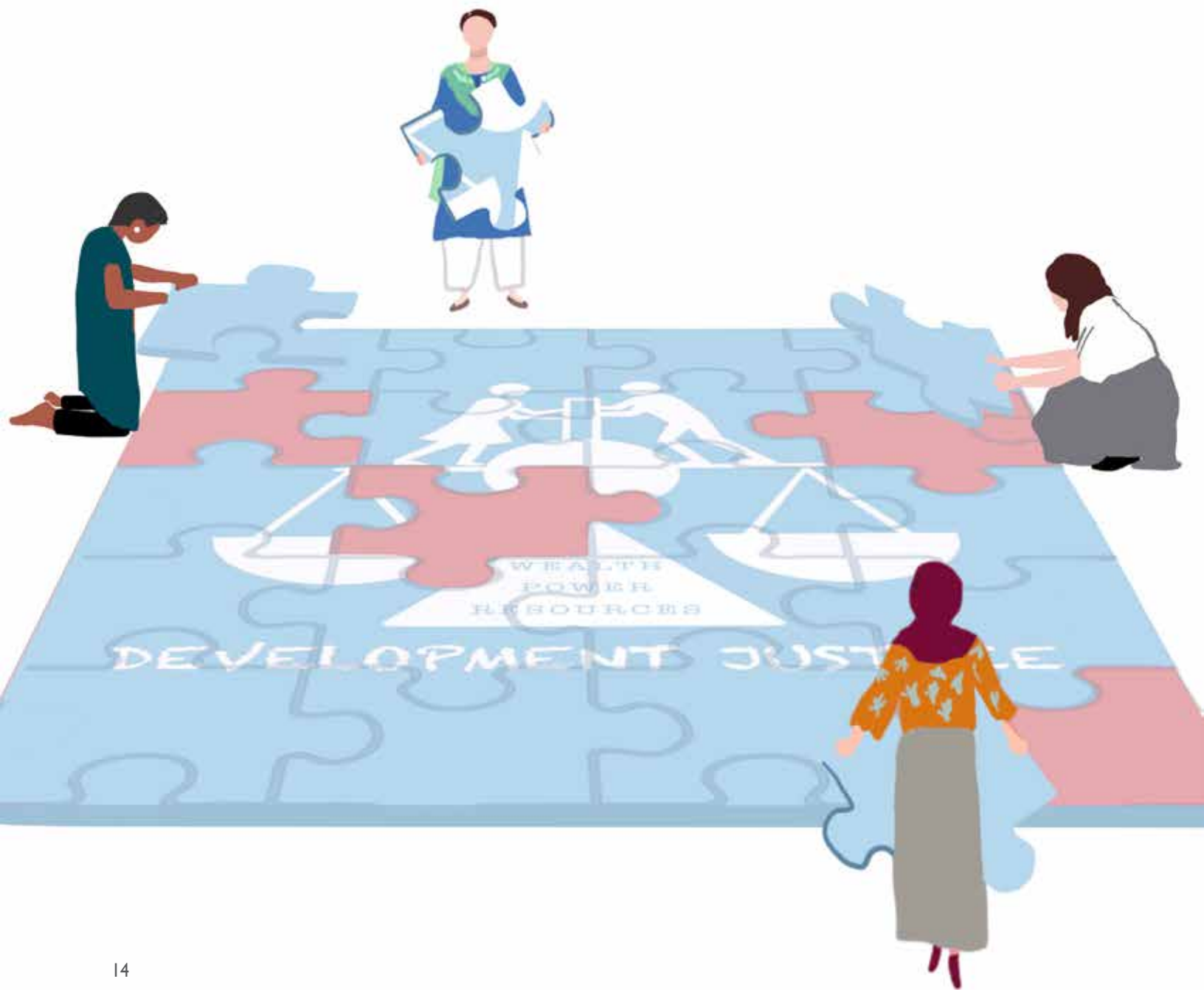


### Knowledge, Tools and Resources

We, together with our partners, produced 148 new feminist knowledge tools and resources, including 26 new APWLD submissions and statements, based on the experiences and perspectives of grassroots Asia Pacific women and their constituencies, influencing public discourse, key human rights, development and climate policy processes.

### Advocacy Opportunities

We resourced and supported over 90 grassroots feminist activists in at least 10 high-level advocacy spaces at regional and global levels to generate changes in law, policies and practices. We were successful in influencing multiple spaces and processes and secured 33 interventions/ speaking opportunities to amplify Asia Pacific women’s voices and feminist analysis at the sub-regional, regional and global spaces.



# FEMINIST

## Action from the Ground Up: Impact Stories

Feminist action from the ground up is at the heart of APWLD's Theory of Change – that advances to women's human rights occur when strong feminist movements that are grounded in women's voices, experiences and knowledge, collectively construct and advocate for solutions by calling state and non-state structures of power to account. This is exemplified by our Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) methodology, which forms the wellspring of our work across programmes. FPARs enable grassroots women across the region to organise and build solidarities, collect and document rights' violations, analyse and challenge power inequalities and advocate for women's human rights and Development Justice at the local, national, regional and international levels.

We started our first FPAR in 2012 in the Breaking out of Marginalisation programme, and it has since branched out to form an integral component of four other programmes – Climate Justice, Migration (Migrants United and Act for Human Rights), Labour (Women organising Workers), and the Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate

Hegemony programmes. FPAR-derived methodologies also now inform the work on the Feminist Development Justice, and the Women in Power programmes. While two of our oldest programmes, Feminist Law and Practice and Grounding the Global, do not directly use the FPAR methodology, they draw on the experiences and analyses of our members and partners through FPARs across the other programmes to inform the work of advocacy and solidarity actions.

### Impact of our FPARs

In 2019, there were many stories of the impact of our FPARs across the region. These were stories of the power of organising, mutual learning, collective action and solidarity to challenge the structures of Patriarchy, manifested in neoliberal Globalisation, Fundamentalisms and Militarism (P-GFM), to shift gender norms, oppose discriminatory laws and policies and push UN mechanisms into action.



## FEMINIST Action from the Ground Up IMPACT STORIES

**1.** Working with Women's Public Foundation JIPAR, migrant landless women from Chui oblast in Kyrgyzstan are organising to participate in agenda setting and decision making within the family and community to claim their land rights.

**2.** Working with our partner, Roots for Equity, women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province were successful in advancing women's active participation and leadership in decision making. Their collective organising contributed to a change in the community's acceptance on women's 'visibility': from women meeting in each other's houses, their meetings are now being held in the building of the local administration, indicating the increased confidence, collective power and leadership of women.

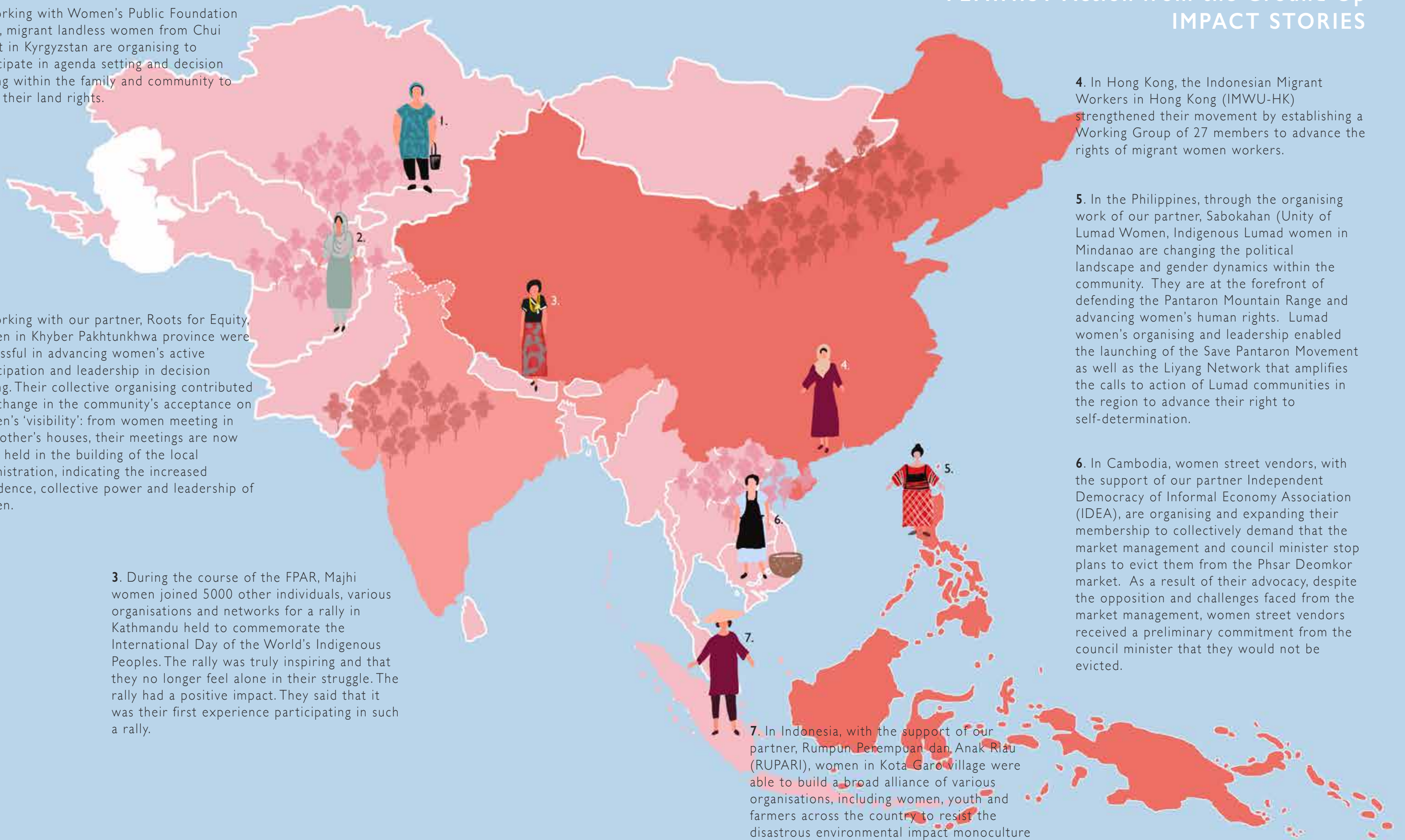
**3.** During the course of the FPAR, Majhi women joined 5000 other individuals, various organisations and networks for a rally in Kathmandu held to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The rally was truly inspiring and that they no longer feel alone in their struggle. The rally had a positive impact. They said that it was their first experience participating in such a rally.

**4.** In Hong Kong, the Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong (IMWU-HK) strengthened their movement by establishing a Working Group of 27 members to advance the rights of migrant women workers.

**5.** In the Philippines, through the organising work of our partner, Sabokahan (Unity of Lumad Women, Indigenous Lumad women in Mindanao are changing the political landscape and gender dynamics within the community. They are at the forefront of defending the Pantaron Mountain Range and advancing women's human rights. Lumad women's organising and leadership enabled the launching of the Save Pantaron Movement as well as the Liyang Network that amplifies the calls to action of Lumad communities in the region to advance their right to self-determination.

**6.** In Cambodia, women street vendors, with the support of our partner Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA), are organising and expanding their membership to collectively demand that the market management and council minister stop plans to evict them from the Phsar Deomkor market. As a result of their advocacy, despite the opposition and challenges faced from the market management, women street vendors received a preliminary commitment from the council minister that they would not be evicted.

**7.** In Indonesia, with the support of our partner, Rumpun Perempuan dan Anak Riau (RUPARI), women in Kota Garo village were able to build a broad alliance of various organisations, including women, youth and farmers across the country to resist the disastrous environmental impact monoculture caused by oil palm and acacia plantation corporations.







Indigenous Peoples Day in August 2019, attended by BOOM FPAR partners, including MAJHI WOMAN

## MAJHI WOMEN Resist Sunkoshi II Hydropower Project in Nepal

Hydropower projects have been touted as a clean energy source in several countries across the region. However, as evidenced by the experiences of many of our members and partners over the years, many such projects come with huge environmental and social costs, especially for marginalised Indigenous communities. One such project is the Sunkoshi II Hydropower project in Nepal, a pumped-up storage facility which is going to be built for the first time in the country.

This hydropower plant will potentially inundate parts of the central mid-hill region of Nepal, including Kunaury and Bhatauli villages, affecting the lives, livelihoods and traditional ways of life of the indigenous Majhi community, which revolve around the local rivers.

According to the Majhi communities, the preliminary Feasibility and Environmental Impact Assessment for the project was conducted in November 2018 by the Nepal Department of Electricity Development (DoED) without the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of Majhi people, in complete contravention of national and international laws and norms. According to recent media reports, the Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), which has been awarded to a Nepal-China joint venture, has been expedited and is expected to be finalised in July 2020. While the DoED claims that the ESIA is ongoing, local communities report that the area has recently been scoped and measured for the purpose of a hydropower project, but they were unaware of the details of the project.

The conduct of the Land FPAR of the BOOM programme has had a significant impact on the Majhi women of the affected areas to organise and resist the land and resource grabbing prompted by the hydropower project. With the support of our FPAR partner, the National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), the Majhi women gained an understanding of women's and Indigenous peoples' rights, which enabled them to analyse the hydropower project as 'a false solution of development' that severely impacts Indigenous communities, especially women.

During the course of the FPAR, Majhi women joined 5000 other individuals, various organisations and networks for a rally in Kathmandu held to commemorate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. According to Majhi women, the rally was truly inspiring and that they no longer feel alone in their struggle. They had never imagined that they could have so much support from other Indigenous organisations and networks not just in Nepal but also from many different countries.

The solidarity rally received extensive media coverage, which enabled their concerns to be amplified to a wide, global audience.

At a national consultation organised by the Women in Power (WiP) programme with women Members of Parliament in Kathmandu in December, Majhi women gave a compelling testimony on losing their culture, their way of life and their very identity because of the proposed project. A commitment was made by the MPs that the issue would be brought to the notice of the concerned government departments.

**The rally had a positive impact on them. They said that it was their first experience participating in such a rally. Before this, they had no idea about International World's Indigenous Peoples' Day. They had never witnessed such a huge crowd of indigenous peoples before. The first impression and thought came in their mind was that now they don't have to leave their village due to hydro power dam.**

**They will receive support from all indigenous peoples to stop dam construction project. They felt so proud to hold the banner made by themselves.**

*Bina Devi Rai, Mentor (NIWF, Nepal)*





## Supporting Grassroots Women's Agendas for Change

Since 2018, as a response to increasing authoritarianism and ill-health of democracies in the region, APWLD has focused on building grassroots women's political leadership. By supporting the women to build movements focussed on their own solutions to issues facing them, APWLD's work aims for policy change at multiple levels

In 2019 grassroots women and their communities created eight Womanifestos covering diverse issues and contexts across eight countries from three subregions. We worked with grassroots women in often extremely vulnerable contexts, such as Muslim and Dalit women in rural Uttar Pradesh, India; differently abled women from the Terai region of Nepal; homebased workers and transwomen in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan; ethnic minority women in Mon state, Myanmar; informal women workers' rights in the Philippines, nomadic women in Mongolia, and single women and ex-combatants in Sri Lanka. Through the

Womanifesto process, women mobilised and organised themselves, and created feminist agendas for change that challenge patriarchy and fundamentalisms, recognise militarism's harmful impact in weakening democracy, and connect their grassroots realities to issues of neoliberal globalisation's impacts.

In the Philippines, in time for the 2019 general election, informal women workers organised with the support of our partner, Kilusanng Manggagawang Kababaihan (Movement of Women Workers - KMK), produced a 'working women's policy agenda', which consolidated their campaign for better working conditions, just wages, security of tenure and an end to discrimination and gender-based violence in the workplace. Together with the Gabriela Women's Party, they successfully pushed for the enactment of two labour laws – the Occupational Health and Safeties Act which criminalises unsafe working conditions, and the Extended Maternity Benefit Act, which increases maternity leave for all workers to 105 days.



## MUSLIM and DALIT WOMEN

### Advocate for Change

In rural Uttar Pradesh, through the processes of the Womanifesto training and with the support of our partner, Astitva, 500 Dalit and Muslim women organised themselves into groups with appointed rights defenders in each community in 10 villages in 2 blocks of Muzaffarnagar. Kavita, 32, herself a Dalit woman, works as the community organiser for Astitva. Her task to bring women together was not easy given the fundamentalist and patriarchal notions of women's place inside the home, as well as the acute time pressures faced by the women owing to their double burdens of agricultural labour and care work. Kavita's primary strategy was to establish trust with all family members by convincing mostly male family members to allow the women to go outside their homes to attend meetings. She also adopted innovative means to convince the women, including creating timetables scheduling all the tasks of the women so they could spare one hour per week.

Not only were the women able to identify the structural causes underlying the inequality and discrimination they faced, they also proposed the changes they wanted to see in their communities, villages and even, families. In one village, women identified the sexual harassment that girls often experience on their long walks to school as one of the reasons for the high rate of school dropouts among girls as well as their early marriages. As an act of resistance, women in the village rallied together, often under the cover of night, to teach girls and women in the community to ride bicycles to solve the issue of mobility. In another village, the women after learning their entitlements under government policies on health, volunteered to visit the local Primary Health Centre to gauge the availability of services.

Through a process of collective reflection on their lived realities, the women produced a Womanifesto that demanded land reallocations to women, better health care, mobility and living wages to end poverty. There has also been a

change in family decision making process where the women freely give their opinions. The participants ensure that they also attend the Panchayat (elected village councils) meetings. Through the Womanifesto journey, they have been able to see how structural violence affects them and they have been speaking out against issues such as domestic violence, restricted mobility, freedom to choose their partners, practice of early marriage and dowry etc. The women have visited various local authorities with their Womanifesto to demand change. Important among these is their visit to the Labour Commission to ask for work under the rural employment guarantee scheme. As a result of this advocacy effort, 120 women were registered under the scheme guaranteeing rural employment for 100 days.

When Ombeeri from the village of Abdalpur was initially briefed about Womanifesto's envisaged goals, objectives, Ombeeri became deeply interested in the program & actively participated in the program. She helped Community Organiser Kavita to reach out to more women in her village. Ombeeri has mobilised community women & organised Nari-Adalat (Informal women's court) at block Purkazi office. After due consultation with all women, the 9th of every month has been selected as the date for Nari-Adalat, where women bring their cases to discuss with Astitva's experienced legal team. Along with the team, local police personnel and Protection Officers are invited so that women can openly put forward their issues/cases.

**I have conducted many training over the years, but never have I seen so much change come, not just in the community, but in me, myself. Today, I can lead, I have participated in radio programmes, spoken in front of the District Magistrate and hundreds of men.**

*Kavita, Dalit woman community organiser, ASTITVA, Uttar Pradesh*



*Women in rural Muzaffarnagar draw their feminist journey stories in the form of a mandala*



*32 year old Kavita helped build a powerful Dalit and Muslim women's collective*





## Supporting the Mobilisation of Women with Disabilities in Nepal

Mobilising groups and enabling them to conduct evidence-based advocacy are key components of our work with communities, and this was sometimes carried out in extremely difficult circumstances. This is exemplified by the work with our partner Blind Women's Association, Nepal (BWAN). In the Terai region of Nepal which has the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) in the country, BWAN worked with WWDs of the marginalised Madhesi community from three districts of the region - Bara, Mahottari and Rautahat. The women were from different social backgrounds, of different ages, with severe disabilities and were dispersed across the region. They faced multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and prejudice and a lack of access to resources and inaction from the state. Moreover, many of them lived in social isolation. For the community

**A lot of the women had never been outside their own homes. I had to go to each household and convince the parents and we also had to provide stay for parents for the first night in the meeting. The women themselves were also discomfited. One of the women, who had never before been outside her house just cried during the first day. It was only after I kept personally interacting with her that she opened up about the issues she faced.**

Anju Dhital, community organiser, BWAN

organiser from BWAN, Anju Dhital, herself a visually challenged young Madhesi woman, and the first woman with a disability from her village to complete university, the challenges of mobilising differently abled women were immense.

Through the Womanifesto processes however, in each of the three districts, BWAN not only managed to organise 55 WWDs, there are now ten WWD community leaders in the three districts. Collectively they produced a Womanifesto asserting their rights to education and employment and demanding full participation in public life and an end to discrimination, which they use to engage with local authorities. Along with Anju Dhital, five WWDs also travelled to Kathmandu – one of them leaving her village for the first time – to present their Womanifesto to Members of Parliament in December 2019, from whom they were able to extract promises to table WWDs' demands in the Parliamentary Committee for Women's Rights.

The processes of the Womanifesto were deeply transformative for the WWDs. Anju reflects on her own journey through the Womanifesto process,

*As [an] activist, my values, perspectives, and knowledge have been influenced by the Womanifesto because I had to motivate the women with disabilities to speak up about what they felt in the community, what they wanted to see changed in their life... Along with hurdles and challenges, I have learnt the meaning of passion and perseverance for the community organising or for achieving rights and changes in society.*



## Advancing Feminist Development Justice in the Region



FDJ Programme partner Climate Watch Thailand holds a community meeting

Since 2016, APWLD worked with national and grassroots women's organisations from across Asia and the Pacific to carry out systematic and critical monitoring, review and follow up of their government's implementation of the SDGs, while also advancing and advocating for Development Justice. In 2019, through the participatory processes of the SDGs Monitoring Training, along with eight partners in the eight countries, we were able to give genuine meaning to localising the SDGs. Employing FPAR-derived principles with our partner organisations, we were able to strengthen capacities of grassroots women's groups, support them to create and sustain local feminist movements, collect and document evidence of rights' violations, and produce resources to demand governments' commitment to SDGs, and push for Development Justice at the local, national, regional and international levels.

In Aceh, Indonesia, our partner, Forum Komunikasi Masyarakat – Berkebutuhan Khusus Aceh (FKM BKA YWU) together with WWDs and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) formed advocacy groups that succeeded in pushing the government to issue several regional policies and regulations to address the rights of WWDs and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the region – on the inclusion of WWDs in the Council Action Plan for Women, on decent work in Banda Aceh, on disaster risk reduction for PWDs in Aceh Besar, and on disabled friendly

buildings in Banda Aceh.

In the Philippines, our partner Centre for Women's Resources created participatory tools for community verification of the government's data on SDGs. The monitoring sheet on state perpetrated violence that they prepared compelled the Philippine National Police to explain the cases to the public through the media. The findings of their participatory research also enabled them to push the agenda on Development Justice with legislators/policymakers and local government officials.

In Southern Thailand, with the support of our partner Climate Watch Thailand, local women in Pattani were able to build their capacities and deepen their understanding of the effects of the proposed coal power plant in the Gulf of Thailand and the climate crisis on their lives and livelihoods. This propelled them to come together to form a local women's movement for climate justice, the 'Deep South Pattani Women Watching Climate', to resist the proposed coal power plant. The long and powerful struggles of several peoples' movements, including the Deep South Pattani Women Watching Climate, led to the suspension of the proposed coal plant. However, the Thai Government is now shifting to gas as an alternative, and women's movements are determined to continue their struggle and realise energy democracy that puts people and the planet at the centre.



Community meeting in the Philippines





FDJ Partners from Mongolia

The CBO members at Bayandun soum (district) also met with a parliament member to submit their recommendations on target 8.3, which urges states to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro, small and medium sized enterprises including through access to financial services. Some of these recommendations were accepted by the government, such as the recommendation to build a community centre for creating workplaces and supporting local businesses.

Through the course of the project, a National CSOs Network on SDGs was formed with CHRD as the focal point to coordinate with the National

Voluntary National Review Secretariat at the National Development Agency, as the government had undertaken to present its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) this year. During the VNR reporting at the HLPF, along with other APWLD partners whose countries were also reporting this year, CHRD and MONFEMNET were instrumental in drafting the joint collective CSO statement.

Our Member from CHRD, Sarankhukhuu Sharavdorj, was also selected to speak on behalf of Mongolian civil societies during the Mongolia VNR re-reporting where she made an impact with the Mongolian Government who approached and congratulated her at the end of the session.

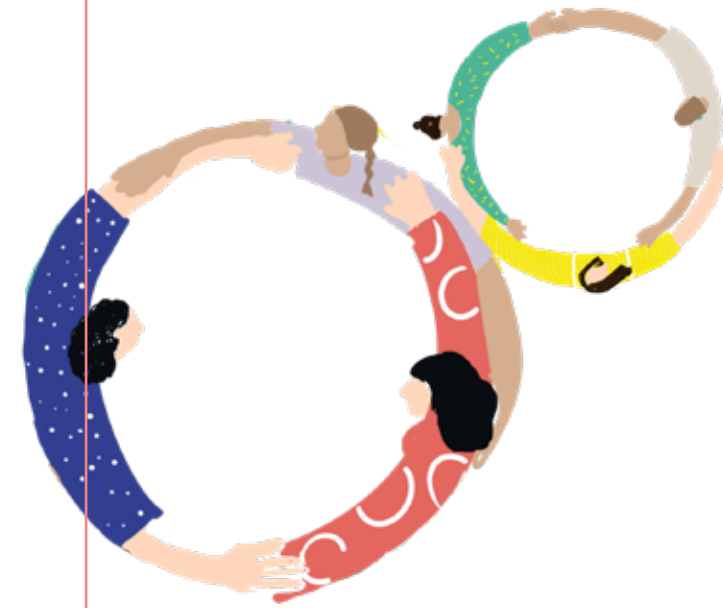
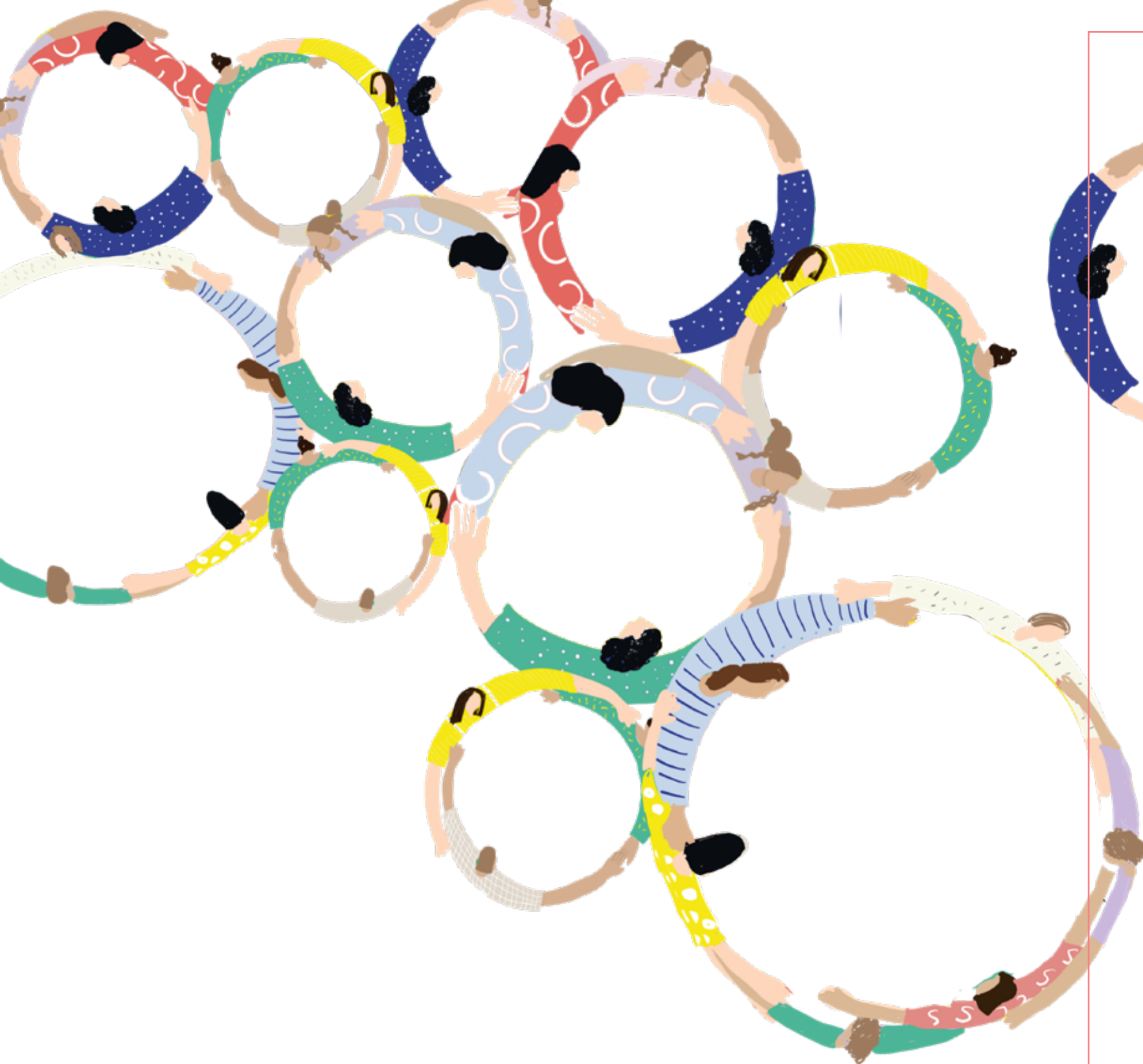
## Advancing Development Justice in Mongolia

For the period of 2018-2019, APWLD partnered with two organisations from Mongolia – National Network of Mongolian Women's NGOs (MONFEMNET) and Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) – to carry out monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mongolia with the active participation of women's groups and movements from the country.

Local communities in Mongolia, as elsewhere, were not familiar with the Sustainable Development Agenda or on the government's commitment to the SDGs. However, through the SDGs Monitoring programme, CHRD was able to build the capacities of more than 110 participants from 11 provinces of the country, which enabled local women to identify their own SDG targets on eradication of poverty and unemployment. It

also enabled them to form working groups with members from Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and state officials under the leadership of women in three rural sites, Khentii, Dornod provinces and Bayandun soum of Dornod province.

Together with CHRD, CBOs produced a total of 22 new resources on various issues centred on Development Justice and SDGs to ensure that CBOs and local citizens were able to monitor SDGs at the local and national levels in Mongolia. Many of the working group members (except some state officials) could neither type nor use a computer. Regardless of their capacity, the members of the working groups used what they learnt in their training to actively approach local governors, initiate dialogues with the participation of representatives from the state, including ministries.



# hold hands FIGHT BACK

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## Solidarity Actions in 2019

Extending support and building a culture of solidarity is vital to our work with members, partners and allies. Over the past year, faced with the increasing threats against WHRDs in the region, including several of our own members and allies, we have continued to extend our hands in solidarity through a range of feminist witnessing strategies and solidarity support actions such as signed solidarity statements, press releases, letters to governments, and directed advocacy with regional and international human rights bodies. We have also provided solidarity support that envisages a longer-term strategic support for our members and allies at risk, through trial observations and amicus curiae briefs.





Philippines human rights defenders attending the 43rd UN Human Rights Council in Geneva

## Strategic Support to WHRDs at risk in the Philippines

Over the last few years, WHRDs in the Philippines, including our members, have faced increasing atrocities under the Duterte Administration with false and trumped up charges, arbitrary arrests, increased surveillance and harassment and a piling number of extra-judicial killings. In the face of this, APWLD together with the international human rights community, has sought to shine a bright international spotlight on the worsening situation of WHRDs in the country through several solidarity actions. We have had some success over the last few years – especially with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2017 that saw a strong statement on the human rights situation led by Iceland, the hosting of the International Peoples' Tribunal on the Philippines in 2018 with the verdict submitted to Geneva delegations and the International Criminal Court at the Hague, and meetings with UN mandate holders in 2018, which led to a statement recognising the courage of Filipino human rights defenders. Based on these previous impacts, Philippines human rights groups including APWLD members developed an advocacy strategy around attending consecutive Human Rights Council sessions in 2019 and 2020 to continue to put pressure on the current government and demand accountability.

A key achievement of this sustained advocacy work was the adoption of the Iceland resolution by the Human Rights Council in 2019. The resolution mandates the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights to develop a report on the human rights situation in the Philippines and calls on the government to cease 'all acts of intimidation or retaliation'. APWLD's support and solidarity were deeply appreciated by the Philippines human rights community.

**We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and solidarity amidst the dire and worsening human rights situation in our country. For us, this adoption is a crucial and important step in attaining justice and accountability. We would like to express our utmost gratitude and appreciation for making time to hear the stories of the people on the ground stories that would not have found their way to the halls of the United Nations and the world without your willingness to listen and through your acts of solidarity. Having you in our corner and standing by us in our time of need is a welcome relief and an assurance that we are not alone, and that we have kindred spirits that know no boundaries.**

*Message from Cristina Palabay on behalf of the Philippines Universal Periodic Review Watch*





## Solidarity with BAN SAPWAI WOMAN Land and Human Rights Defenders in Thailand

Another focus of our urgent response this year has been on the ongoing and escalated support for the Ban Sapwai Women Land and Human Rights Defenders (LHRDs). In support of the LHRDs who continue to resist the unjust 'forest reclamation policies' of the Thai government, APWLD, along with the Indigenous Women's Network of Thailand (IWNT), participated in trial observations to bear witness and show solidarity with the women. We also organised a Solidarity Week of Action for Ban Sapwai Women Land and Human Rights Defenders between 26 June – 3 July 2019 to express our concerns on the Appeals Court decisions, which generated public awareness

and media coverage in over 10 news outlets in Thailand and the region. Given that both the trial court and the appeals court have given verdicts against the 14 LHRDs, submitting an Amicus Curiae to the Supreme Court has now been identified as one of the major strategies to support the 14 LHRDs. Work on the Amicus Curiae Submissions is in progress with the APWLD Urgent Response team coordinating efforts closely with Protection International (PI).



WHRDs from southern peasant federation of Thailand joined hands with APWLD and PI submitting the amicus curiae to the supreme court of Thailand in favor of the prosecuted LHRDs from Ban Sapwai Community



## Striking for CLIMATE JUSTICE

This year saw a shift in gear in climate action around the world with several Climate Strikes led and inspired by students and young people, urging action against climate change. The Global Climate Strike, a series of international strikes and protests between 20–27 September organised around the United Nations Climate Summit, saw the largest climate mobilisation in the world with millions of people raising their voices for climate justice. As part of the Fridays for Future initiative, we worked with young Thai activists to organise a Climate Strike in Chiang Mai in September 2019. The strike saw a large turnout by the public, and allies and partners of APWLD, Earth Rights International (ERI), EMPOWER, Sangsan Anakot Yawachon, and Asia Indigenous Peoples Fact Forum (AIPP). This was the first climate strike that APWLD organised in Chiang Mai and it demonstrated how effective the strike was in raising awareness on climate justice as a feminist issue which was picked up by local media.

APWLD participated and represented climate impacts in the Pacific for the Climate Strike organised by Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) and APEC Climate Centre (APCC) during the Asia Pacific Climate Week in Bangkok. We also joined the hundreds of thousands that marched for climate justice during the COP25 in Madrid in December. The mobilisation of allies and partners during these strikes has strengthened our solidarity for the common struggle against climate injustice and is proving to be one of the most effective tools to shape a change in government policies and attitude towards the climate crisis.



As a regional partner of the Global Climate Strike, APWLD worked with young local climate activists to organise a Climate Strike in Chiang Mai on Friday, September 27, 2019



## WOMAN'S GLOBAL STRIKE

When Women Stop, The World Stops



APWLD FPAR partners at the Indigenous Peoples Day rally in Nepal to support Majhi women and Women's Global Strike campaign

In 2019, we continued to publicise and mobilise support for the Women's Global Strike planned for 8 March 2020 to harness the power of movements to regain people's sovereignty, and advance women's human rights. Recognising the roots of International Women's Day in women's solidarity strike actions throughout history, the strike action, which we launched on Labour Day this year, calls on feminists and allies to withdraw their labour on the day to show the world that when women stop, the world stops.

We also launched the campaign website and social media channels - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram this year. The focus of our publicity on the campaign has been to make it more inclusive and far reaching – we made our website available in five languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian), and we produced flyers in six languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian Nepali and Arabic). The Women's Global Strike logo and stop sign were also translated and designed in 21 languages. The artwork was done by our WHRD lawyer allies, who drew on the image of our founder-member Irene

**The Women's Global Strike campaign connected with and found expression all across the world, within the Ground Level People's Forum rally in New York, to the Indigenous Peoples' Day demonstration in Nepal, to the climate strikes in New York in March, in Thailand in September, and in Spain in December. Our slogan resonated with activists across generations .**



Women's Rights Defenders in New York calling for Women's Global Strike  
Photo Credit: Bokeh





Climate protests - UN COP25, Madrid  
Photo Credit :Annabelle @WECF

Fernandez in a wheelchair to both pay tribute to her work, and to have a more inclusive representation of our politics. Our press release for the launch of the campaign was issued in six languages (English, Bahasa Indonesia, Russian, Tamil and Tagalog).

In support of the strike action, we published and produced exciting new resources – 'Dangerous Unselfishness – Learning from Strike History' and a webinar on 'Women's Strikes and the Power of Solidarity', both of which focused on the historical effectiveness of strikes for harnessing the power of movements to affect change. The strike action was covered widely in the media. We also linked the campaign with other pivotal and visible events to harness the power of cross-movement solidarity including the Ground Level People's Forum in July 2019 in New York, the Indigenous Peoples' Day march in August 2019 in Nepal, the Global Climate Strike as part of the Fridays for Future initiative in September 2019 in Chiang Mai and the Climate Protests at COP25 in December 2019, Spain.

The campaign was shared widely by APWLD members and partners, leading to 87 organisational endorsements from 36 countries, including 16 endorsements from global organisations. The Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP) shared the campaign in their Indigenous women's exchange with nine countries, committing to join the strike in their own languages. Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) integrated the campaign into the UNECE CSO Forum for Beijing + 25, including the strike action in their rally in Geneva with over 400 feminists. AWID has promoted the campaign to their Spanish speaking members after we launched the Spanish version of the website.

The Women's Global Strike is a testament to our belief in the power of the feminist organising, solidarity and peoples' movements, that when we come together, we can effect structural change.



Our efforts to democratise regional - international intergovernmental processes continued this year with the strengthening of the Ground Level Peoples' Forum, and the Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development where we were able to include more grassroots organisations, as well as deepen solidarities with feminist allies in the region and across the world. In preparation for the Beijing+25 global and regional processes, we also initiated and convened several feminist spaces, including as co-chair of the Asia Pacific Beijing+25 CSO Forum which enabled us to engage a large group of women's organisations.

## CREATING DEMOCRATIC **F E M I N I S T** SPACES TO ADVANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

APWLD is known for leading feminist alternative, democratic peoples' spaces, particularly in the context of the crisis in multilateralism and increasing challenges to meaningful civil society participation and leadership in policy spaces. One of the key mechanisms through which we ensure that civil society influences intergovernmental processes in the region and globally is the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCSEM), which was launched by APWLD and other civil society organisations in the region in 2014. Initiated, owned and driven by CSOs, APRCEM plays a key role in coordinating regional input and ensuring a strong regional voice on sustainable development in the region, particularly at the regional Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) and the global High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).







Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development, March 24-26, 2019, Bangkok, Thailand



Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development, March 24-26, 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

## Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development

With support from UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP), in 2014, APWLD and APRCEM began convening the Asia Pacific CSO Forum on Sustainable Development or the Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD). The APPFSD offers a space for civil society to convene, collaborate and strategise interventions to the APFSD and subsequent SDG processes, as well as those organised by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). This year's APPFSD held from 24th-26th March in Bangkok was organised by APRCEM, the Asia-Pacific Research Network and the Thailand HLPF Alliance, in collaboration with UNESCAP on the theme of 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'.

Through APWLD's position as co-chair of APRCEM, we were able to push for an increased number of participants at the APPFSD this year, with a total of 260 civil society organisations and human rights defenders participating at the event, a much higher number than the 220 that participated in 2018. The consultations at the APPFSD were reflected in APRCEM's key demands for sustainable development for the Asia Pacific region, through its position paper on 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. The position paper contains APWLD positions on Development Justice, systemic barriers to achieving sustainable development, Decent Work and living wage, just and equitable transitions, energy democracy, challenging ISDS and corporate capture, as well as the use of FPAR as community-driven data for accountability of the SDGs. The position paper was posted in the official UN Sustainable Development website and integrated as one of the official documents for the HLPF 2019.



Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development, March 24-26, 2019, Bangkok, Thailand





A participant at the Peoples March on the sidelines of Ground Level Peoples Forum in New York  
Photo Credit: WECF International



Feminist Development Justice Programme' to 'Feminist Development Justice Movement'

## Ground Level Peoples' Forum

Since 2017, in collaboration with regional and global allies, APWLD has led on the organisation of the Ground Level People's Forum (GLPF) as a counter-space to the ineffective and weak High Level Political Forum. In July, on the occasion of the HLPF, APWLD cohosted the GLPF with the Women's Major Group, APRCEM and several other international organisations. Our partners and 170 people from different movements – including trade unions, Indigenous peoples, feminists, Dalits, environmental defenders – attended the GLPF and rallied together to the UN Head Quarter in New York City. At the GLPF, activists came together to discuss the system change that is required for sustainable development to happen. Through this process, we have built stronger connections and networks with local progressive movements (BAYAN-USA, Gabriela USA, etc) as well as between movements working for Development Justice.





FROM NY to the GLOBAL SOUTH  
RISE UP, FIST UP for SYSTEM CHANGE!

-APWLD - IWA - IMA - GABRIELA USA - WMG - APRCEM - BAYAN USA - ESCR NET - AA

IF WOMEN STOP THE WORLD STOPS

HANDS OFF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

ISTS, RISTS!

HANDS OFF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

A march of the Ground Level People's Forum in New York, US in July 2019



Feminists rise up in protest at the end of the Asia Pacific Beijing + 25 review meeting, November 2019; Photo Credit: UN ESCAP

## Democratising the BEIJING+25 Review Process

25 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), the progress towards the Beijing commitments has not only been stagnant and uneven, but women in Asia and the Pacific also experience new and interconnected inequalities and marginalisation such as climate and migration crisis. Building on from our organising experience five years ago, APWLD once again took the lead in the regional and global processes for the fifth 5-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+25) to be conducted at the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2020.

We initiated and convened several feminist spaces so that diverse groups of grassroots women from across the region could inform and contribute to the regional submission with

their shared priorities and evidence based recommendations to hold governments accountable regarding the implementation of BPfA, CEDAW, Sustainable Development Goals and beyond. We initiated national civil society consultations in Bangladesh, Nepal, and South Korea, as well as sub-regional consultations in Central Asia and East Asia. We also made a concerted effort to include the voices of WWDs and migrant workers in our regional submission.

As the Chair of the Asia Pacific CSO Steering Committee, we worked with UN Women and UNESCAP to convene a three-day Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Forum and a two day Young Feminist Forum as preparatory spaces for women's rights groups to shape the Beijing+25 discussions and recommendations. The Forum gathered more than 300 participants

with representation from 35 countries and territories, with balance from the subregions of Asia and the Pacific. The CSO Forum made particular efforts to improve accessibility for women with disabilities with live captioning services as well as sign language interpretation with the support of Mobility International USA.

The Steering Committee also coordinated inputs to the Ministerial outcome document and civil society interventions during the intergovernmental meeting, which proved difficult on several issues, such as recognition of the climate crisis. Although the technical meeting for the ministerial outcome document in September allowed for CSO interventions per thematic cluster, which was an improvement from the processes for the Beijing+20 process, the intergovernmental meeting, unlike five years ago, did not allow a space for civil society to engage in the negotiation process of the outcome document. The Ministerial Conference also saw unprecedented political power exercised by the US delegate as they called for a vote on the Ministerial outcome document after consensus had been reached – as a move to show their opposition to sexual and reproductive health and rights.



GG\_Saku at Beijing+25  
Photo Credit: Yasmin

**As negotiations modalities changed and tensed up, APWLD advocated with journalists present at UN including our media fellows to ensure our members and constituency positions were heard and highlighted in the media at the regional process. We also amplified members, partners and allies' positions on social media using videos and live stream of CSO statements and positions to support our larger advocacy goals.**

Yet, even in the midst of this regression and hostility to civil society, it was evident how important vibrant and visible movements are to drive change. In an extraordinary expression of solidarity, civil society voices came together at the end of the meeting to protest with the slogan of the Women's Global Strike campaign, 'If women stop, the world stops.'

APWLD was able to influence language in the AsiaPacific Declaration adopted at the conference on recognising structural barriers (including trade) that prevent gender equality and women's human rights, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, women and migration, public services, as well as protecting an important space for regional civil society engagement mechanism (RCEM).

**We produced the Beijing+25 Briefer as a resource to inform regional and national consultations on Beijing+25 processes in four different languages (Bangla, Russian, Tagalog and Thai).**





Women's Global Strike Campaign at Beijing+25  
Photo Credit Yasmin





# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

# LABOUR PROGRAMME

Labour:WOMEN  
o r g a n i s i n g  
**WORKERS**

## Labour Programme: Women Organising Workers (WoW)

Our work on organising and mobilising marginalised women workers in a range of precarious contexts across the region continued apace this year as we concluded our first ever Labour FPAR with 11 women's rights organisations, unions and informal working groups from nine countries in the region. We also completed our fifth Trade Union Training – Women Leading, Women Organising Training (WLWO), which strengthened the capacities of women trade unionists on organising, using campaign tools such as media advocacy and workplace mapping. Three of our labour FPAR partners had an opportunity to attend the Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD) to share their issues as documented through FPAR process with other unions and labour rights advocates, and collectively strategise for policy recommendations and actions.





## Strengthening Grassroots Organising, Resisting Poor Working Conditions

Several of our partners were able to organise significant numbers of women workers, many of whom were able to play more active roles in unions and make demands for their rights as workers with their employers, governments and relevant departments. Despite the persistent difficulties of organising women who often face heavy surveillance and are fearful of reprisals from employers, our partners in India, Nething and All Assam Adivasi Women's Association (AAWAA), facilitated the formation of 21 committees with approximately 500 members in different hamlets of the Northeast. These groups come together every month to discuss their issues, plan and strategise actions for community development and for decent work with relevant government authorities.

In Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, the work of Palangkaraya Ecological and Human Rights Studies (PROGRESS) with women workers in a palm oil plantation equipped 21 women workers in the plantation with the capacity to document labour rights violations in their worksites. A couple of the women worker representatives became confident enough to recruit new members, join the union for strike action, and participate in mediation and welfare meetings in the palm oil plantation to raise their issues with the management, thus sowing the seeds for the strengthening a culture of accountability at the palm oil plantation.

**“I found the FPAR to be the most powerful tool to rethink, analyze deeply and make strategies to achieve our goal. The FPAR helped me to research and facilitate the women workers in a participatory manner. Giving collective voice to their issues is not an easy task but the process and my engagement with the women created a strong bond and trust. The women felt more comfortable to share with the tools used. The process led them to reason out “why, how and what” which itself I think is a big change within themselves and making their own strategies to solve their problems.”**

*Sangeeta Tete, young women researcher  
of AAWAA-India*



NUOT and CWUA organised a national workshop for hospital workers in Thailand. It was the first time for the hospital cleaners to participate in a national meeting with other hospital workers.

## Building an Inclusive Alliance of HOSPITAL WORKERS in Thailand

Through a joint collaboration on the Labour FPAR, two of our partners in Thailand, the Chemical Workers Union Alliance (CWUA) and the Nurse Union of Thailand (NUOT), formed an alliance with other networks of hospital workers in Thailand – the Contract Nurse Network (CNN), Confederation of Government Employees, and Women Workers Unity Group (WWUG). An alliance between these organisations was facilitated through a national workshop in March 2019 by NUOT, with CWUA and the support of Labour FPAR.

For the first time, women hospital cleaners participated in this meeting, with other hospital workers including nurses, dieticians, kitchen workers, laundry workers, patient care assistants and ambulance drivers. Women cleaners raised several issues at the meeting such as a lack of paid leaves, health and safety concerns, and the lack of job security of many of them, owing to their 'outsourced' status, which in turn increases their vulnerability and prevents them from speaking out and reporting human rights and labour rights' violations. With the findings of labour rights violations experienced by women hospital cleaners, the alliance intends to propose an action plan to build capacities of cleaners on understanding labour rights, set up advocacy meetings with hospital management and conduct campaigns for a living wage, decent working conditions and social security and national compensation fund coverage for all hospital workers.





5th Asia Pacific "Women Leading, Women Organising (WLWO)" training in Penang, Malaysia from 14-16 December 2019.

## Enriching Resources on Women's Work and Women's Organising

In our continuing efforts to produce grounded research that illuminate and amplify the experiences of women workers, the programme produced several important resource materials.

Eight FPAR briefers from eight countries highlight the conditions of women workers in various precarious contexts, including call centres in the Philippines, palm oil plantations in Indonesia, and garment industries in Bangladesh. The briefers also illustrate how women workers have organised to respond to these conditions and claim their rights as workers.

The publication 'Dangerous Unselfishness – Learning from Strike History' is a collection of rich resources on 40 politically significant strikes over the years in various parts of the world, including women workers organising for change in employment relations and workers' rights. The publication shares lessons that peoples' movements can take for future political actions by harnessing the power of strike action. It is an impactful resource to accompany the Women's Global Strike campaign as well as for the training of trainers of the programme's Women Leading, Women Organising Training for women workers and union leaders.

To amplify the concerns of women workers in the region and to support our work on the upcoming Women's Global Strike, an article on the Women's Global Strike was published in Strategic Review Journal; and an article on Women's Rights and Decent Work was published in Open Democracy as a part of the Advancing Gender Just Economies series with ActionAid, FEMNET, Womankind Worldwide and Fight Inequality Alliance.



# MIGRATION PROGRAMME

UNITED  
and act for  
HUMAN RIGHTS

## Migration Programme: Migrants United and Act for Human Rights (MUAH)

The Migration programme, which became a standalone programme in 2018, has expanded its focus to cover the wide range of realities faced by 'women in migration' – for instance, on discriminatory policies that stipulate infantilising age bars for women, the gender-based violence they experience en route to their destination countries, and the indebtedness that women migrants experience due to migration. The overall aim of the Migration programme is to ensure that women migrants enjoy substantive equality and are able to make informed choices about migration. Towards this end, APWLD launched the very first FPAR on migration, which has taken several initial steps to build and strengthen existing women's groups and movements working on women's migration from local to global levels.





## Migration Programme: United and Act for Human Rights (MUAH)

1. Public Fund for Support of Youth and Women “Danko”, Kyrgyzstan: Examine the Kyrgyz women migrants situation in facing the discrimination and stigmatisation regarding their status as migrant workers. Partners support the initiative of the women migrant workers movement to develop advocacy plans and opportunities for policy change on the rights of Kyrgyz women migrants.

2. Aaprabasi Mahila Kamdar Samuha (AMKAS), Nepal: Strengthen the demand of returnee women migrant workers to lift the ban policy of women migrant workers to migrate in search of work and demand for their rights to redress.

3. National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD), Nepal: Raise critical awareness of internal migrant domestic workers regarding their fundamental rights to voice demands regarding the protection and recognition of domestic work as work. Create a collective initiative among groups of domestic workers to bring them into social protection schemes, ensure a living wage and create synergic effect to improve the migrant domestic workers' rights.

4. Aastha Parivaar (AP), India: Access to social protection and health services for migrant female sex workers, both internal and cross border migrants.

5. Indonesian Migrant Workers Union in Hong Kong (IMWU-HK), Hong Kong: Combating illegal collection of agency fees and overcharging among Indonesian women migrant workers in Hong Kong and access to justice for the victims and families.

6. Tenaga Wanita's Force, Malaysia: Develop peer leaders cum community paralegals among migrant women workers and continue building movements of domestic migrant workers to demand legislation of the domestic workers rights protection in Malaysia.

7. Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers Families - Keluarga Besar Buruh Migran Indonesia (KABAR BUMI), Indonesia: Empower returnee migrant workers and their families through organising to combat the illegal act of confiscation of documents by recruitment agencies.



I learned the daily activity clock, body mapping, data collection, and analysis, FGD, and other methods that we can use for the FPAR in our community to build and develop the movement that already going on.

*Erwiana Sulistyaningsih, young women researcher of IMWU-Hong Kong*



*FPAR community consultation done by Kabar Bumi, Indonesia*

## Strengthening Migrant Women's Movements

In 2019, we began work with seven partner organisations from six countries to build their capacity to document, organise and collectively advocate for the rights of women migrants and their communities.

Mobilising migrant women workers poses a significant challenge, given their precarious living conditions, their impossibly long working hours, and the threats they receive from their employers and agents. Even so, our partners have already begun the work of mobilising migrant women by strengthening their movement architecture, building the capacities of migrant women in their respective locations, and enabling them to amplify their issues through organising and advocacy efforts.

In Hong Kong, our member IMWU-HK through their FPAR work was able to establish a Working Group of 27 members, composed of 12 dedicated officers and active members. IMWU

conducted a capacity building training for this Working Group on the issues of overcharging, and the skills of public speaking and organising small-scale activities. The team organises weekly public organising activities aimed at increasing the awareness of Indonesian women migrant workers on the illegality of overcharging and of their rights as migrant workers in Hong Kong. A step-by-step guideline was developed for the use of women migrants to handle overcharging cases, from writing the chronology of a case to submission of complaints to relevant government authorities.

In Nepal, a two-day preconsultation meeting conducted by AMKAS with 19 returnee women migrants in Dharan, Sunsari succeeded in encouraging the participants to raise women migrants' voices about their concerns on the freedom of movement to the local media and to local leaders.





Migration FPAR partner in Hong Kong organised help desk for migrant workers by applying FPAR principles



FPAR exercise with domestic workers in Nepal

## Grassroots Led Advocacy on the Rights of MIGRANT WOMEN

Along with our members and partners, we also succeeded in influencing several other international and regional advocacy spaces by amplifying the voices and demands of migrant women. At the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, Sringatin an Indonesian migrant worker in Hong Kong highlighted the need to include migrant voices in all migration related policies and the push for decent work for all. A key component of our regional advocacy this year was through collaborative work with the Grounding the Global programme on the Beijing+25 Regional Review process. Through focus group discussions with the FPAR partners, and an intervention made by Dolores Balladares Pelaez at the Beijing +25 Regional CSO Forum, one of the focal points of the MUAH Programme Organising Committee, we were able to influence the CSO Forum's outcome document amplifying the voices and demands of women migrants, which is one of the pressing issues in the region.

As part of our advocacy efforts at the international level to make visible the conditions of migrant women workers of the region, we made a submission to the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. This submission drew on the contributions of our members, KABAR BUMI in Indonesia, Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) and IMWU in Hong Kong, to flesh out the issues of indebtedness of migrant women. The submission delivered an overview and analysis of the context of women migration in Asia and the Pacific region, particularly on how some practices of recruitment agencies put migrants and their family members into debt bondage and slavery like working conditions. Our submission informed the Independent Expert's report on 'private debt and human rights' to the Human Rights Council and was uploaded onto the mandate holder's website incorporating recommendations in our submission.



# BREAKING out of MARGINALISATION

## Breaking Out of Marginalisation (BOOM)

The aim of the BOOM programme is to build and strengthen rural, Indigenous, migrant and urban poor women's movements to challenge exploitative development practices, neoliberal macroeconomic policies, militarism, fundamentalisms and patriarchy. In 2019, we continued our work with marginalised women across the region with a specific focus on their rights to land and productive resources. This was done primarily through sustaining the support for the conduct of the Land FPAR by our 12 partner organisations across the region, and the launch of FPARs in Central Asia, which enabled women's groups to form and strengthen collectives and alliances to resist gender norms, push for changes in laws and policies and claim their rights to land and resources.







1. KAZAKHSTAN: MOI DOM focuses its FPAR on working with women in Temirtau to assert their rights to adequate childcare allowances for both employed and unemployed women.

2. UZBEKISTAN- NIHOL's FPAR focuses on the efforts to capacitate women of Namuna village to document the impact of severely polluted Bozsu river.

MEHRZHON's FPAR seeks to mobilize unemployed women from rural areas in Yazavan district to advocate for their rights to decent work and adequate employment programmes.

3. TAJIKISTAN- Through FPAR, SADOQAT intends to empower women of Devashtich district to assert their rights for access and control over land. LIGA in its FPAR focuses on the mobilization of women from Rudaki and Vahdat districts to prevent early marriages and violence against women.

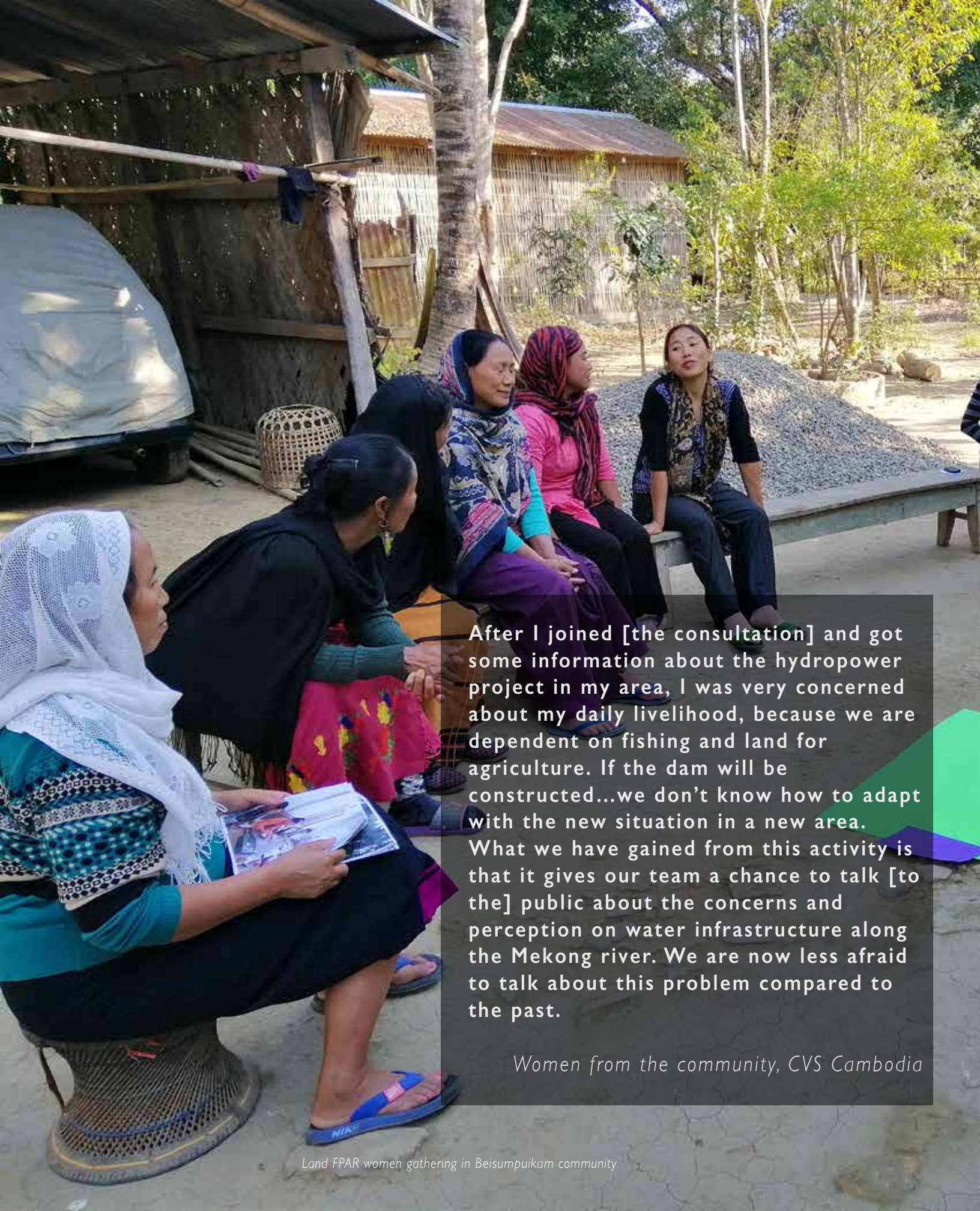
4. KYRGYZSTAN- THE WOMEN SUPPORT CENTRE works on the impact of migration on women and their FPAR focuses on protection of women migrants' rights, especially internal migrants rights to health and access to health services. NURZHOLBER in its FPAR focuses on empowering migrant women from Ak-Talaa and Naryn districts in Naryn Province to assert their rights to decent work and living wage through advocating for decent child allowances for mothers. POSITIVE TEENS FPAR aims to mobilize Nookat district women living with HIV to assert for their rights to be free from discrimination and stigma

The programme conducted Central Asia focused FPARs for the first time at APWLD. Through two trainings, we brought together eight organisations from four countries of the sub-region who are working on a range of issues such as access to natural resources, women's voice and bodily autonomy, and decent work and living wage. Although language posed a significant challenge, the training has been an important intervention to deepen our understanding and alliances with women's movements in Central Asia.

I am so glad to be part of the training of APWLD. In general, I used to work for gender equality, however from the training, I have got to know what is FPAR and how to do the research. Now it's time to use the gained knowledge and I am sure we can achieve a lot together with my community in order to destroy the stereotype/ stigma towards women in my country.

*Abakirova Nazira, Mentor, (Nurzholber, Kyrgyzstan)*





## Consciousness Raising to Speak Up and Claim Rights

Our capacity building work on women's rights to land and resources were complemented by smaller activities throughout the year including assistance with the organisations' research designs, methods, and analyses, and monitoring and evaluation visits. There are several instances where these efforts have meaningfully raised women's self-awareness and confidence and built their leadership in communities where there are barely any spaces for women to articulate and raise their concerns. The capacity building exercises have enabled grassroots women to question the structures and processes of inequality, understand their common demands, work together and collectively assert their rights for change within their families and their communities, and for several women, among local officials, media and the public as well.

The challenges that women face in raising their voices in the face of steadfast customary norms against women speaking up was emphasised by our partner, Sisterhood Network in Nagaland, India, who worked with indigenous Naga women to ensure women's land rights through customary laws. Despite these structural constraints, the Sisterhood Network reported that the FPAR training increased the confidence of the women to bring their issues forward. Beisumpuikam women from Nagaland also addressed a large gathering on women's land rights, which was covered in the Morung Express. In Pakistan's Pakhtunkhwa district, our partner Roots for Equity noted a change in attitude on the question of women's 'visibility' in the community. At the beginning of the FPAR process, women gathered in each other's houses, however, later meetings were held in the building of the local administration, indicating the increased confidence, collective power and leadership of women.

Apart from traditional norms on women's roles as well as on women's land ownership, the lack of women's awareness of their rights to land and resources have also proven a serious hindrance to women claiming their rights. In Kyrgyzstan, the migrant landless women from Chui oblast who were mobilised by our partner, Women's Public Foundation JIPAR, became aware of their rights to land, and the processes through which to access land through the State Land Redistribution Reserve Fund (SLRRF). Previously hindered by gendered stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes on women's rights to land, after the processes of FPAR, they participated in agenda setting processes at the local level,

In Bangladesh, Badabon Sangho reported that women landowner and fisherfolk in Rampal and Sundarban, whose lives were affected by private and public land investments, were able to build their knowledge on land ownership documentation, and were able to secure succession certificates for inherited lands and receive compensation from the Land Acquisition Department for acquired lands, that legitimise women's land rights.

In Cambodia, our partner Cambodian Volunteers for Society (CVS), reported that at least five young women from Boung Char and Kampong Cham communes developed confidence to talk about how the Sambo hydropower project that is due to be constructed in Kratie Province, would affect the lives and livelihoods in their communities. including in their families, and they were involved in data collection to better analyse their realities and to decide the future direction and course of action in their fight for land rights.

**After I joined [the consultation] and got some information about the hydropower project in my area, I was very concerned about my daily livelihood, because we are dependent on fishing and land for agriculture. If the dam will be constructed...we don't know how to adapt with the new situation in a new area. What we have gained from this activity is that it gives our team a chance to talk [to the] public about the concerns and perception on water infrastructure along the Mekong river. We are now less afraid to talk about this problem compared to the past.**

*Women from the community, CVS Cambodia*

Land FPAR women gathering in Beisumpuikam community





*Drawing by a Lumad girl describing military bombing in Lumad area*

**Taking charge is not always our role. We are mothers. But we are challenging that. Our whole movement is better because women are speaking up and making decisions... We have our own organisation.**

*Lumad woman leader, Sabokahan*

## Changing Norms in the Lumad Community in the Philippines

In the Philippines, the organising work of our partner on the BOOM programme, Sabokahan, which examined the impact of the Pulangi Hydroelectric Dam on Indigenous women in Mindanao, is changing the political landscape and dynamics within the community. Through the processes of the FPAR, Indigenous Lumad women in the Philippines were inspired to 'break their silence on political issues' affecting their home, the Pantaron Mountain Range, and to take action in defence of their rights as women. They launched the Save Pantaron Movement as well as the Liyang Network, a local to global advocacy network that amplifies the calls to action of Lumad (Indigenous) communities in the region. They also mobilised other women to join in campaigns and the mobilisations for International Days, as well as activities such as holding press conferences, educational discussions, and interviews with the media, thereby strengthening the architecture of their movement.

Men are no longer the only community members in positions of leadership and decision-making. If the women need to attend meetings, workshops, or mobilisations, they are no longer being scolded and shamed but are instead respected and supported by the whole community. Cultural 'policies' or tribal laws are also being actively challenged, including the 'buya' system of marrying off young girls, even as young as eight years of age, based on the decision of their parents. Instead of being married off as child brides, young girls are being enrolled in schools.

In an interview, a Lumad woman leader (now elected officer of Sabokahan), talked about how the role of women is changing in the community. By participating in workshops, discussions, and planning meetings, the women have expressed that they feel more confident in their abilities and that realising self-determination is possible for their communities. The FPAR process reaffirmed that the women native to the Pantaron Mountain Range are not only keepers of the land but are integral in pushing forward the frontlines of struggle for self-determination.

Sabokahan was also able to file a petition with two national government agencies, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), for the protection of the Pantaron Mountain Range, to which the DENR responded by ordering an investigation on the alleged mining, illegal logging, and land conversion activities in the area.





BOOM Land FPAR partner visit to Cambodia  
Volunteer for Society

## Producing Grounded Research, Expanding the Reach of our FPAR Methods and Tools

Participatory Action Research is at the heart of our FPAR methodology, and 10 of our Land FPAR partners produced preliminary reports in late 2019. These reports portray how women's organisations have utilised FPAR to build and strengthen their movements, recognise and pursue opportunities for advocacy, produce new knowledge, tools, and resources, and build the capacities of women in the communities in order to address the specific manifestations of GFMP in their local contexts.

**In Pakistan, our partner organisation, Roots for Equity, which is examining women's restricted access to farmlands in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, produced case studies on the lives of women agricultural workers, and research on the working conditions of women agricultural workers in various districts of Sindh (Kashmore, Khairpur, Ghotki) and Punjab (Multan, Sahiwal, Rahimyar Khan).**

**CVS produced two video documents related to the perception of young women on the hydropower project due to be constructed in Kratie province, especially those who are living in BoungChar and Kompong Cham communes. They also published a leaflet, photo collage, and slogan to gain support from CVS's partners, including regional alliances such as the ASEAN People's Forum (APF) and Save the Mekong River Coalition.**

**The researchers from the partner organisation Tavoyan Women's Union (TWU) in Myanmar, produced two videos narrating the story of the FPAR journey of Dawei indigenous women in Nebulal and the impact of Dawei Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) on their lives and livelihoods.**

The replication of FPAR methods and tools by various women's groups in 2019 further cemented FPAR as an effective movement building tool. In addition to the partners who had previously initiated their FPAR processes, APWLD member Aksi! used FPAR as their tool to build movements and conduct evidence based advocacy on the issue of energy projects and its impact on women's lives and livelihoods in several regions in Indonesia. Similarly, our partner in Rakhine district of Myanmar, the Community Care for Emergency Response and Rehabilitation (CCERR), which works with marginalised, rural, Indigenous women groups to defend their rights against development projects, was able to implement the FPAR method in other local areas independent of APWLD.

In support of the partners' FPAR journeys, two videos were produced and distributed: (a) a solidarity video for Margamekar Village in Indonesia on their struggle to reclaim their land using participatory digital storytelling; and (b) a video profile of the 12 Land FPAR partner organisations highlighting FPAR impacts on their personal, community, and organisational levels.



## Calling the State to Account: Engendering a Culture of Accountability

The FPAR process deepened a culture of accountability in all of our FPAR countries, as it emboldened women in the communities to engage with and make local and national structures of power accountable. Women used various methods to call structures of power to account – meetings with local leaders and authorities to gain information, voice their concerns and demand a seat at the decision-making table, public gatherings and media advocacy using tools such as FPAR reports and digital storytelling to share and broadcast their concerns, and legal petitions to make specific demands, amongst others.

In India, women in Beisumpuikam village in Nagaland engaged in dialogues with village councils, tribe/clan leaders and government bodies to assert women's land rights. In Indonesia, representatives of Bukit Berbunga women group from Kota Garo village engaged with concerned local officials and agencies such as PLN (National Electricity Corporation) on their demand for access to and availability of electricity, as well as with PT. RAKA on their demands for land rights. In Bangladesh, the partner organisation Badabon Sangho held consultations with local councils on the roles of local elected bodies in protecting women landowners' rights and created wider awareness on women's land rights within public and private land investment. They conducted series of meetings with the Department of Forest and obtained information on available state land and waterbodies for women fisher folk communities. In Thailand, the advocacy of Sangsan gained the support of the local government for women's participation and decision-making in development projects. FPAR has further helped Sangsan to access funding opportunities from the local government and a regional CSO.



## Regional and International Advocacy

At the regional and international levels, the programme engaged in a number of advocacy opportunities for the FPAR work of its partners in 2019. BOOM supported four APWLD members, FPAR partners and alumni at the APPFSD and APFSD 2019, where they were able to link their FPAR work to the larger movements and wider discussions on the SDGs. Sangsan Anakot Yawachon Development Project, together with APWLD, was instrumental in ensuring APWLD feminist languages in the LGBTQI constituency statement, while MAP Foundation shared their FPAR findings during the roundtable discussion on SDG 8.

Further, in partnership with the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), BOOM organised and facilitated a side event at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA+25) Review in Bangkok, Thailand, titled 'Building Feminist Movement, Achieving Beijing Accountability: Feminist Participatory Action Research'. The side event sought to promote and institutionalise FPAR as a practice among women and as a recognised process by governments and showcased good practices and success stories of using FPAR as a political tool to elevate women's voices and power and advance state accountability.





# CLIMATE JUSTICE

## Climate Justice (CJ)

Our work on Climate Justice has never been more urgent as the severe impacts of the climate crisis intensify every year. This is especially so for countries in Asia and the Pacific that are amongst the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, given the scale of resource dependent livelihoods, the pervasiveness of poverty, and the region's unique geographical features. The Climate Justice (CJ) programme focuses on building the capacities of the women's movement and co-creating resources that are based on the gendered effects of climate change as well as women's knowledge on climate resilience and climate justice. Our advocacy aims to ensure that the climate framework and commitments from local to global levels are informed by and respond to the realities of women from Asia and the Pacific to institute more gender just and ecologically principled solutions.

**One of the highlights of the programme this year was the climate strike action organised by APWLD in Chiang Mai, along with young climate change activists. It had a large turnout and demonstrated how effective the strike was in raising awareness on climate justice as a feminist issue.**

This Year we also launched our third Climate Justice FPAR on the theme of 'Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Futures Sub-Grants for NDC Monitoring and Equity', engaging seven partner organisations from Thailand, Indonasia, Pakistan, Kyrgystan, Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam in the region. The FPAR will contribute to critically evaluating and influencing country specific climate change ambitions.





Climate Justice FPAR 'Feminist Fossil Fuel Free  
Futures Sub-Grants for NDC Monitoring and Equity'

1. Center for Regional Science and Development, Kyrgyzstan: Investigate the impacts of climate change on women in Bokonbaevo village and identify whether climate change and environment laws and policies are gender responsive to address climate impacts.

2. Sindh Community Foundation, Pakistan :Impact of rising temperatures on poor and marginalised women cotton pickers in Sindh facing existing challenges of discrimination, inequality and exploitation.

3. Women Network for Energy and Environment, Nepal Women identify gender just climate solutions to build resilience and adapt to the climate challenges in their communities.

4. Forest and Farmers Foundation, Thailand Investigate the climate change impact of water shortage on women in the LNRT and identify gender gaps under adaptation in the NDCs which is not inclusive or prepared without meaningful consultation of women who are at the forefront of climate adaptation in communities.

5. Centre for Social Research and Development, Vietnam: Identify the gendered impact of A Vuong Hydropower dam on poor marginalised communities and build their capacity to mobilise and organise for greater climate protection and adaptation resources from the authorities

6. Kadamay - National Alliance of Filipino Poor, Philippines Document the impacts of climate induced severe flooding to urban poor women in a relocation site in Southville, San Isidro, Rodriguez Rizal to demand access to resources for adaptation from the People's Survival Fund

7. Kelompok Studi dan Pengembangan Prakarsa Masyarakat, Indonesia - Protect the customary rights and ownership of the forest for indigenous Onan Hrabangan peoples to revive traditional practices and knowledge of conserving the forest and demand the withdrawal of concession from their land and forest area from Toba Pulp Lestari.





Global Climate Strike in Chiang Mai

## Targeted Action to Engender Accountability on Climate Finance

APWLD has sought to engender accountability on climate finance by advocating for transparent, accountable and public sources of finance to specifically address the lack of acceptance of responsibility by developed countries for the loss and damage that communities in the Global South have suffered through climate change impacts. COP 24 in Poland last year failed to address issues such as human rights and gender, and loss and damage with the ambition and commitment they deserve under the Paris Agreement. As a response, in a letter to the UN Secretary General, H.E Antonio Guterres and Special Envoy for the Climate Summit 2019 Amb. Luis Alfonso de Alba, APWLD raised the demand for the inclusion of loss and damage in the action portfolios of the UN Climate Summit being hosted this September in New York. This was shared widely amongst our membership and allies. APWLD has also sought to collaboratively engender accountability of climate finance as part of the CSO Working Group of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which is the world's largest fund set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that channels climate finance

to developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to respond to climate change.

**APWLD's representation in the GCF CSO Working Group is key to ensuring transparent financial flows to proposed projects that meet environment, gender, human rights and social safeguards.**

This year, APWLD successfully worked with the CSO Working Group of the GCF to oppose the biomass projects proposed to be built in Fiji and Papua New Guinea. This influenced the GCF Board to reject the project as it did not meet environment and social safeguards. Later in the year, APWLD supported intervention on Carbon Sequestration through Climate Investment in Forests and Rangelands (CS-FOR) in Kyrgyz Republic proposed by FAO. APWLD flagged the corruption in the forest management institution as well as the viability of the funds being accessible to women in Kyrgyz. FAO agreed to deal with the issues of corruption and inclusion of small pastoral farmers to remove gender disparities.



Climate Protests, COP25, MADRID  
PC: Annabelle@WECF

## Democratising Decision-Making, Building Solidarities on Climate Justice

APWLD was invited as a collaborating partner to the organisers of the Peoples' Summit on 'Climate Rights and Human Survival', which was held in New York in September. Organised by several international organisations including Amnesty International, Greenpeace International and the UN Office of High Commission for Human Rights, the Peoples' Summit is the first global summit of its kind on climate justice and human rights which provided a space for diverse civil society and environmental defenders from across the world to convene and adopt a Declaration with key demands on climate justice. The Declaration was shared with the UN Climate Summit

For COP25 in Madrid, APWLD represented the Women and Gender Constituency and presented the intervention for the Pre-2030 Global Stocktake calling on countries to raise their ambitions and hold polluters responsible for loss and damage. Further, APWLD as part of the coordinating committee for The Women's Global Call for Climate Justice closely followed negotiations on the Gender Action Plan and

lobbied that the language of gender and human rights was not further weakened or removed from the implementation texts.

Another key outcome of our presence at COP25 was the significant media coverage of feminist movements at COP25 negotiations, the climate march, and the unprecedented attack on civil society for peaceful protests.

APWLD was part of a large and peaceful sit-in led by members of the Youth Climate Movement (YouNGO) demanding more urgent action on the climate emergency when civil society was manhandled by the UN Security.

APWLD spoke with the media urging action against the excessive use of force against peaceful protestors inside the UN complex, the increasing suppression of civic voice inside the COP space and the deliberate lack of action by the Global North on their climate commitments. Our media outreach during COP 25 led to news coverage in over 80 influential media outlets globally, including being quoted in The Guardian.





The Women and Gender Constituency, made up of 29 women's organisations, drew parallels between what they said was "excessive force and shoving" used by police to eject protesters from the vast conference halls on the outskirts of Madrid, and the risks and violence environmental defenders face. "We want to highlight that women environmental rights defenders continue to be on the front lines to save the planet, especially indigenous, black and those from the global south, and yet are harassed, threatened and persecuted by those in authority in their own countries and elsewhere.

*The Guardian, 12 December 2019*

*Climate activists and  
eco-feminists at sit-in during COP 25, Madrid  
Photo Credit: Kiara Worth/IISD*



# WOMEN i n t e r r o g a t i n g t r a d e   a n d CORPORATE HEGEMONY

## Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony (WITCH)

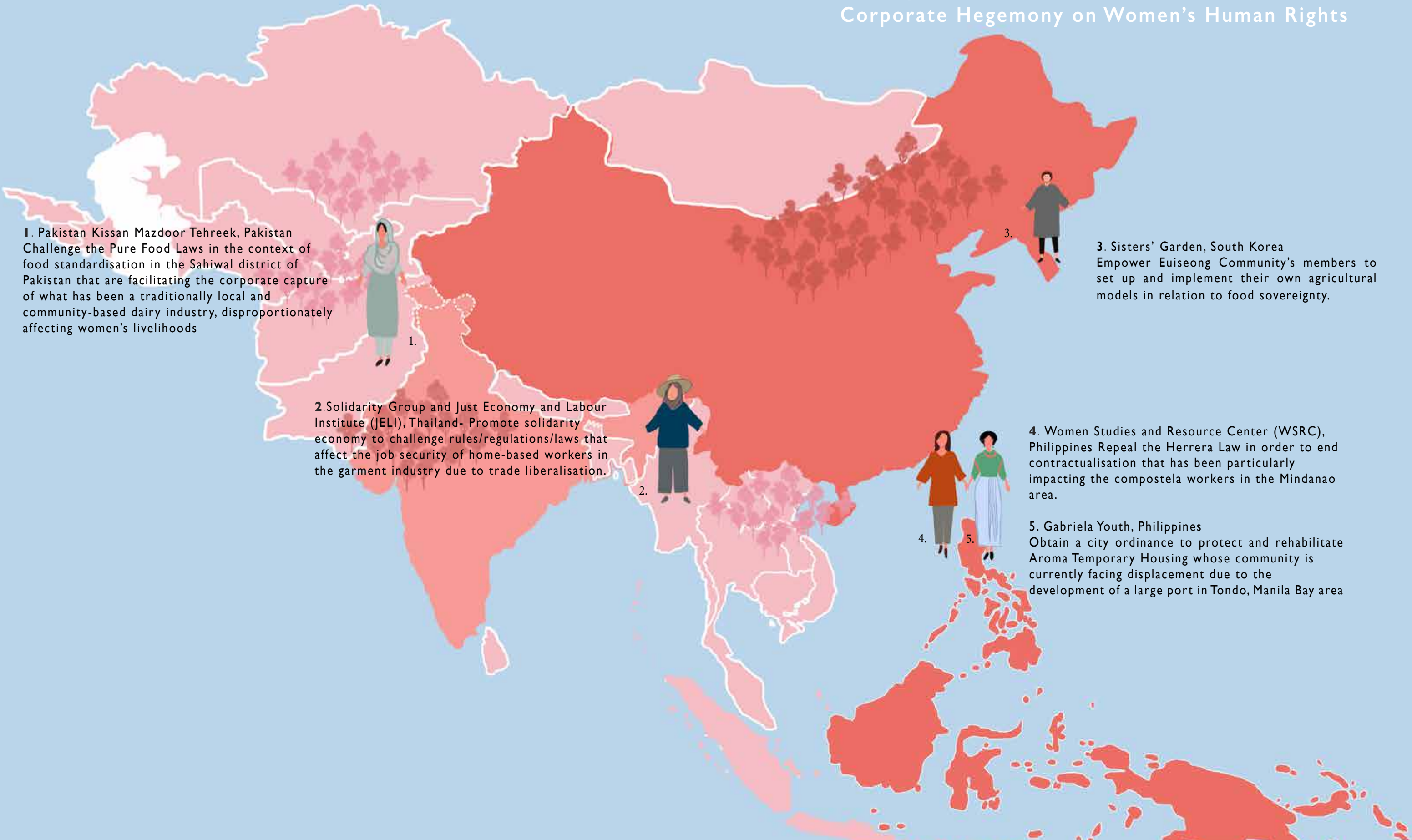
While WITCH is our newest programme, it draws on the many years of grassroots experience and feminist analysis of trade and investment rules that have made APWLD a leading voice on gender and trade, both regionally and globally. Our WITCH programme seeks to build on this legacy by building the capacities of women's rights organisations to understand the impact of trade and investments rules on women's human rights; and increase the power of feminist movements to interrogate and halt the growing power of corporations. This is especially prescient in the current political and economic climate of a crisis in multilateralism and trade wars to maximise profits over people and the planet.

This year, we launched a new FPAR that focuses on the impact of trade and investment regimes and corporate hegemony on women's human rights at the local level, as well as community owned solutions and demand for economic justice, and alternative trade models and systems. We are working with five partner organisations from four countries whose FPARs are focused on the following:





# The Impact of Trade and Investment Regimes and Corporate Hegemony on Women's Human Rights



1. Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek, Pakistan  
Challenge the Pure Food Laws in the context of food standardisation in the Sahiwal district of Pakistan that are facilitating the corporate capture of what has been a traditionally local and community-based dairy industry, disproportionately affecting women's livelihoods

2. Solidarity Group and Just Economy and Labour Institute (JELI), Thailand- Promote solidarity economy to challenge rules/regulations/laws that affect the job security of home-based workers in the garment industry due to trade liberalisation.

3. Sisters' Garden, South Korea  
Empower Euseong Community's members to set up and implement their own agricultural models in relation to food sovereignty.

4. Women Studies and Resource Center (WSRC), Philippines  
Repeal the Herrera Law in order to end contractualisation that has been particularly impacting the compostela workers in the Mindanao area.

5. Gabriela Youth, Philippines  
Obtain a city ordinance to protect and rehabilitate Aroma Temporary Housing whose community is currently facing displacement due to the development of a large port in Tondo, Manila Bay area





WITCH FPAR partners at the 2nd regional training in Bangkok, Thailand

## Challenging Trade Agreements from the Ground Up by Strengthening Capacities

APWLD's substantial work on trade agreements, such as the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has put it in good stead to build the capacities of not only our members but also of the broader social and peoples' movements regionally and globally to challenge trade agreements from a feminist perspective. This year, through our FPAR training we were able to build and develop women's rights organisations and their communities' capacities on how trade and investment rules and regimes advance neoliberal globalisation, and on how FPAR can be used as a tool for challenging neoliberal trade and investment rules.

**I learned a lot. For me... I most appreciate FPAR because it changes things structurally, not just talking about the struggle, but also about organising. I learned about methodology and how to apply it to our organising in our community. I learned about the struggle in different communities and how and why we need to unite, even though we have different culture, environments, languages, we are united in our issues and struggles... FPAR is just the first step...we should take the learning and apply it, move forward and spread.**

*Mary Joy Guevarra, Mentor from Gabriela Youth*

In response to our member Solidaritas Perempuan as well as recognising the importance of media advocacy, we built the capacity of 17 diverse networks and civil society organisations working on RCEP in Indonesia to conduct media and campaign. Using tools and strategies from the training, they were able to get media coverage on RCEP negotiations in 21 media outlets in Indonesia.

The training gave them [Indonesian CSOs] the confidence and concrete strategies to engage with media, from proactively approaching journalists at events, to tailoring concise press releases and briefings since implementing the skills learnt at the training, they are now receiving requests for input from several media outlets who now recognise them as a source for analysis on women's rights around trade. A third, perhaps unexpected, outcome from the workshop is that Solidaritas Perempuan have since observed other national organisations who attended the workshop are now more open to incorporating women's views into their context.

*Arieska Kurniawaty, Solidaritas Perempuan*



WITCH FPAR 1st Regional Training-Discussion on trade timeline



## Advocating for Trade Justice

We continued our efforts to advocate for trade justice by pushing for regional and international processes to engage with the gendered impacts of trade. APWLD's unique contribution in building the capacity of wider feminist and women's rights organisations in the region on trade and economic justice issues was outstanding at the Beijing+25 review processes. Given that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action makes no mention on trade policies and regimes and its impact on women's human rights, APWLD was able to ensure that both the outcome of the APPFSD as well as the Civil Society Statement on Beijing+25 Review make very strong mention of trade and its implication on women, especially the specific call for the removal of ISDS from all trade agreements, and calls for stronger corporate accountability systems. The regional outcome document also addresses the need of trade measures to be in line with governments' human rights obligations.



Trade and Development Justice from Feminist Lens: Workshop at Beijing + 25 CSO Forum in Bangkok, Thailand



## Setbacks to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

This year has seen a couple of important setbacks to the negotiation of the largest trade agreement in the region – the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In September, the controversial Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clause was reportedly removed, albeit temporarily, and in November, one of the largest partners, India, withdrew from the negotiations.

The RCEP, which will aggravate and deepen inequalities in the region, especially for those who are the most marginalised such as women, farmers and Indigenous Peoples, has long formed the focus of APWLD's mobilisations. Since 2016 along with other movements and allies in the region, APWLD has been convening civil societies and movements in the region to discuss, build capacity and collectively mobilise and strategise around RCEP.

One of many concerns that peoples' and feminist movements have with RCEP is the detrimental effects of the agreement on women's livelihoods and food sovereignty. One of the main reasons that India gave for dropping out of RCEP negotiations has been the need to preserve its milk self-sufficiency. This is especially significant for a country whose dairy market is supported to a sizable extent by a milk cooperative that is predominantly made of women. Similarly, the removal of the ISDS clause, not just in the RCEP, but in all trade agreements, has been an important rallying cry for peoples' and women's movements who have consistently pointed to the egregious effects of the clause. ISDS gives corporations the power to sue governments if they pass any laws, policies, or regulations that infringe on their capacity to profit. In the recent past, corporations have used ISDS clauses to avoid paying taxes, challenge labour rights and health and environmental protection policies.

The constant pressure exerted by peoples' and feminist movements of the region over the last few years has had a role to play in the setbacks to the RCEP, and as part of the feminist and peoples' movements, APWLD has supported and sustained the mobilisations and advocacy around the RCEP (and beyond), to ensure that there is a strong challenge to the standard neoliberal narrative on economic growth from the perspective of women's human rights.



**Will RCEP Promote Women's Rights?**

**17 Dec 2019**

**4.00 PM (ICT)**  
REGISTER FOR A SLOT

**Unpacking New Generation of Mega Trade Deals**

A webinar on the potential impact of the RCEP on women, and the feminist and peoples' movements resisting the RCEP and other similar new generation mega trade deals. Join us!

**MODERATOR**  
Kate Lappin, Asia Pacific Regional Secretary, PSI

**SPEAKERS**  
Arieska Kurniawati, Programme Coordinator, Solidaritas Perempuan  
Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director, IT for Change  
Kartini Samon, Asia Regional Staff, GRAIN  
Diyana Yahaya, Programme Officer, APWLD

 **GENDER AND TRADE COALITION**  
A Feminist Alliance for Trade Justice

 **Third World Network**



## Understanding Shifting Geo-Political Contexts

In February this year, APWLD organised a regional meeting with our members and allies to learn and investigate deeper on the changing geopolitics in the region, including the rise of China and the role of development finance in institutions. This Convening was first of its kinds where we gathered 23 participants from four continents across the globe, including Asia, Pacific, Latin America and Africa to exchange analysis on global development and investment policies, changing power dynamics as well as the consequences of such development on women's human rights and Development Justice. The meeting concluded with a follow-up resolution to convene another space to connect the larger dots of international financial institutions and its policies, state of multilateralism as well as opportunities to rewrite the rules that put people over profits.

## Feminist Coalition on Trade Justice

As part of our efforts to strengthen voices on feminist trade analysis and build allies on trade justice, this year, APWLD supported the newly formed Gender and Trade Coalition as it defined its structure. The Gender and Trade coalition is a cross-sectoral, cross-regional feminist alliance advocating for a feminist, equitable trade policy. It has now elected its Steering Group (which is comprised of 14 members including APWLD) and has elected two cochairs – FEMNET and Regions Refocus.





# WOMEN i n **POWER**

## Women in POWER (WiP)

In the face of an exponential increase in authoritarianism and fundamentalism with catastrophic consequences for marginalised communities, our work on the Women in Power programme has never been more urgent or relevant. As a counter to the rising authoritarianism, in 2018, we launched the Womanifesto component of our programme to strengthen the democratic participation of grassroots women in decision-making processes by organising to develop and advocate for feminist agendas for change based on their own lived realities.

The programme continued to support the development of eight Womanifestoes from eight countries of the region and created spaces for grassroots women to directly engage with elected women leaders.







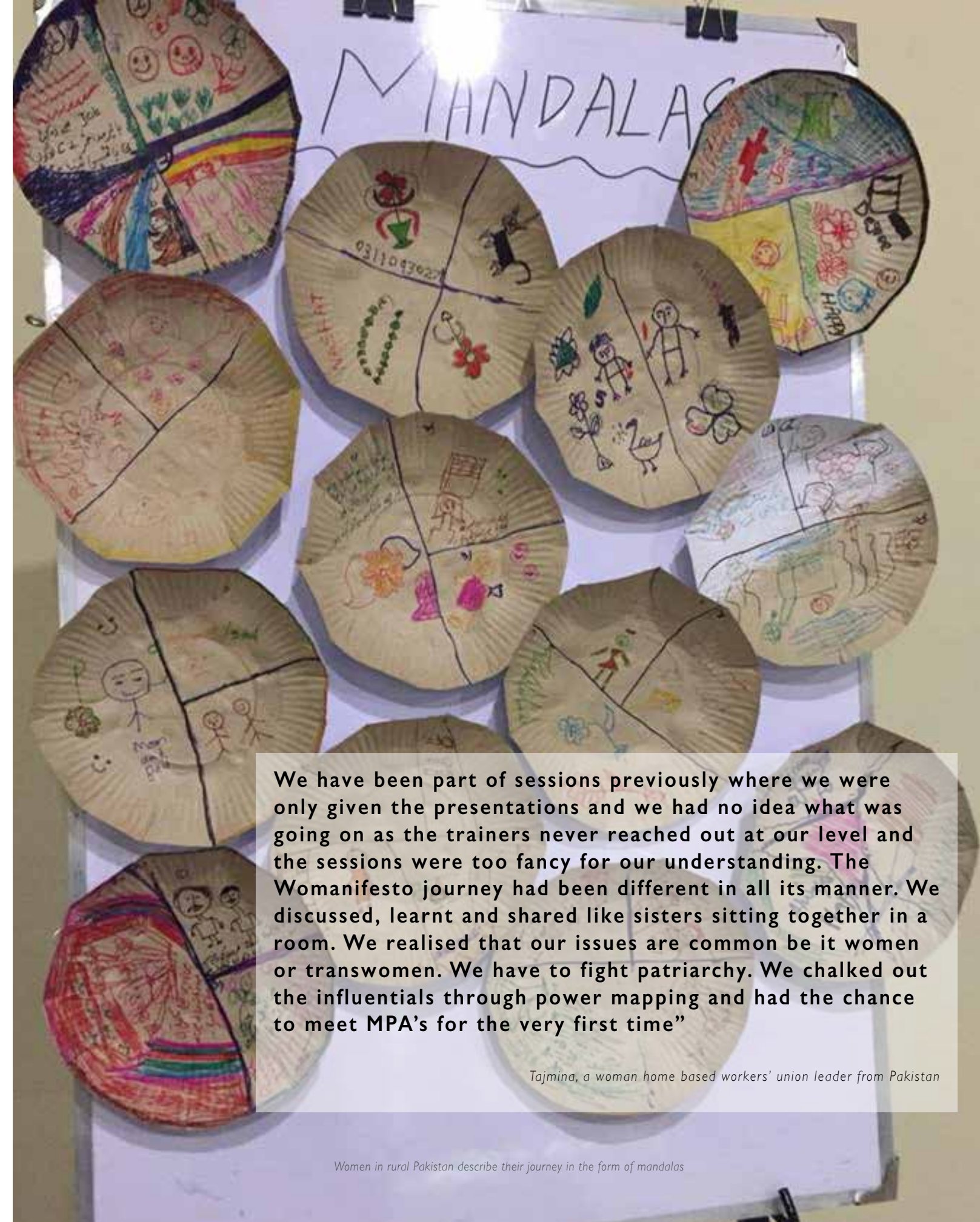
## Grassroots Women Organising for Feminist Agendas of Change

The key impact of the programme lies in the effects of developing 8 Womanifestos on building grassroots women's movements and strengthening democracy across 8 countries in 3 sub regions. In the process of creating the Womanifestos, grassroots women in each of these diverse contexts organised themselves, created feminist agendas for change, challenged gendered norms in their communities and pushed for policy change.

In the Philippines, through the Womanifesto processes, our partner, Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (Movement of Women Workers - KMK) mobilised women workers in the cities of Valenzuela and Metro Manila. Given the challenges and frustrations of organising women workers who were both severely short of time and fearful of losing their jobs, KMK developed a number of tools and resources to build the capacity of women workers to organise and recruit other women workers for collective actions such as filing a complaint in the event of rights violations.

**The Womanifesto affected my understanding of the process of legislation, how it's important to organize affected sectors to forward legislative measures, how it's important to educate them about their rights when not everyone has access to information considering their hectic schedules at work. They barely have time to improve or learn other skills besides what they do at work. The only way to go is to organize and rely on each other's strength to push for structural change.**

*Jacqueline Ruiz, community organiser, KMK*



**We have been part of sessions previously where we were only given the presentations and we had no idea what was going on as the trainers never reached out at our level and the sessions were too fancy for our understanding. The Womanifesto journey had been different in all its manner. We discussed, learnt and shared like sisters sitting together in a room. We realised that our issues are common be it women or transwomen. We have to fight patriarchy. We chalked out the influentials through power mapping and had the chance to meet MPA's for the very first time"**

*Tajmina, a woman home based workers' union leader from Pakistan*

*Women in rural Pakistan describe their journey in the form of mandalas*



In time for the 2019 general election, women workers produced a 'working women's policy agenda', which consolidated their campaign for better working conditions, just wages, security of tenure and an end to discrimination and gender-based violence in the workplace.

In Sri Lanka, our partner, Viluthu, worked with ethnic minority Tamil women and single women headed households in the districts of Kilinochi, who continue to experience the aftermath of decades of violent civil war in which sexual violence and torture were wielded with impunity by the military. Through the Womanifesto process, women, particularly excombatants, were able to speak of their deep disillusionment with the reparation and reconciliation processes. They identified mental health and their psychosocial needs in their Womanifesto to force the government's attention to this issue and seek just remedies.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, our partners, Da Hawwa Lur worked with home-based workers, rural and urban poor women and transwomen. They have organised into unions and identified 5 community leaders. The biggest change has come from the change in attitude – women and transwomen now feel they have a stake in policy changes and are articulate about their demands.

**We have always been excluded from the decision-making process be it at the local, provincial or grass root level. But through the Womanifesto Journey we have been sitting with our other sisters to chalk out our problems and collectively advocate for our rights. We feel that if advocated properly throughout the province, Womanifesto can become a draft of Change and we need change more than ever now.**

*Arzoo, one of 10 transwomen who participated in the Womanifesto journey*



*Myanmar M&E visit to partner JCSDO and training of Mon women who are community leaders*

**Asma (name changed) from rural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was part of the mobilising meetings for Womanifesto in Charsadda. She is a home-based worker and earns for herself and her family through stitching and embroidery. She also makes ice cream sticks which are sold in urban markets. She was married off at an age of 11 years in a customary wedding called 'Swara' which is a marriage between the families to resolve conflict. Her husband was 25 years old at that time. When she realised that her husband did not earn well, she started stitching and embroidery work at home which she used to get from the people around her village. As her marriage was a deal between the two families to resolve conflict, she was never given any importance and was treated like a slave after marriage. She gave birth to a son at the age of 15.**

Asma during the mobilisation meetings showed interest in becoming a part of Womanifesto Journey. She wanted to speak out for the women and girls who have been the victims of these customary practices which only benefit men and patriarchy.

She is now leading a group of 30 young girls in her village where she trains them on their basic rights and provides them with vocational skills. She says that she has been able to influence her husband and family through her advocacy and now she is able to participate in social events and programs and her mobility is not as restricted as before.

Asma is very passionate about presenting the Womanifesto to Women Parliamentarians so that they can know about the issues of women at the grassroots so that they may work together in formulating policies that are informed by the women themselves.

Through the Womanifesto journey, women home-based workers met with representatives of the Labour Department and MP working on legislation for home-based workers, where they identified gaps in the Bill and proposed amendments, some of which were added to the draft Bill. The final draft of the Bill is with the Law Department and is expected to be passed soon.





Weaving solidarity across Asia Pacific at the third Womanifesto partners' meet



Capacity building workshop with Mon women leaders in Myanmar



Women from indigenous Majhi community and WWDs from Madhesh meet with women Parliamentarians

## Women Leaders' Exchange with Grassroots Women

This year was special as the programme built bridges between the women leaders' exchange and our work on Womanifestoes by creating spaces for grassroots women's movements and elected women leaders for dialogue and accountability. Coorganised with Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON), the exchange involved women Members of Parliament from Philippines and Pakistan, and our Womanifesto partners from Philippines (KMK) and Pakistan (Da Hawwa Lur). The Exchange was useful as grassroots organisations such as KMK and Da Huwwa Lur were able to feed into and benefit the legislative activism of elected women leaders. The experiences in Pakistan of the draft bill on home-based workers, and the advocacy processes and strategies for OSHA and Expanded Maternity benefit bill undertaken by Gabriela Women's Party in the Philippines enabled cross-country learning on the arduous processes of legislating for women's rights.

The national consultation with women leaders in Nepal brought together our partners in Nepal (including Land FPAR partners), and six women MPs in Kathmandu in December. Five WWDs from the Terai region of Nepal used their Womanifestos to outline their issues and propose remedial measures urging the MPs to implement and ensure their constitutionally guaranteed rights. Women from the Majhi community who will be affected by the proposed Sunkoshi II hydropower plant in eastern Nepal also shared testimonials on how the project would upend their lives and their traditional ways of life. The MPs, who themselves had come to hold elected positions after long years of activism and engagement with grassroots movements, gave assurances that the issue would be brought to the notice of the concerned government departments and parliamentary committees.



# FEMINIST LAW AND PRACTICE

## Feminist Law and Practice (FLP)

The FLP Programme is home to one of APWLD's longest standing capacity building programme the Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) Training, which is now in its 25th year. In an era where authoritarianism, fundamentalisms and corporate power continue to undermine women's human rights and threaten the lives of women, land and human rights defenders, the FLTP is a valuable capacity building programme that grounds participants in feminist critical analysis of the law and international standards of women's human rights.

In 2019, the FLP programme contributed to APWLD's work by strengthening capacities on feminist legal analysis, grounding women's human rights at the regional and national levels. Significantly, as part of our cross-cutting initiative on Urgent Response, we initiated and contributed to several urgent responses for WHRDs at threat across the region, through our feminist witnessing and legal strategies.







Participants in Pakistan National FLTP perform mock talk show as media advocacy tool to create awareness on work place harassment in Pakistan.

## Strengthening Capacities on Feminist Legal Analysis at the Regional and National Levels



Group discussion among participants in Regional FLTP Training in Penang, Malaysia, 17-21 June 2019

tion that LBT children face in Singapore, and advocating for women-friendly energy policies in Nepal.

**I am consciously incorporating FLTP principles and feminist analysis of law in my pleadings and case briefs, as well as in my lectures and course outline for legal counselling.**

*Kathy Panguban, Lawyer, Philippines*

Our five national FLTP training provided an opportunity to situate the application of FLTP within diverse contexts of authoritarianism that threaten WHRDs, patriarchy and fundamentalisms that rationalise gender-based violence, and globalisation and neo-liberal economics that undermine particularly social and economic rights of women. Tanggol Bayi in the Philippines, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in Bangladesh, Women's Centre for Change in Malaysia, HOMENet and Shelter Participatory Organisation in Pakistan.

In the Philippines, apart from the strengthened capacity to analyse laws from a feminist and rights-based perspective, the participants to the FLTP identified feminist movement building through a network of women lawyers and paralegals in the country as a significant outcome of the FLTP. The participants also committed to replicate the training to law schools in the country, increase the number of women paralegals with strengthened capacities on feminist legal analysis and create a larger pool of feminist lawyers.

In 2019, we conducted one Regional Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) and five National FLTPs in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Philippines and Pakistan. The trainings contributed to strengthening the capacities of 113 lawyers and members of feminist and people's rights organisations across the region to critically use law from a feminist and human rights perspective.

The Regional FLTP training, which brought together 23 women human rights advocates from 19 countries, resulted in significant legal and policy progress. Inspiring advocacy work includes lobbying the government to pass the Human Rights Defenders Bill in the Philippines, first ever submission to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that raised attention to violence and discrimina-



**APWLD  
REGIONAL FEMINIST LEGAL  
THEORY AND PRACTICE PENANG  
(AP-FLTP)  
17-21 JUNE 2019**



*Regional Feminist Legal Theory and Practice  
Training, conducted in Penang, Malaysia (17-21  
June 2019)*



# FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE

## Feminist Development Justice (FDJ)

This year, we were able to sustain the call for Development Justice and campaign for transformative development in the region through our continued work on the SDGs Monitoring and the wider FDJ programme.







APWLD Members from our Feminist Development Justice Programme at Ground Level Peoples Forum Rally in New York



FDJ\_CWR- A meeting with a local community in the Philippines

## Strengthening Local Movements for Development Justice

Through the participatory processes of the SDGs Monitoring training, along with eight partners in eight countries, we were able to give genuine meaning to localising the SDGs. We were able to strengthen capacities of grassroots women's groups, support them to create and sustain local feminist movements, collect and document evidence of rights' violations, and produce resources to demand governments' commitment to SDGs, and push for Development Justice at the local and national levels.

**Directly through the SDGs Monitoring programme, APWLD and partners collectively built the capacities of 2,338 women and 618 men on a critical analysis of SDGs and Development Justice.**



## Advancing Development Justice in the Philippines

In the Philippines, following the participatory processes of the SDGs Monitoring training, our partner, Center for Women's Resources (CWR) developed new relationships with peasant women and workers in local communities which led to the formation of new networks and groups. This enabled grassroots women to speak and share their stories with a wider audience of professionals, government and non-government workers, local government unit employees, leaders of different organisations, staff of invited embassies, church workers, among others. CWR also equipped women with knowledge on various issues pertaining to SDGs, including the issue of decent work, tax reform and the implication of Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law (tax law), and they built the skills of women in communities through leadership training.

As the result of the SDGs monitoring training, partners were able to internalise GFMP, systemic issues, and Development Justice in their work, and enhance their skills of feminist legal analysis, including on development justice indicators and participatory indicators.

CWR also created participatory tools for community verification of the government's data on SDGs. The monitoring sheet on state perpetrated violence that they prepared compelled the Philippine National Police to explain the cases to the public through the media. The findings of their participatory research also enabled them to push the agenda on Development Justice with legislators/policymakers and local government officials. Their SDGs monitoring work also contributed to the collective civil society advocacy work that led to the passage of the Extended Maternity Benefit Act, which increases maternity leave for all workers to 105 days.

We produced Feminist Development Justice briefs for eight partners from seven countries. We also produced the Road to Development Justice 2.0 video which highlighted grassroots initiatives in each of five transformative shifts of Feminist Development Justice: Redistributive Justice, Economic Justice, Social and Gender Justice, Environmental Justice and Ac-countability to Peoples. The video was launched on International Human Rights Day and has received 3.3 million impressions on Twitter.

Overall, APWLD together with partners produced 52 new tools and resources used for SDGs monitoring on local and national level, as well as advocacy in the regional and global level.

In Vietnam, our partner Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) used the findings from the SDGs monitoring research to set a new precedent for submissions to Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), introducing the connections between the treaty and the human rights violations in Vietnam's electronics industry.



A meeting with a local community in the Philippines



## Deepening a Culture of Accountability in Regional and International Processes

In the face of the incessant attacks on democratic rights and spaces across the region, APWLD has continued to make open and meaningful space for grassroots engagements in various policy making processes. We supported the attendance of 21 members and partners at nine different forums on sustainable development at the sub-regional, regional and global levels. This year, through our position as a co-chair of the Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism (APRCM), we were also able to push for an increased number of participants at the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) (150 participants compared to 120 participants in 2018) and the Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) or the Peoples' Forum (260 participants compared to 220 participants in 2018).

Our SDGs Monitoring partner from Vanuatu, Young Women For Change, was selected as an Opening Speaker representing civil society at APFSD, where Sabrina Rose highlighted the findings of their SDGs monitoring as well as voices from Asia and Pacific CSOs to challenge neoliberal model of development and demands for Development Justice.

Globally, we also convened the second ever Ground Level Peoples' Forum (GLPF), our counterspace to the HLPF, where APWLD's partners and allies from different movements rallied with us to the UN Headquarters on the occasion of the High Level Political Forum, chanting calls for systemic change and Development Justice. We also supported the participation at the HLPF and GLPF of 5 partners from VNR reporting countries this year – CWR (Philippines), CHRD/ MONFEMNET (Mongolia), FKM BKA YWU and KABAR BUMI (Indonesia), as well as FWRM (Fiji) who expressed that their engagement in GLPF and HLPF have increased their capacity on follow up and review mechanism, the (dis)connection between national, regional and global processes, and how to work within and between movements in that space to push for our demands.

**The HLPF/GLPF experience was full of learning. I was able to see first-hand how the HLPF processes work, and how, despite the limited space given to us in these meetings, we are able to strategise and find ways to reclaim our space through our work with the WMG and APRCEM. Thus, in several spaces we were able to highlight women and people's issues in the Philippines, particularly on human rights violations. We were also able to raise this with the Philippine government through our collective statement during the VNR interventions. On the other hand, the GLPF served as an important counter-space to raise our issues, build connections, strengthen our solidarity and collectively work towards holding our governments accountable.**

*Celito Perez, CWR, The Philippines*

**Our partners from the VNR reporting countries were also instrumental in drafting the joint collective CSO statement during the VNR reporting at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).**

**At the HLPF, I was able to meet the government of Indonesia in order to deliver... the result of FDJ Report that emphasised on Inclusive Budget Allocation in the government programmes for marginalised groups especially persons with disabilities as well as to ensure the involvement of the local community in the process of reporting mechanism (VNR) because too much talk in high level without action at the local [level] will not give any improvement in implementing SDGs.**

*Puteri Handika, FKM BKA YWU, Indonesia*

## Shifting Global Discourse on Sustainable Development

Along with our partners, APWLD has continued to influence the global discourse on sustainable development by steadfastly pursuing a shift in the discussion from 'SDGs progress and implementation' to one that addresses 'the systemic barriers to the achievement of sustainable development, and the strengthening of regional processes for its implementation at every available advocacy opportunity.'

Our language on Development Justice was successfully reflected in several of the regional and international submissions and outcome documents, including the submission of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholder High-Level Political Forum Coordination Mechanism (MGoS HLPF CM) on HLPF Reform as well as the Report of Experts Group Meeting on HLPF Review. Our push in both APRCEM and Women's Major Group generated an overall shift in the narratives of the MGoS HLPF CM, which is now increasingly progressive particularly in demanding HLPF, regional and sub-regional forums on sustainable development to address systemic issues like tax, debt, trade and investments and corporate hegemony and push for action-oriented policy recommendations. The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) also dedicated a section on systemic challenges before proposing leverage points to accelerate implementation of 2030 Agenda.

Similarly, the outcome document of the Asia Regional Meeting of the Policy Forum on Development contains APWLD demands such as recognition of systemic barriers to achieving the 2030 Agenda, climate justice and common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as just and equitable transitions. The outcome document of APFSD also incorporated our demands on just transitions, as well as equal pay for work of equal value, regional tax forum/body, mechanism to review tax policies, trade and investment agreements and private sector accountability as well as for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to make an assessment on the impact of the fourth industrial revolution.

Our consistent active presence in the national, sub-regional, regional and global fora on sustainable development resulted in further opportunities to engage and influence member states in other forums. For instance, APRCEM was invited to the stakeholder retreat organised by UN Foundations on the HLPF Reform and Decades of Delivery, where our member, Wali Haider from Roots for Equity, presented Asia Pacific CSOs' position on HLPF Review. This was commended as 'the most substantive and concrete inputs in the forum'.

APWLD was also invited to play an active role as Steering Committee at the Asia Policy Forum on Development Meeting organised by the European Union where our SDGs Monitoring partners together with other APWLD members played an active role as speakers and on the drafting committee. The meeting resulted in a civil society and local authorities' communique which included APWLD demands and positions to inform EU's development policies.



# GROUNDING t h e GLOBAL

## Grounding the Global (GG)

Grounding the Global (GG) programme seeks to ensure that regional and international mechanisms and processes are accessible to, informed by and accountable to grassroots women's groups in the region. In 2019, we continued to support APWLD members and partners in strategic regional and global advocacy venues and worked together with other programmes to develop new tools and resources.

The focus of our advocacy efforts this year was on the preparatory work for the Beijing+25 review process for which we initiated and convened several feminist spaces to inform the regional submission, including national and sub-regional consultations, a survey with WWDs, the CSO Forum and the Young Feminist Forum. We also made the most of several other advocacy opportunities by providing inputs to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), to mandate on foreign debt, to UN Women and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).





## Annual Regional and National Consultations

In collaboration with the WITCH programme, the annual Regional Consultation's theme was on Shaping a People's Trade Agenda, building on APWLD's substantial work on previous trade campaigns and plurilateral agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. With the recognition that it is time for civil society to articulate a truly people-centred, human rights-based trade agenda, the consultation was conceptualised as a space that would bring together a small group of feminist activists engaging on trade along with organisations and constituencies who would benefit from capacity building on what is a complex topic. In keeping with the theme, a solidarity dinner was also hosted, with booths for a 'really, really free market', where participants brought items that connected with important struggles for justice, from bead roses made by political prisoners to candles dedicated to refugees.

The Regional Consultation included several UN mandate holders such as the Independent Experts on foreign debt and the impact on human rights, and on a democratic international order, and the Working Group on discrimination against women. Our efforts to be more inclusive ensured that the participation at the regional consultation was diverse, with more Pacific participations. With simultaneous interpretations in five languages, participants from 14 countries were able to hear and speak directly with the mandates present and engage in a collective discussion on how they visualised a way out of the challenges posed to women's rights by trade and investment regimes. The Consultation was appreciated by the mandate holders. This sentiment was echoed by one of the participants who found that the results of the exercises were 'very visionary'.

Held in Kuala Lumpur, the Regional Consultation was followed by a one-day National Consultation that invited overviews from Malaysian civil society, particularly members of the Joint Action Group on Gender Equality (JAG) on current issues, such as the proposed sexual harassment bill. Participants shared that they left with a better understanding of the economic impact on human rights. Following the consultation, some also made submissions to the mandates that they had met with. In addition, we had an additional one-day workshop with JAG members on the Development Justice framework. Apart from strengthening capacities, the workshop also deepened the relationships with the Malaysian women's movement, some of whom have been our members for many long years.



CSW63 Regional Preparatory Meeting, February 2019, Credit: Pathumporn Thongking, UN Women



Solidarity action for Sisters in Islam during Annual Regional Consultation, August 2019

## Inputs on the Right to Development

Originally made as a submission for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, the publication Promoting and Fulfilling the Right to Development has been widely distributed not just at the APFSD and the HLPF, but to academia as well. It is on the syllabus for a course on human rights at Ewha Womans University in South Korea. Several UN agency senior staff acknowledged reading the document, and the document was shared along with the recommendations on Development Justice to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights in a consultation around an upcoming general comment by the Committee on sustainable development. The publication draws on the work of APWLD members and partners to demonstrate that Development Justice is no longer just a demand, it does exist in practice and those examples can be amplified. Some of the examples in the publication have also been used in the sequel of the Road to Development Justice video, which similarly illustrates the ways that Development Justice is being made a reality through peoples' movements.





Nepal March  
Photo Credit APWLD

# Information and Communications

2019 was a particularly challenging time for media and digital advocacy on women's human rights in the region. There has been an increase in threats to WHRDs and peoples' movements. Further, the spaces for covering stories of human rights violations and resistance have been shrinking in the face of a media that has been further corporatised and co-opted by the state. There has also been an increase in authoritarian and draconian laws (e.g. on ICT and digital security), enforced internet shutdowns, and the use of fake news to influence the public in several countries of the region.

In the face of these structural challenges, APWLD continued to use various strategies to shape public discourse and counter dominant narratives. In 2019, we built relationships with journalists to create a feminist lens in news reporting, developed capacities of grassroots women's groups to use media and digital advocacy to influence advocacy spaces, and created digital content and publications to shape the narrative on women's human rights. In an effort to deepen our understanding and strengthen our communications strategy, we held a convening on Communications Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning for the first time. The collaborative learning space was attended by nine feminist organisations across the globe to reflect on our collective communication challenges and ways forward. We also provided significant strategic communications support for advocacy, campaigns and urgent response to our members and partners through media outreach and digital advocacy to engage effectively with various stakeholders – governments, human rights bodies and the media.

As a cross-cutting initiative, the Information and Communications team strategically collaborated with all programmes to advance APWLD's goals amplifying our members' voices. Some of the highlights were our work as part of the Urgent Response team, Women's Global Strike campaign, Media Fellowship in collaboration with the Feminist Development Justice programme, and our communications advocacy work with Climate Justice programme at COP25, and the GG programme at Beijing+25. APWLD's strategic communications have moved up a gear, especially on shaping the discourse and amplifying the consolidated voices of grassroots women to advance women's human rights particularly at the regional and global levels, as well as on building feminist solidarity.

## Strengthening Our Digital Presence: A snapshot

In 2019

Our Facebook likes increased by 26.5%

Our Twitter followers increased by 23.4%

Our Instagram followers increased by 70%

We launched our LinkedIn account and Women's Global Strike social media channels

APWLD's Twitter account got verified



# Creating a Feminist Space in Mainstream and Alternative Media

Our Media Fellowship in its second year collaborated with the FDJ programme. We worked with five media fellows from Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam to produce print, online, radio and TV news stories and documentaries to strengthen a feminist analysis on Development Justice. The fellows produced 15 news stories covering our members and partners as part of the fellowship programme to, amplify the concerns and voices of women on development injustices in the region, structural barriers and hold governments accountable.



Louiseanne Laris covers a community where sea walls protect the sea from eroding their coastlines. Photo Credit Louiseanne Laris

Our 2019 media fellow, Louiseanne Gohul Laris, a TV journalist for the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, made a documentary and a radio news story in June on the impact of climate change on the sinking Carteret Islands for NBC. The documentary explored the importance of food gardens to the livelihoods of people living in the atolls, and the effects of climate change on people’s lives and livelihoods. The documentary was not only aired on national television but also screened in the town centre for a week to raise awareness on climate displacement.

When it was aired, the documentary caught the attention of the Autonomous Government of Bougainville. In August, when the atolls were affected by strong winds and high tides that had destroyed food gardens, the government acted swiftly to address the issue of food security by providing two thousand bales of rice and flour to supplement the swamp taro and coconut that had been destroyed. The government also used the documentary to seek more funding on climate mitigation.



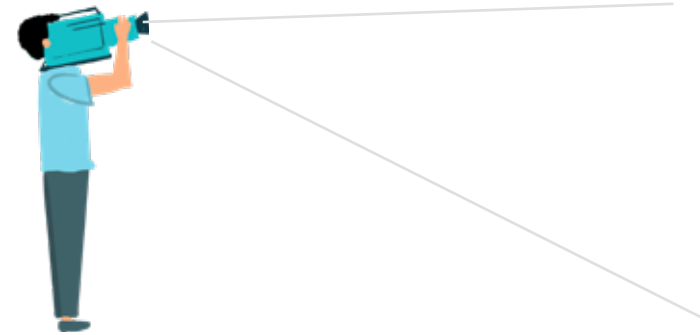
APWLD Media Fellow Louiseanne Laris Interviews a Climate Refugee

**I will continue to do follow-up stories on these issues to hold government accountable for not honouring its commitment to address the 17 goals of SDGs. Our role as media to act as watch dogs and I believe being proactive about these issues will reflect or act as a mirror to tell the government it is not doing enough to assist its people or not doing anything to live up to its commitment.**

**Louiseanne Laris, Media Fellow from Bougainville (Papua New Guinea).**

Our 2018 media fellows, at the reflection meeting, shared that the fellowship programme enabled them to gain a deeper appreciation of the struggles of grassroots communities and civil society movements, access to new spaces, and helped them grow as journalists.

Some of our media fellows have continued to cover our members and partners even after the end of fellowship period, indicating the deeper feminist solidarities engendered by the media fellowship programme. Overall, the media fellowships have enabled us to take our first steps in creating a network of feminist journalists, and a feminist space in mainstream and alternative media.



**When I met my sources, the local women in Papua, Indonesia, I felt like I had done my mission as a journalist. I knew it was difficult to travel there and if I didn’t have this fellowship opportunity I wouldn’t know if I could ever meet them.**

*Seulki Lee, 2018 Climate Justice Media Fellow at Reflection Meeting*





## Enhancing Capacities of Members and Partners on Communications Advocacy

Outside of our programmatic support, for the first time, the Infocomms team received requests from our members, partners and allies to conduct training to build their capacity on media advocacy and communications strategy. Apart from the collaborative work with the WITCH programme on media and campaign advocacy on RCEP with CSOs in Indonesia, in August, we also built the capacity of members from the National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD) in Nepal on developing a communications strategy for the network. In December, we also held a media advocacy training at COP 25 for the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) members to build their capacity on media

engagement and amplify the message of feminist climate action policies during COP25.

After the capacity building workshop, the WGC members used the strategies during climate negotiations. As our Infocomms work has grown substantially in the past few years, we felt the need to reflect on our work, understand its impact and learn from it. An external evaluation of the programme was conducted, highlighting 'many of APWLD's impacts and achievements in the past three years centred around effective communication strategies and skills that amplified the voices of grassroots women.



## Deepening Communications Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

As our Infocomms work has grown substantially in the past few years, we felt the need to reflect on our work, understand its impact and learn from it. An external evaluation of the programme was conducted, highlighting 'many of APWLD's impacts and achievements in the past three years centred around effective communications strategies and skills that amplified the voices of grassroots women.'

In continuing our efforts to deepen our understanding and influence, we also organised a three-day international convening on communication M,E&L with nine feminist networks and movements from the region and across the globe. We created a co-learning space to reflect on the challenges and strengths of movement communication, shared strategies to shift dominant neoliberal narratives, and developed initial feminist communications indicators for M,E&L to support our work and movement building.

**I found the workshop not just useful, also instructive and rewarding to work through the process of building feminist MEL framework for better impact sharing. I think the discussion and learning we had over three days will help us in strengthening ESCR-Net-Global's communications strategy as well as tighten our MEL approach more broadly.**

*Gerogia Marnan, ESCR-Net-Global.*





## Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability

In 2019, we took several steps towards expanding our programmes in line with our current strategic plan as well as considering some recommendations from our recent Mid-Term Evaluation. We commenced our support to national members and partners to understand and investigate the consequences of trade and investment rules under the Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony (WITCH) programme, to conduct Feminist Participatory Action Research on women migrant's rights under the Migration programme for the first time, national FLTP training under Feminist Law and Practice programme as well as for greater mobilisation for Women's Global Strike at multiple locations in the region and globally. It was also a year to reflect on our journey since our foundation and putting efforts to respond to the needs of our growing, diverse grassroots members and partners.





Communications Workshop with NAWHRD in Nepal

## APWLD's Herstory

This year saw the culmination of a five-year journey to document the Herstory of APWLD over the past 30-odd years with the publication of APWLD Herstory 1986-2017. An intergenerational collaboration between our member of over 30 years, Judy Taguiwalo and our Research and Publications Officer, Trimita Chakma, it charts the growth of APWLD as the leading feminist, women's rights organisation in Asia and the Pacific and the stories of some of the brave women who steered it through challenging times and limited resources. It was launched at our Regional Council meeting in May 2019 with a rendition of the equally historic song Bread and Roses which fittingly speaks of the strong history of strike and protest within the women's movement.

**'...Give us bread, but give us roses  
As we go marching, marching  
We bring the greater days  
For the rising of the women  
Means the rising of the race...'**

## Extending Inclusion and Accessibility



Accessibility and inclusion at Beijing+25 CSO Forum

In 2019, APWLD made a concerted effort to be more inclusive and accessible to diverse groups of grassroots women by integrating accessibility needs and costs into our programming. For the regional preparatory work for Beijing+25, we brought together a wide range of Women with Disabilities (WWDs), connected with disabilities networks and were able to establish necessary support including live captioning and sign languages support for WWDs during the Regional CSO Forum for Beijing+25. At our programme level, the Womanifesto training was the first at APWLD to have visually challenged participants, and in order to support the participation of our partners from the Blind Women's Association Nepal (BWAN), we revisited and revised the modules and found innovative ways to account for the needs of our visually challenged members. As we learn by working with women with disabilities members, APWLD will deepen and systematise support the diverse needs of women with disabilities members and partners in our work with resource allocation.

It was also an exciting year for APWLD as we commenced our first sub-regional Feminist Participatory Action Research in Central Asia, the sub-region that is underrepresented in APWLD's membership, under the Breaking out of Marginalisation programme. We are working with eight grassroots women's rights organisations and their communities to increase their collective organising and movement power to demand changes for their rights and Development Justice.

We are increasingly expanding our capacity to provide simultaneous, multiple language translations in our programme activities, as well as producing our resource materials to diverse languages in our region as part of our efforts to make APWLD spaces, processes and materials meaningful for a wider, diverse group of members, communities and partners in the region.

## Expanding Dynamic Membership

**In 2019, our membership grew from 236 to 247 as we welcomed 11 new members from 10 countries. It is worth noting that the new membership joins from currently under represented countries and/or constituencies among our membership: women with disabilities organisations, China, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Three new Activity Organising Committees were formed in 2019, on organising Women's Tribunal as an alternative justice mechanism, supporting Central Asia Feminist Participatory Action Research and women with disabilities to mobilise around Beijing+25 review processes.**





APWLD Mid term review \_APWLD member Toan makes a point



APWLD Regional Council Member Abia Akram\_Photo Credit Yasmin

## Midterm Review of 5-year Strategy

APWLD is half-way through its five-year strategic plan. In 2019, to take stock and reflect on how our theory of change is making impact in practice as well as to rightly inform our strategic future path, we engaged an external Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) carried out by Gender at Work. The Evaluation focused on assessing the impact of APWLD's work in the past three years (2016-2018), particularly examining the progress and direction of the newer components of three programmes – SDGs Monitoring under the FDJ programme, the strategic work with WHRDs under the FLP programme, and the Womanifesto component of the WiP programme – as well as the cross-cutting GG programme and the Asia Pacific Feminist Forum. The Evaluation engaged over 100 members and partners through a survey, key informant interviews and focused group discussions. It also considered changes that may need to be made to APWLD's strategic plan in consideration of key global and regional geopolitical contexts as well as APWLD's growing leadership position within global and regional social movements. Finally, the evaluation reviewed the effectiveness of APWLD's organisational structure in advancing its goals and objectives, enabling members' participation to reflect APWLD's membership-driven nature. The MTE report with 46 recommendations for APWLD's consideration and actions will be submitted to the Regional Council in 2020.





Our external consultant walks APWLD through mid term review process

We are proud to share some of the main findings of the Evaluation:

1. APWLD continues to remain one of the very few membership-based networks in the region and globally for feminist learning, caring and sharing in the pursuit of transformative change through activism, advocacy and movement building for women's human rights. The work of APWLD, as a regional network of feminist organisations and individuals has never seemed more relevant or urgent.

2. APWLD's Patriarchy-Globalisation-Fundamentalisms-Militarism (PGFM) framework, along with its more recently developed Feminist Development Justice framework are valuable, valued and well-used frameworks by membership and other partner organisations.

3. APWLD draws its strength from its multi-layered, dynamic and responsive engagement with its members and wider women's movements.

4. APWLD's organisational structure is firmly founded on the principles of non-hierarchical, democratic functioning with its commitment to diversity and inclusion and building a solidarity based relationship with its membership.

5. APWLD is well placed to develop an organisational strategy on wellness and collective psychosocial care of its network members, partners and staff in the defence of women's human rights.

6. Asia Pacific Feminist Forum, as a feminist collective space, furthers and strengthens a culture of solidarity amongst women's groups in the region by bringing together diverse women's organisations, networks and women's constituencies across the region.

7. Womanifesto programme is a timely and relevant intervention that seeks to enhance grassroots, bottom-up democratic accountability processes which put women's voices and feminist demands centre stage.

8. SDGs monitoring is a timely and relevant intervention that seeks to engender systems of accountability in the face of deep structural inequalities through a critical feminist development justice lens.

9. Grounding the Global programme, as it seeks to connect its membership and partners with regional and international mechanisms/ processes that are otherwise out of reach to grassroots women's groups, is especially relevant at a time when there is a crisis of multilateral-

ism, with traditional methods of engaging in global policy setting failing to produce substantive results for human rights enjoyment.

In 2019, we continued to grow and expand with our full nine programmes and several cross cutting initiatives. To support this expansion, recruitment for some more positions is underway while our current Secretariat is made up of 27 skilled and committed staff members from 14 countries, including a Southfellow who was selected from our member organisation in Nepal.



# Financial Narrative

In 2019, APWLD received grants totalling USD 2,377,811.47. Our expenditure for the year was USD 2,157,423.44, which was approximately 17 per cent higher than the previous year. APWLD's income and expenditure in the past few years have been on the constant growth, reflecting the expansion of APWLD's work, our capacity not only to deliver our strategic plans but to respond to emerging challenges that need feminist movement responses as well as sustained and increasing support and trust from our funders.

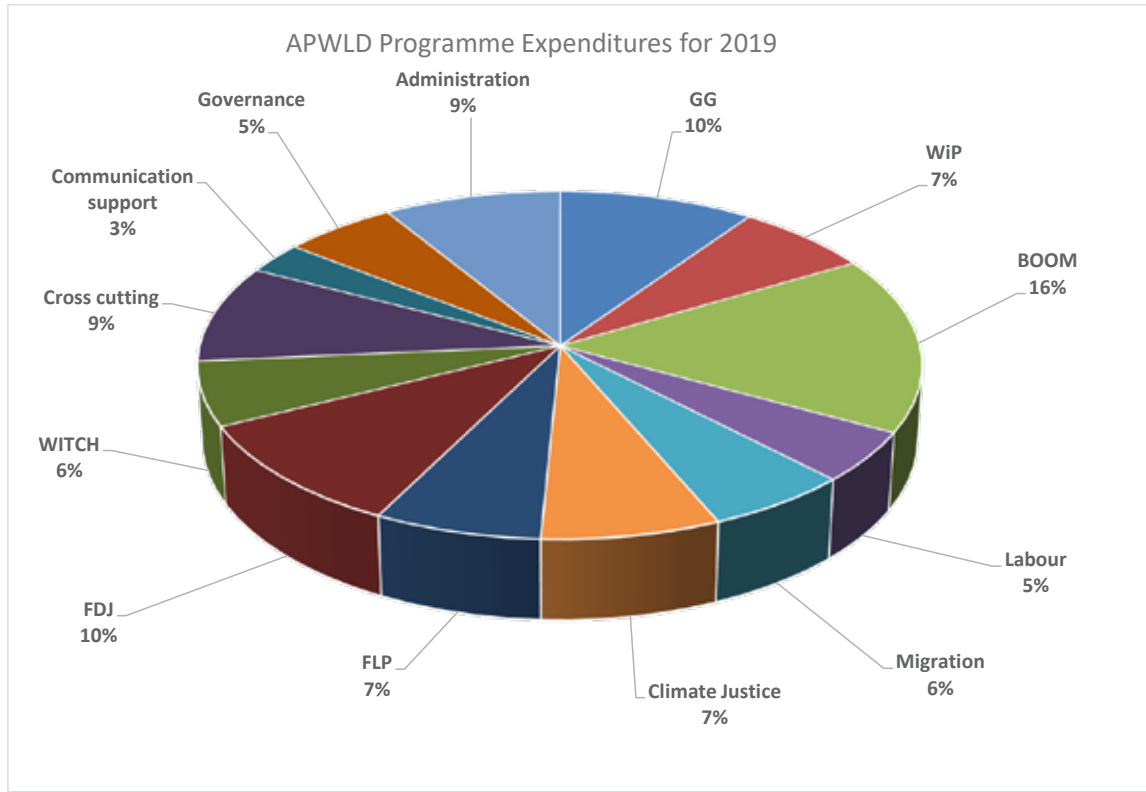
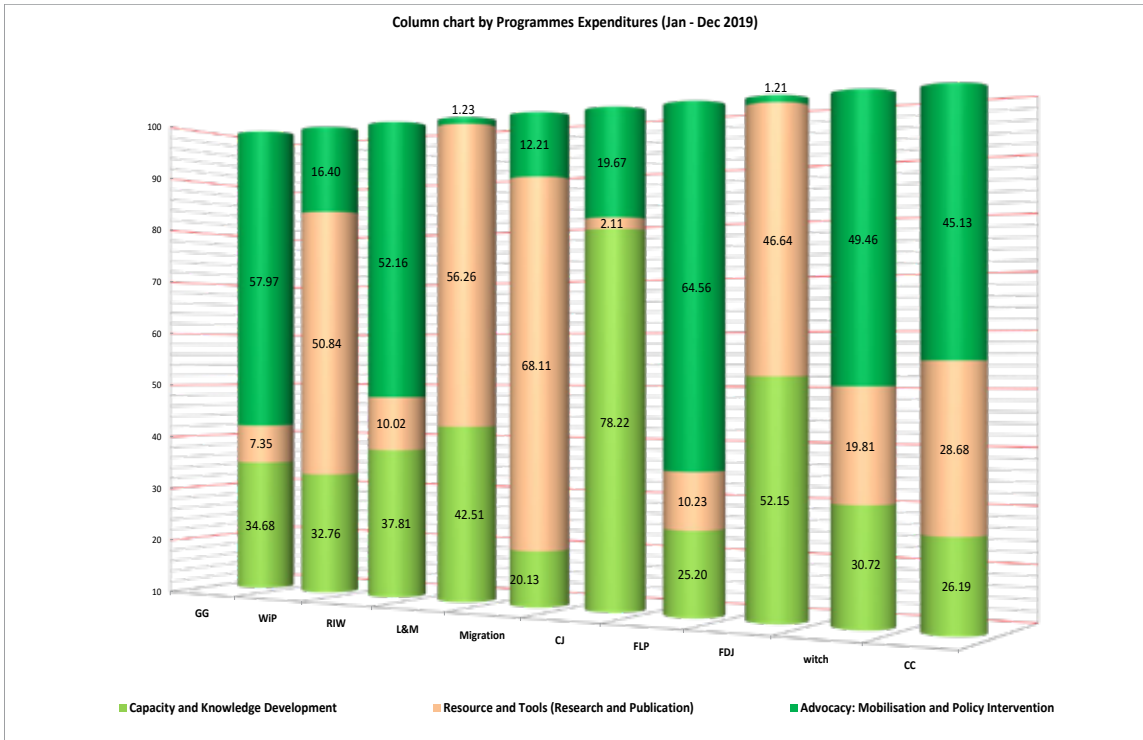
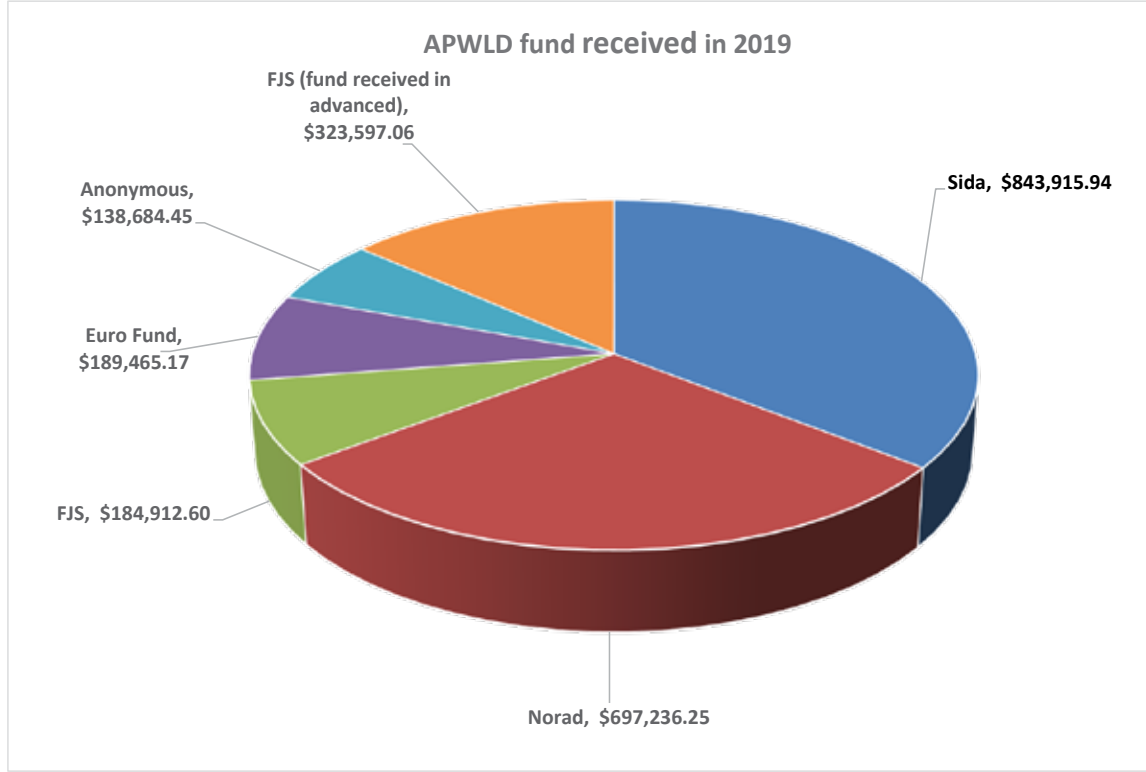
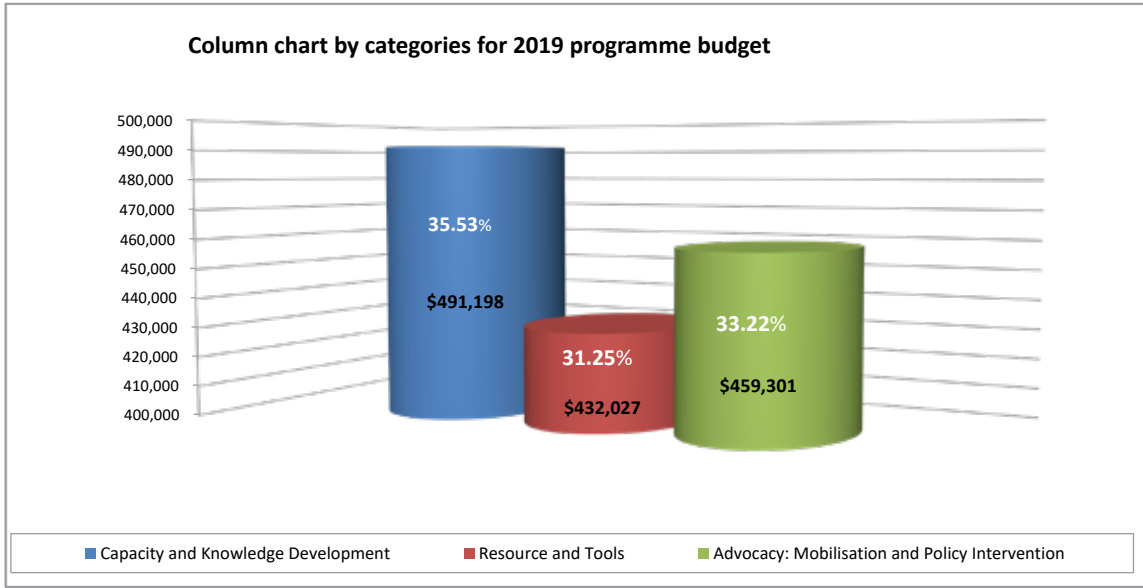
In 2019, we continued to receive core multi-year funding support from Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - Sida) and multi-year programmes support from Norway (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation - Norad). We were excited to renew the core grant support from Foundation for a Just Society (FJS) at an increased grant amount for three years with additional support for institutional sustainability and wellbeing for the period of 2020-2022; as well as a multi-year increased programme support from an anonymous donor for our regional and global advocacy work for the period of 2020-2021. We also appreciate the continued support from the European Union for our work on sustainable development, particularly the Feminist Development Justice programme.

Programme costs for the year constituted almost 83 percent of total costs. Institutional development costs, which includes network support, non-programme resources, publications and materials, member governance meetings and staff development constituted 8 per cent and administration 9 per cent.

In 2019, we increased our sub-grants in a number of programmes which resulted in increased programme budgets to directly support 76 women's right organisations and their communities. Feminist Participatory Action Research sub-grants were utilised in five programmes (Breaking out of Marginalisation, Climate Justice, Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony, Labour and Migration), Womanifesto sub-grants in Women in Power programme, SDGs monitoring in Feminist Development Justice programme while our Feminist Law and Practice provided sub-grants for national-level capacity building in four countries.

Our financial accounts have been audited and approved by NB Accounting, who have reported that our accounts are prepared in accordance with Thai and International Financial Reporting Standards for non-publicly accountable entities, as well as the terms and conditions of our donor contracts. The APWLD auditor is also requested to undertake management auditing to ensure continual improvement of our finance, accounting, and systems management.







ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT  
Chiangmai, Thailand  
Expenditure in 2019

Title	Budget Used (USD)
<b>GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) -International Mechanism</b>	<b>111,646.76</b>
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	2,876.11
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	66,811.53
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,992.20
- Secretariat costs	1,926.41
- Programme Implementation costs	38,040.51
<b>GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) - Regional Mechanism</b>	<b>97,641.39</b>
- Capacity Building	50,174.08
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	7,757.63
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	17,073.62
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,992.20
- Secretariat costs	1,148.74
- Programme Implementation costs	19,495.22
<b>WOMEN IN POWER (WIP)</b>	<b>146,880.56</b>
- Capacity and Development	72,071.89
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	8,455.59
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	23,825.30
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	6,467.30
- Secretariat costs	1,144.70
- Programme Implementation costs	34,915.78
<b>BREAKING OUT OF THE MAGINALISATION (BOM)</b>	<b>355,266.92</b>
- Capacity and Development	86,871.55
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	134,820.20
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	43,495.88
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	5,110.43
- Secretariat costs	1,358.55
- Programme Implementation costs	83,610.31
<b>LABOUR -WOMEN ORGANISING WORKERS (WOW)</b>	<b>102,130.22</b>
- Capacity and Development	23,216.00
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	6,154.00
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	32,024.62
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,992.20
- Secretariat costs	2,117.70
- Programme Implementation costs	36,625.70
<b>MIGRATION</b>	<b>125,829.82</b>
- Capacity and Development	44,035.17
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	58,270.66
- Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	1,275.12
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,979.50
- Secretariat costs	1,031.69
- Programme Implementation costs	19,237.68
<b>CLIMATE JUSTICE</b>	<b>155,854.57</b>
- Capacity and Development	20,849.06
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	72,164.14
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	10,940.48
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	10,017.17
- Secretariat costs	1,146.36
- Programme Implementation costs	40,737.36
<b>FEMINIST LAW &amp; PRACTICE (FLP)</b>	<b>145,530.27</b>
- Capacity and Development	76,222.06
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	2,052.07
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	19,171.35
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,992.20
- Secretariat costs	1,432.32
- Programme Implementation costs	44,660.27
<b>FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE</b>	<b>217,726.58</b>
- Capacity and Development	30,244.95
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	13,857.10
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	87,415.60

Title	Budget Used (USD)
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	1,992.20
- Secretariat costs	1,690.24
- Programme Implementation costs	82,526.49
<b>MACROECONOMICS AND TRADE - WOMEN'S ECONOMIC POWER</b>	<b>129,316.72</b>
- Capacity and Development	48,530.62
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	43,409.56
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	1,125.27
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	-
- Secretariat costs	431.87
- Programme Implementation costs	35,819.40
<b>CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES</b>	<b>195,154.65</b>
- Capacity and Development	59,322.67
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	38,256.58
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	95,508.83
- Programme Implementation costs	2,066.57
<b>Sub-total A</b>	<b>1,782,978.46</b>
<b>Institutional Development</b>	
- Resource Development and Publications	62,752.07
- Network consolidation	23,233.65
- Governance/Management Meetings	30,596.57
- Staff Development	9,498.62
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	58,561.92
<b>Sub-total B</b>	<b>184,642.83</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>189,802.15</b>
<b>Total Expenditure 2019</b>	<b>\$ 2,157,423.44</b>

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT  
Chiang Mai, Thailand  
Fund receipts in 2019

<b>Balance forward from 2018</b>	<b>\$ 1,427,153.35</b>
<b>Fund received in 2019</b>	
Sida	\$ 843,915.94
Norad	\$ 697,236.25
FJS	\$ 184,912.60
FJS (fund received in advanced)	\$ 323,597.06
Euro Fund	\$ 189,465.17
Anonymous	\$ 138,684.45
<b>Total funds in 2019</b>	<b>\$ 2,377,811.47</b>
<b>Total funds available</b>	<b>\$ 3,804,964.82</b>
<b>Others Income</b>	
- Bank interest	\$ 5,936.75
- Miscellaneous income	\$ 9,692.98
<b>Total receipt</b>	<b>\$ 3,820,594.55</b>

(a) Average rate of exchange : USD1 = Baht 32.61



## OUR DONORS IN 2019:



· Anonymous



Calender of Events 2019

JANUARY		
21 - 22	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Secretariat Annual Planning Meeting
24	On-line	FPAR Webinar with Action Aid
28 - 29	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Programme and Managment Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY		
2-7	Sri Lanka	M&E visit to Womanifesto partner in Sri lanka
4-8	Chiapas, Mexico	ESCR-Net Workshop on Building a Shared Critique of the Dominant Economic System
11-14	Bangkok, Thailand	Regional CSW Preparatory Meeting
16 - 17	Penang, Malaysia	APWLD's Members and Allies Convening on China
20 - 21	Jakarta, Indonesia	RCEP Media Advocacy Capacity Building Training for Indonesian Civil Society
23	Geneva, Switzerland	CESCR Consultation on General Comment on Sustainable Development
26-28	Incheon, Republic of Korea	GCF Board meeting (UNFCCC) B.22
27 - 28	Vienna, Austria	UN Women Expert Group Meeting on HLPF

MARCH		
5-8	Chiang Mai, Thailand	MAP Foundation's We get together
8	Global	Women's Global Strike campaign launch
11-22	New York, United States Of America	63rd Session of the Commission on the Status Women
20-22	Bangkok, Thailand	APWLD FDJ Media Fellowship Work shop
23	Bangkok, Thailand	APWLD Climate Justice Media Fellow ship Reflection Meeting
21-23	Bangkok, Thailand	3rd FDJ Partners Meeting
24 -26	Bangkok, Thailand	Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development
27 - 29	Bangkok, Thailand	Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
28-30	Bangkok, Thailand	Women2030 MTE meeting
30-31	Bangkok, Thailand	APRCM Strategic Meeting

APRIL		
2-6	Penang, Malaysia	Womanifesto 3rd Training
9	Bangkok, Thailand	ASEAN People Forum_Regional meeting
13	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Thai Association Meeting and Women, Law and Development Orientation

MAY		
15-16	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Regional Council (ReC) Meeting
14 & 17	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Programme and Management Committee (P&M) Meeting
27-29	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Empower Women's Gathering

JUNE		
3-4	Geneva, Switzerland	Expert workshop "Integrating human rights in Nationally Determined Contributions"
6	Geneva, Switzerland	Geneva Forum on the Human Rights Council's work on Climate Change
17 – 27	Bonn, Germany	Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB 50)
27-28	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Women, Law and Development and Feminist Participatory Action Research (WLD-FPAR) Orientation

JULY		
6 – 8	Songdo, Republic of Korea	Twenty-third meeting of the GCF Board (B.23)
8	New York, United States	Women's Major Group (WMG) Strategy Meeting Monday, July 8, 2019
14	New York, United States	Ground Level People Forum (GLPF)
16 – 18	New York, United States	UN High-level Political Forum 2019

AUGUST		
2-4	Quezon City,	Philippines National FLTP
1&5	Quezon City, Philippines	Mid-term Evaluation Activities in Manila, Philippines
8	Kathmandu, Nepal	Communications Strategy Capacity Building Training for NAWHRD, Nepal
2-9	Kathmandu, Nepal	3rd Land FPAR Training on Advocacy
14-18	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Migration FPAR 1st training
21-22	Issky-Kul, Kyrgyzstan	North and Central Asia Subregional Meeting on 2030 Agenda
21-25	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1st WITCH FPAR Training
26-28	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Regional Consultation (GG)
29-30	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	National Consultation (GG)

SEPTEMBER		
2-6	Bangkok, Thailand	Asia-Pacific Climate Week
7-9	Chiang Mai, Thailand	P&M Meeting
10-12	Bangkok, Thailand	ACSC/APF 2019
12-13	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Mid-year Planning and Assessment Meeting
17-19	Manila Philippines	International Solidarity Conference on the Rights of Climate Migrants
23	New York, USA	UN Climate Summit
23-27	Penang , Malaysia	National FLTP Malaysia
24-26	Kathmandu, Nepal	Policy Forum on Development - Regional Meeting Asia

OCTOBER		
3-4	Bangkok, Thailand	ESCAP South East Asia Subregional Meeting on 2030 Agenda
5-9	Chiang Mai, Thailand	CJ FPAR Batch 3 ,First Training
11-13	Kuala Lumpur	Musawah Meeting in KL
14-17	Penang, Malaysia	7th Asia Pacific Urban Forum
15-18	Kuala Lumpur	International Conference on Islam Unsur rendered :Women Rising Against Extremism; Sisters in Islam
21-25		Pacific Forum on SDGs
30-31	Chiang Mai, Thailand	FPAR Orientation 2.0

NOVEMBER		
11-13	Bangkok, Thailand	Strategic Dialogue On Women's Human Rights and Climate Justice
19-23	Bangkok, Thailand	WITCH 2nd Regional Training
22-23	Bangkok, Thailand	Beijing+25 Youth Feminist Forum
23	Bangkok, Thailand	FDJ Media Fellowship Reflection Meeting
24-26	Bangkok, Thailand	Beijing+25 CSO Forum
27-29	Bangkok, Thailand	Beijing+25 Regional Review: Intergovernmental Meeting

DECEMBER		
2 – 13	Madrid, Spain	25th session of the Conference of the Parties
9-13	Penang, Malaysia	2nd Migration FPAR Regional Traning
9-13	Almaty, Kazakhstan	Central Asia FPAR 2nd Training
14-17	Penang, Malaysia	Women Leading, Women Organising Training





#### Regional Council Members 2017-2020

- Abia Akram – National Forum of Women with Disabilities (NFWWD), Pakistan
- Azra Sayeed – ROOTS for Equity, Pakistan
- Cristina Palabay – Tanggol Bayi, Philippines
- Burnad Fatima – Society for Rural Education and Development, India
- Joms Salvador – GABRIELA, Philippines
- Govind Kelkar – India
- Eni Lestari – Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers, Hong Kong (ATKI-HK), Hong Kong
- Helda Khasmy – SERUNI (Indonesian Women's Union), Indonesia
- Jyotsna Maskay – Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), Nepal
- Matcha Phorn-in – Thai Association, Thailand
- Mijoo Kim – Korea
- Nalini Singh – Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Fiji
- 'Ofa Guttenbiel Likiliki – Tonga Women's Crisis Centre, Tonga
- Olga Djanaeva – Rural women's association "Alga", Kyrgyzstan
- Raushan Nauryzbayeva – Public Foundation "Development of Civil Society" in Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan
- Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk – Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF), Thailand
- Sultana Kamal – Bangladesh
- Reasey Seng – SILAKA, Cambodia
- Titi Soentoro – Aksi! for gender, social and ecological justice, Indonesia
- Tran Thi Thanh Toan – Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), Vietnam
- Yasso Kanti Bhattachan – National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), Nepal
- Misun Woo – Ex-officio

#### Programme and Management Committee (P&M) Members

- Govind Kelkar – India
- Matcha Phorn-in – Thailand
- Joms Salvador – Philippines
- Titi Soentoro – Indonesia
- Reasey Seng – Cambodia
- Ivy Josiah (Ex-officio)
- Misun Woo (Ex-officio)

#### Our Secretariat

- Misun Woo – Regional Coordinator
- Aizhamal Bakashova – Sub-Grant Coordinator
- Marion G. Cabrera – HR and Executive Officer
- Sancheeta Ghosh – Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- Adity Karki – Programme Associate (Feminist Law & Practice)
- Wardarina – Programme Officer (Feminist Development Justice)
- Marjo Busto – Programme Officer (Breaking Out of Marginalisation)
- Patricia Wattimena – Programme Associate (Breaking Out of Marginalisation and Network Support)
- Shoiria Olimova- Central Asia Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) Associate
- Diyana Yahaya – Programme Officer (Women Interrogating Trade & Corporate Hegemony)
- Hien Nguyen – Programme Associate (Feminist Development Justice / Women Interrogating Trade & Corporate Hegemony)
- Kavita Naidu – Programme Officer (Climate Justice)
- Kim Nguyen- Programme Associate (Climate Justice)
- Madhura Chakraborty – Programme Officer (Women in Power)
- Suluck Fai Lamubol Programme Officer (Women Organising Workers)
- Risca Dwi Ambarsari – Programme Officer (Migration Programme)
- Sanam Amin – Programme Officer (Grounding the Global)
- Yasmin– Programme Associate (Grounding the Global)
- Neha Gupta – Information and Communications Officer
- Rachitaa Gupta – Information and Communications Associate
- Trimita Chakma- Research and Publications Officer
- Kristine Valerio – Research and Publications Associate
- Kornvika Paoprathum – Finance Officer
- Chatchanok Anjanbhati – Finance Associate
- Visaline Phuntip-Liaison and Admin Officer
- Thanyarat Khrueawongkaew – Liaison Associate
- Satnam Kaur – Finance and Admin Officer



# APWLD

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