

APWLD Annual Report 2021

AND STILL

WE
RISE

FEMINIST ACTION, RESISTANCE AND SOLIDARITY
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC





Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise



Maya Angelou, "Still I Rise"
from And Still I Rise: A Book of Poems,
Penguin Random House, 1978.

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Development



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

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
BIEN	BPO Industry Employees Network
BOOM	Breaking out of Marginalisation
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
C189	ILO's Domestic Workers' Convention 2011 (No. 189)
C190	ILO's Violence and Sexual Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190)
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CJ	Climate Justice
COP	Conference of the Parties on Climate Change
CRPH	Coalition for People's Right to Health
CSW	Committee on the Status of Women
CUTHR	Center for Trade Union and Human Rights
EVAW	Elimination of Violence against Women
FDJ	Feminist Development Justice
FIDH	International Federation for Human Rights
FLP	Feminist Law and Practice
FLTP	Feminist Legal Theory and Practice
FPAR	Feminist Participatory Action Research
FRRR	Feminist Rapid Response Research
FSBPI	Federasi Serikat Buruh Persatuan Indonesia
GA	General Assembly
GAATW	Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GFMP	Globalisation Fundamentalisms Militarism Patriarchy
GG	Grounding the Global
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IDWF	International Domestic Workers Federation
ISDS	Investor State Dispute Settlement
KMK	Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (Women Workers' Movement)
KSPPM	Kelompok Studi dan Pengembangan Prakarsa Masyarakat
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (or those questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation), Intersex, along with their allies

MGoS	Major Groups and Other Stakeholders
NAHWRD	National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NIWF	National Indigenous Women Forum
P&M	Programme and Management Committee
POC	Programme Organising Committee
ProDESC	Proyecto de Derechos Economicos, Sociales y Culturales
ReC	Regional Council
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TTCU	Tamil Nadu Textile and Common Labour Union
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
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WGC	Women and Gender Constituency
WGNRR	Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights
WGS	Women's Global Strike
WHRDs	Women Human Rights Defenders
WiP	Women in Power
WITCH	Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony
WLB	Women's League of Burma
WMG	Women's Major Group
WOFOWON	Women Forum for Women in Nepal
WOW	Women Organising Workers
WRC	Workers' Rights Consortium
WSC	Women Support Centre
WTO	World Trade Organization

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 265 members represent organisations and groups of diverse women from 30 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 35 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 (POC). APWLD is governed by a Programme and Management Committee (P&M) composed from a larger Regional Council (ReC) of active members, which in turn is selected by our General Assembly (GA) of members, held every three years. Our Secretariat in Chiang Mai carries out day-to-day operations and provides for programme implementation as well as financial and technical support.

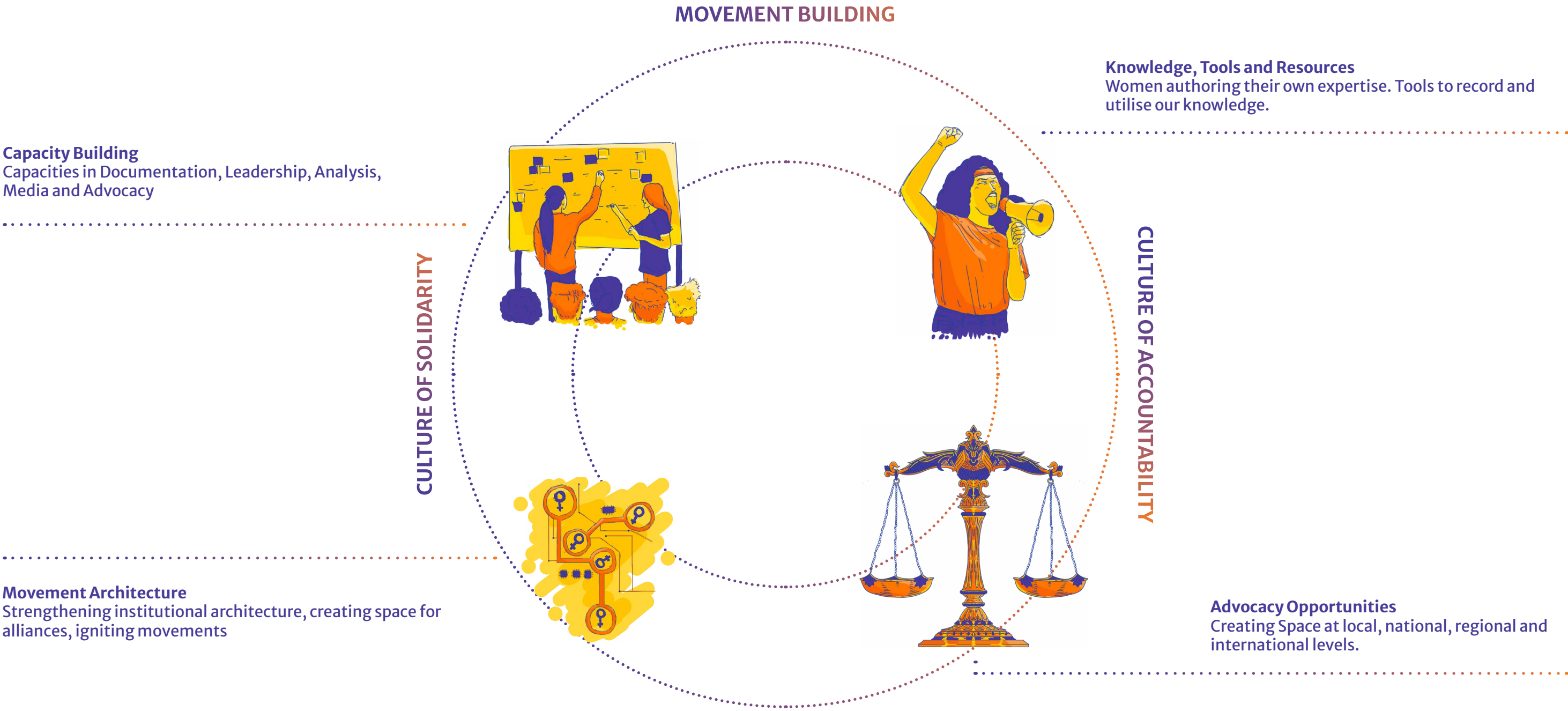
OUR HERSTORY

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.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGES

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:

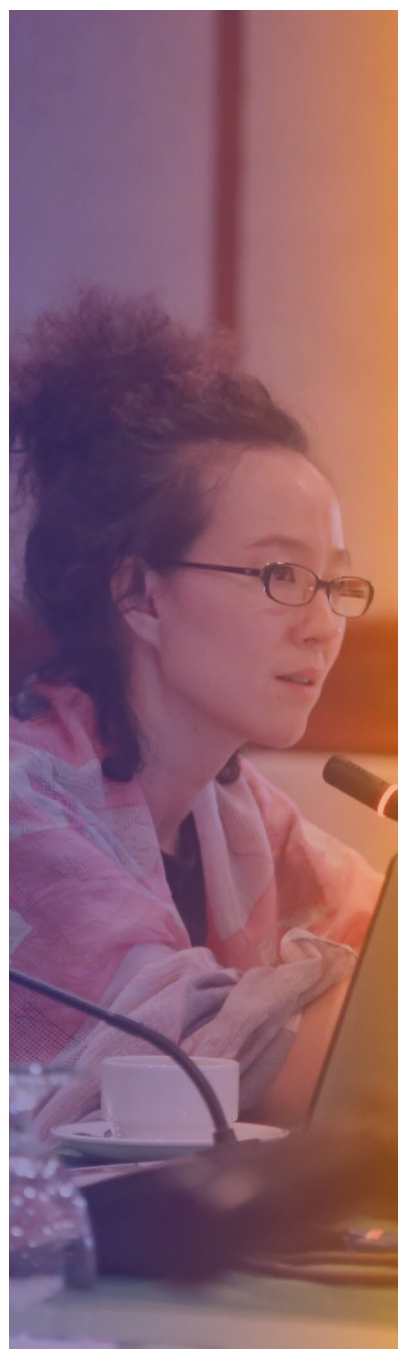
- 1. Building strong capacities to analyse, organise, advocate and drive social, economic and political change;
- 2. Co-creating knowledge, evidence, tools and resources to advocate for change;
- 3. Extending/Facilitating advocacy space and opportunities to engage with and influence policy makers at local, national, regional and international levels; and
- 4. 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



In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit us, we were authoring our stories of hope with our members and their communities. In 2021, when the darkness of the pandemic got deeper with the looming consequences of the interconnected economic, social and political crises, we started our songs of hope that will only multiply and amplify to connect, inspire, heal and restore our movements. In one of the deepest darkness, we saw the brightest hope within us – the feminist movements.

The year 2021 demonstrated the power of who we are – a feminist, membership-driven network. When we were designing online sub-regional members' convenings as a participatory process to establish APWLD's new strategic plan for 2022–2026, I wouldn't deny there was a heavy doubt given the digital divide, Zoom fatigue and the limitations of online meetings to name a few. However, the processes and the actual convenings, which led to APWLD's General Assembly, was one of the most engaging, participatory and critical processes in designing APWLD's strategic direction. APWLD's new strategy is a testament to the realities, struggles and feminist visions of our members and their communities, and consequently will guide us to the very right direction to win women's human rights and Development Justice.

In this report, which we titled "And Still We Rise", there are stories of our members, partners, allies and communities rallying together to support one another and create hope that shines over the darkness. Determined organising led to generating a change to shift power relations – ranging from young mothers in Kazakhstan using digital diaries to campaign for decent childcare benefits, to the passing of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home Based Workers Act in Pakistan and women workers advocating for the Paid Pandemic Leave Bill in the Philippines, to securing vaccines for undocumented sex workers in India and internal migrant women workers in Nepal. These are collective achievements from the movement that pave our path forward for justice, human rights, freedom and equality.

In 2021, we took bolder and more creative actions to facilitate large cross-movement mobilisation and campaigns with new allies through an online May Day strike; engaged cultural activists to visibilise women's experiences and acts of resistance, influence public and policy discourses as well as to support cultural activism; created spaces for critical learnings such as e-learning series on UNCTAD, digital security, digital advocacy and media advocacy. Underpinning everything we do will be a continued focus on building a stronger autonomous feminist movement that advances accountability and solidarity.

Institutionally, the General Assembly elected new Regional Council members, comprised of strong feminist activists from diverse backgrounds for the term 2021–2024. For the first time in APWLD's herstory, the Regional Council includes representatives from under-represented constituencies and countries, including women with disabilities, home-based workers, Tajikistan, China and Papua New Guinea. Following the Regional Council's decision in 2020, our Secretariat has completed the transition process to a 'hybrid' model of working arrangement. The new working arrangement of the Secretariat will serve as a critical learning process to develop better engaging, participatory and caring approaches to APWLD, including virtual tools, methodologies and platforms for our grassroots members and their communities.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and respect to our members, partners and supporters for joining forces to dismantle the systems of oppression. Undoubtedly the coming years will only be more challenging, yet still we rise. Together, we rise.

In solidarity,
Misun Woo

OUR IMPACT

2021 SNAPSHOTS

CAPACITY BUILDING

We developed the capacity of at least **6,143** grassroots women and their communities to understand the structural causes of their local/national problems; increased their skills to document, analyse and formulate policy recommendations to advance women's human rights and Development Justice.

Movement Architecture

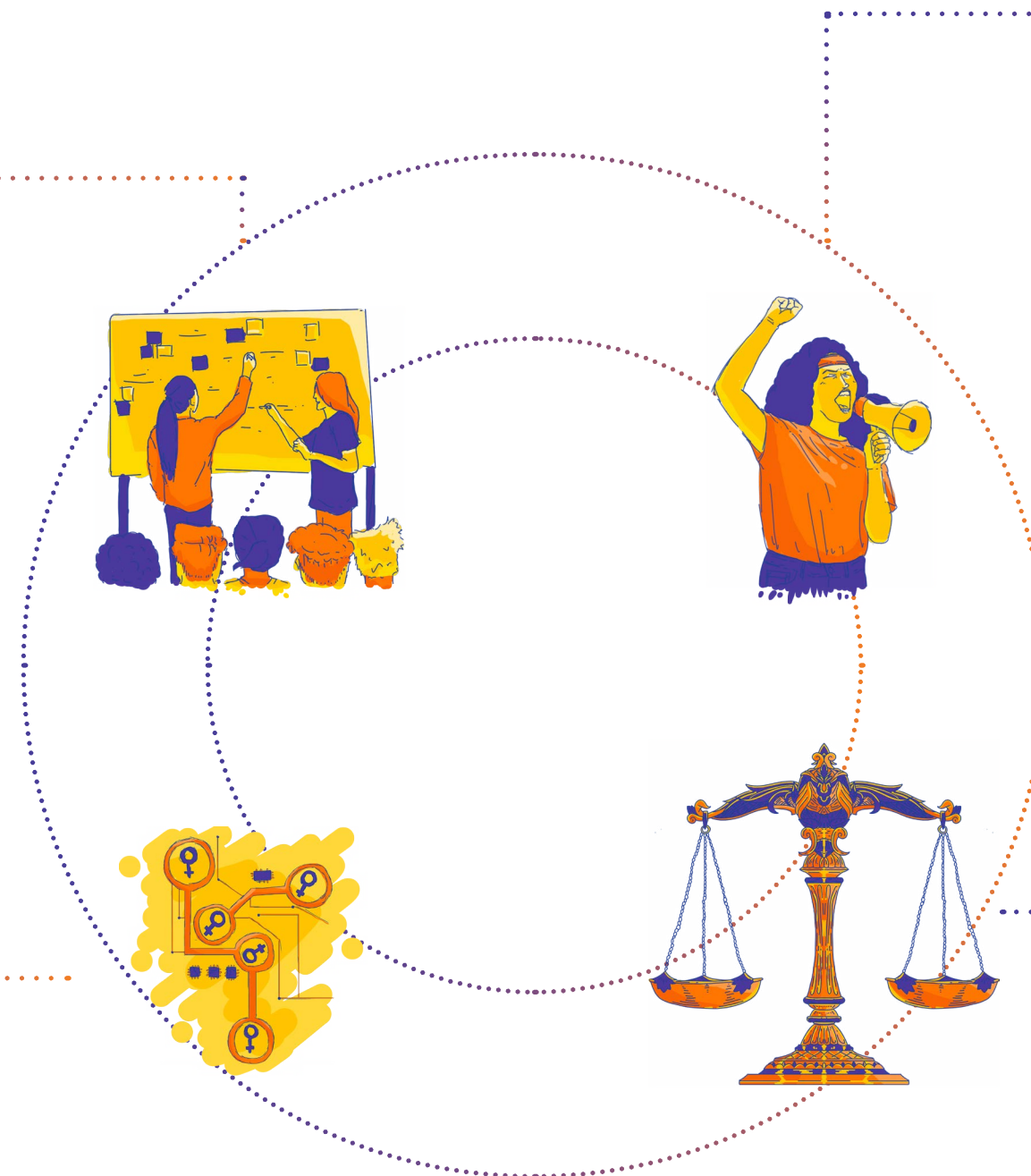
We continued fostering and sustaining new alliances, networks and cross-movement collaborations. We actively participated in and led **17** regional and international initiatives, networks or alliances. In 2021 in particular, our work with grassroots women and their communities through FPAR, Womenifesto 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 **98** new feminist knowledge tools and resources, including **31** new 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

In this grant period, we resourced and supported over **72** grassroots feminist women's rights activists to directly engage in **15** high level advocacy spaces. We secured **45** speaking opportunities for our members and partners as panellists or interventions from the floor. Our positions and demands on Development Justice were reflected in several key UN outcome documents, including Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) outcome document, Ministerial Declaration on SDGs 2021 and Resolution on the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and ECOSOC Review.



**Bold and Proactive Strategies in the face
of Systemic Challenges:**

Impact Stories



The story of APWLD's impact in 2021 is one of the resilience and tenacity of our members across the region in the face of systemic crises that have, over the year, become even more consolidated and rigid. These include, amongst others, a crisis of worsening inequalities, a debt crisis, a decent work and care crisis, an environmental and climate emergency, a deepening of entrenched patriarchal norms and a rise in fundamentalisms, as well as a rise in authoritarian and militarised regimes across the region. These systemic challenges, which have been further worsened by the pervasive impacts of the pandemic, continue to devastate the lives, particularly of those in the margins of our communities. To counter these challenges and to reclaim ever-shrinking spaces for feminist action, in 2021, APWLD used a range of bolder, more proactive, and innovative strategies even as we consolidated strategies that worked well in the fight for women's human rights and Development Justice.

Over the year, in the face of the inequalities deepened by the pandemic, we undertook direct actions to support communities impacted by the pandemic and ramped up our advocacy with governments to take action on COVID-19. We documented and amplified the impacts of the pandemic on women across the region by producing COVID-19 storybooks, conducting Feminist Rapid Response Research (FRRR) and supporting media fellows who published several news stories highlighting the stories of grassroots women. In the face of the pervasive digital shift accelerated by the pandemic, we adapted our strategies by using an array of digital applications and tools and strengthening our digital capacity building and digital advocacy approaches, whilst continuing to push for the principle of diverse and participatory spaces in the digital world. We also became more resilient and creative in facilitating the engagement of members and partners at regional and international spaces which enabled us to continue to support and amplify the voices of our members, grassroots organisations and allies across the region, and to push for the democratisation of regional and international policy spaces

Consolidating Strategies, Reclaiming Spaces

A highlight of the year was the work we did along with our partners and members on advancing the rights of women workers across the region, including through sustained mobilisation and solidarity actions which in several instances, contributed to significant changes in laws and policies in the region. We were also able to deepen cross-regional and intersectional solidarities through our focused work with women's rights organisations and movements in Central Asia, as well as through cross-programmatic collaborations and campaigns across the region, which enabled us to bring together wider sets of allies including migrant, labour, LGBTQI+ and women's groups. Some key instances of deepening solidarities through campaigns and advocacy over the year include the campaigns to End All Forms of Violence at All Workplaces through the ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) (C190), the campaign to highlight Missing Voices at the 26th United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP26), and our urgent response support to Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in Burma/Myanmar in the face of the military coup in the country.

Over the year, we continued to enable the creation and consolidation of alternative spaces that challenge the dominant neoliberal narrative on sustainable development. We supported the participation of members and partners at the inaugural Gender and Development Forum at the fifteenth session of the quadrennial United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD15) held in October 2021 and at the Global Peoples' Summit, a counter event to the corporate-driven UN Food Systems Summit held in September 2021. In the lead-up to these events, APWLD engaged grassroots communities at the regional, sub-regional and national levels and conducted e-learning exercises to generate feminist narratives and analysis based on women's realities and experiences that were then amplified by APWLD members, partners and allies at these fora. We also tried newer approaches this year, by holding, for instance, national consultations on Migration.

As a membership-led network, a significant highlight of the year was the strengthening of our membership engagement across the region particularly through four sub-regional convenings and surveys where member organisations and individuals from across Asia and the Pacific convened for collective sense-making and strategic discussions on our forthcoming 5-year plan. This process has reinforced our ethos as an organisation with a clear sense of collective ownership rooted in collective struggles, with a robust political and structural analysis based on an understanding of women's realities in patriarchal structures and the interconnected forces of neoliberal globalisation, fundamentalisms and militarism. This collective feminist ethos, stemming from our mission as a membership-led feminist network, has also sustained our resilience and tenacity in dealing with intensifying multiple systemic challenges over the year.



It bears highlighting, repeating and reiterating that the pandemic has exposed systemic issues with the current economic, political and socio-cultural systems, and deepened already worsening inequalities in communities across the region. The devastating impacts across every sphere of life – from health to the economy, including massive losses in livelihoods, increased indebtedness and high levels of food insecurity, to the egregious and compounded impacts on democratic rights, peace and security, and the climate emergency – continued to reverberate for a second year in the lives of women and girls across the region, particularly those that are most vulnerable and marginalised. In the face of these challenges, APWLD and its membership, over the last year, have sought to consolidate strategies and reclaim spaces to resist and counter the multiple crises exacerbated by COVID-19 across the region.

Our COVID-19 response initiative has provided the focal point for our work in response to the impacts of the pandemic, including direct action, advocacy and research that have sought to highlight, address and mitigate the effects of the pandemic on women across the region. Our work to counter the crises deepened by the pandemic is also embedded across programmes, from the work of our media fellows in the InfoComms programme to throw a spotlight on the effects of the pandemic, to the work across programmes to understand the impacts of the pandemic and to advocate for structural change to advance women's human rights and Development Justice in the region.

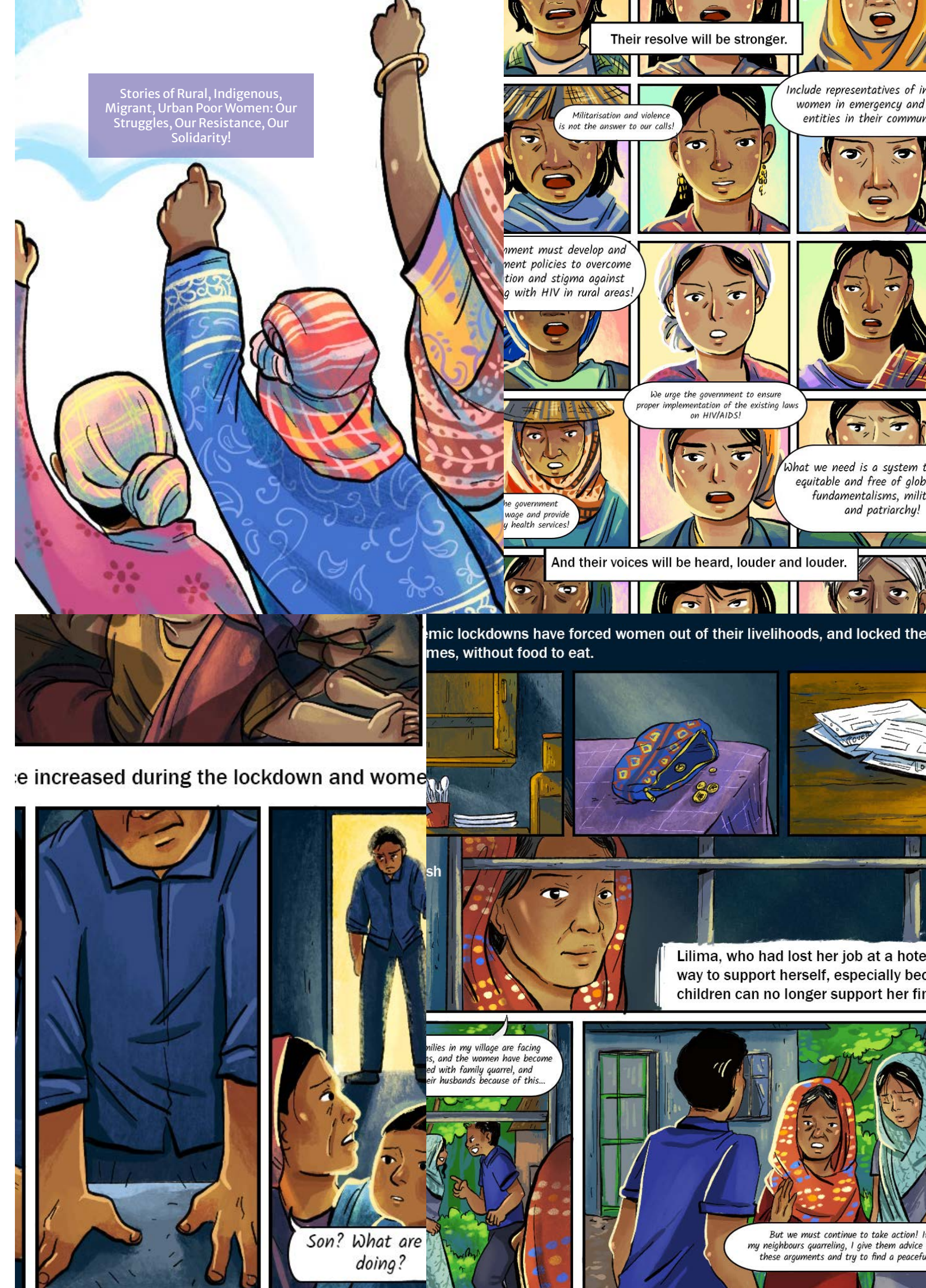
Amplifying the Impacts of the Pandemic and Women's Resistance

One of the ways in which APWLD responded to the crises engendered by the pandemic was to make visible the impacts of the pandemic on rural, Indigenous, migrant women and women workers across the region by documenting their contexts and experiences and analysing them in the form of Feminist Rapid Response Research (FRRR), COVID-19 storybooks and diaries. Two storybooks, *Stories of Migrant Women* and *Stories of Rural, Indigenous, Migrant, Urban Poor Women: Our Struggles, Our Resistance, Our Solidarity!*, were prepared over the year to highlight the impacts of the pandemic on the lived realities of grassroots women from the region as well as community action to build solidarity and advocate for structural change.

This important initiative in publishing the storybook is to highlight the situation of women. And I think it's very important to advance the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant women. I really appreciate the role played by the civil society, especially the research and the work that you have been doing to this initiative.

Felipe González Morales, The United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights of migrants during the book launch of the COVID-19 storybook on Migration.

APWLD also amplified the impacts of the pandemic on grassroots communities through our media fellowships on the 'Gendered Impacts of COVID-19' which have significantly contributed to generating more attention to grassroots women's struggles against COVID-19 as well as restrictive policies and authoritarian regimes, which are often missing from the mainstream media. Despite the challenges of reporting with COVID-19 imposed travel restrictions, three sets of media fellows from Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines produced several stories highlighting the impacts of the pandemic on women-owned Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the transgender community in Sri Lanka, on migrant domestic workers in Southeast Asia, and stories of resilience in the Philippines including through the setting up of community kitchens. These stories were published in a range of newspapers across the region.



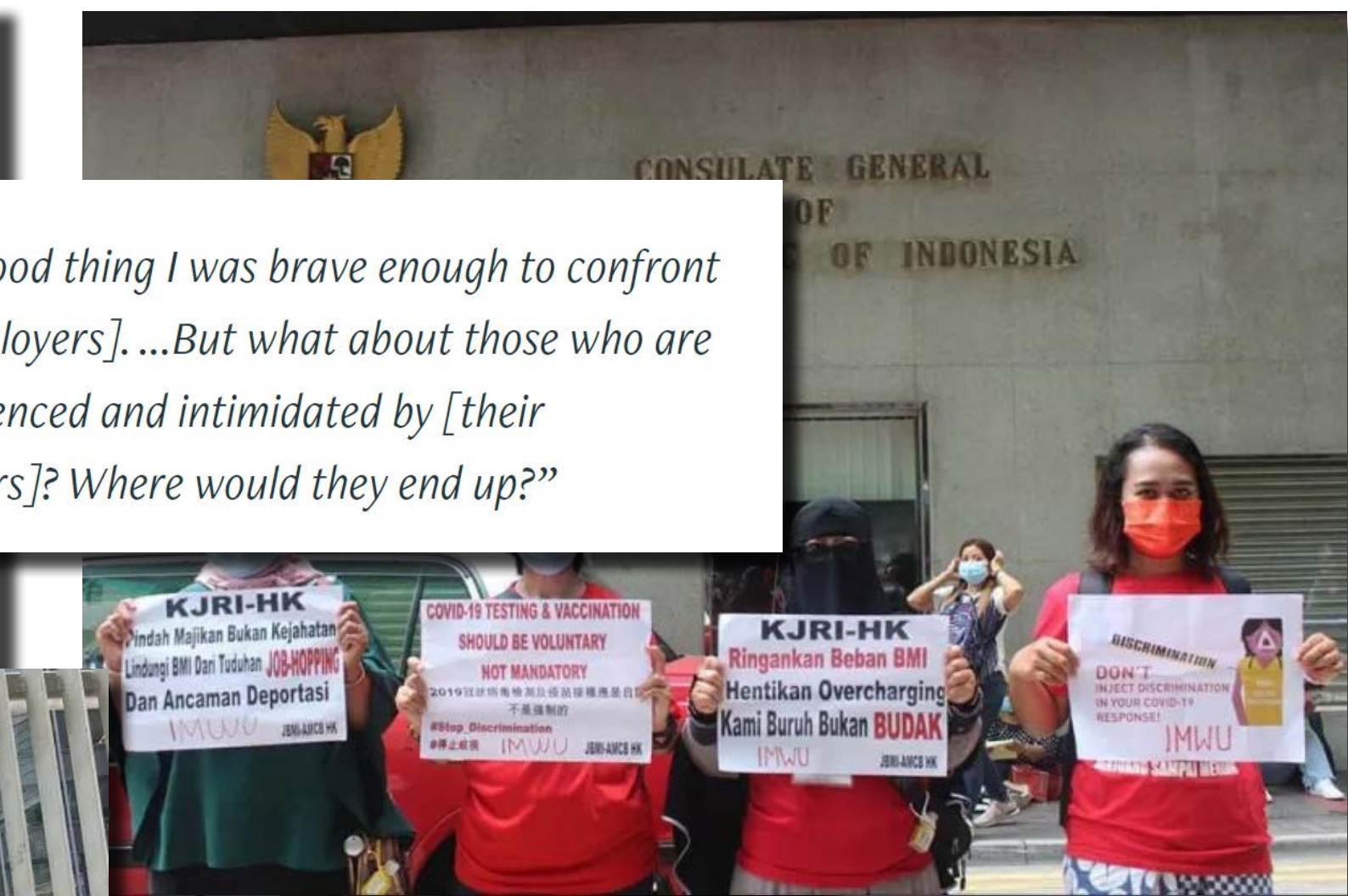
Amid pandemic-related border closures, some of the women had been stuck in the deportation facility for several months, others for over a year, having escaped employers who, they say, physically and mentally abused them, denied them healthcare and made them work more than 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

“If you don’t let me go home, I’ll die here.”

H’Thai Ayun was desperate to get back home. She pleaded with her employer to leave, and when that failed, she refused to speak for seven days straight. After they released her to the Saudi Arabian agency that had placed her in that job, she wept and demanded to be sent to a deportation facility where she would be able to meet other Vietnamese women. She eventually told the agency: “If you don’t let me go home, I’ll die here.”

Other women in the video had also tried calling their recruitment agents and the Vietnamese embassy seeking help.

“It’s a good thing I was brave enough to confront [my employers]. ...But what about those who are inexperienced and intimidated by [their employers]? Where would they end up?”



FEATURE

Under-Protected Abroad, Domestic Workers Find Ways to Resist

Southeast Asian domestic labourers often migrate to wealthier countries where they are excluded from labour protections and left vulnerable to abuse. While COVID-19 has made labour conditions worse, some migrant workers have found their own ways to resist.

with the pandemic. They were often working more than 12 hours a day for around \$4,630, plus meals provided by employers. For other workers, the pay was equivalent to HK\$6,000 per month.

At the [Complex](#) and additional locations, the Hong Kong government [scrapped](#) mandatory testing requirements, however, [domestic workers tested positive](#) out of the

“It’s a business. ...[Agencies’] priority will always be the profit they make from recruiting migrant workers.”

Advocating for and Securing Change

Our members and partners also responded to the pandemic by offering direct support to women and by sustained advocacy for change, and in some instances securing immediate relief for communities. Our partners, Sabokhan, AMIHAN and Kadamay in the Philippines and Jipar in Kyrgyzstan made effective use of agroecology and community kitchens to address immediate issues of food insecurity and to build solidarity in their communities.

In Nepal, our FRRR partner, Women Forum for Women in Nepal (WOFOWON), together with women working in the entertainment sectors, secured local government's funds, specifically to address the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. In Indonesia, women workers in the garment sector, together with our partner, Federasi Serikat Buruh Persatuan Indonesia (FSBPI) and women workers in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Sector in the Philippines together with our partner, BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN) secured health access, particularly PPE for their members.



Photo by Indonesian United Union Federation (FSBPI), Indonesia

In the Philippines again, our partners and members, Women Workers in Struggle for Employment, Empowerment and Emancipation (Women Wise 3), Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CUTHR) and BIEN joined the Coalition for People's Right to Health (CRPH), to push against the No Vaccine, No Work Policy which provided a legal basis for employers to compel their workers to be vaccinated. Along with the coalition, they launched an ongoing signature campaign to call for the suspension of the policy. As of December 2021, the petition had reached 12,683 signatures.

In amplifying the impact of the pandemic and advocating for democratic accountability and structural change, partners and members also used our COVID-19 storybooks, and data and evidence gathered through FPARs in our programmes. In India, FPAR data and evidence, gathered by our partner Aastha Parivaar in Uttar Pradesh, India was utilised to successfully advocate for free COVID-19 vaccination access for 2,400 sex workers. In Nepal, our partner, National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD), used the COVID-19 storybook, Stories of Migrant Women, to advocate for the human right to vaccine access for internal migrant domestic workers. They collaborated with ILO and other networks, and as a result, they were able to secure vaccines for more than 80 internal migrant domestic workers, especially those who did not have citizen cards to register for vaccination. They also secured a commitment from officials of Bagmati province to register all internal migrant domestic workers as workers at the local labour department. The registration will allow women domestic workers to have their identity card both at local and province levels.



Photo by National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD), Nepal

Adapting to the Digital Shift

One of the clear impacts of our work in 2021 was the consolidation of our strategies to adapt to the pervasive digital shift that has accelerated since the onset of the pandemic. Owing to travel restrictions engendered by the pandemic, we have had to make major shifts in our capacity building work across programmes, much of which was conducted online over the year. We ensured that the principles of participatory learning continued to be maintained in the virtual world through the creative use of online participatory tools, games and exercises.

Another key strategy has been to enhance the capacities of our members and partners on digital security and media and digital advocacy through a series of capacity building workshops, which have enabled participants to adapt to the digital world. We focused on the experiences and challenges in the digital world in our capacity building exercises, even as we strengthened the capacity of our members and partners to navigate their own online capacity building exercises at their local levels. Additionally, we ensured language justice and accessibility in the digital world by providing interpretations and translations at meetings and publications and sending materials in advance to visually impaired participants.

Another strategy across programmes has been to enhance the capacities of our members and partners on digital storytelling. For instance, in Kazakhstan, our partner Moy Dom, during its national advocacy campaign, developed and produced a digital story on how FPAR women were able to mobilise and organise

local young mothers to assert their rights to decent childcare benefits throughout their FPAR journey. The digital story was shared on [social media](#) to increase the number of supporters of the advocacy campaign, which was devoted to advocating with the parliament of Kazakhstan on two key demands of FPAR women: to guarantee the provision of a childcare allowance that was not below the minimum wage and to increase the duration of childcare benefits from one year to two years.

Over the year, we also continued to strengthen our digital presence and maximised the use of our social media. We used a range of digital tools, applications and social media to disseminate our message through GIFs, online posters, colour campaigns, reels and so on.

Further, we strengthened our digital advocacy work by fostering networking and solidarity this year through the launch of several impactful digital campaigns, including on climate justice in COP26 on Missing Voices and on the demand for the ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention on Violence and Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (C190) through two interconnected actions on May Day and (Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Day, on which more below.



Enabling Spaces and Democratising Regional and International Processes

Over recent years, systemic challenges to any meaningful engagement in regional and international processes and mechanisms have been compounded by a continuing crisis of multilateralism with the increasing ‘privatisation’ of the UN and the creation of spaces outside of the UN by powerful governments with private sector leadership, posing serious concerns for democratic participation and accountability at the international stage. Since the onset of the pandemic, and continuing into 2021, these systemic issues have been further exacerbated by a pervasive digital shift – many UN meetings and processes were conducted online or in a hybrid format with mostly virtual meetings. Grassroots women’s rights activists from the Global South struggled to engage meaningfully with these spaces – they had limited access to technologies and internet connections which was compounded further by time inequities, including disparities in the timings of the meetings, the lack of timely access to information, as well as limited time to present statements. Where meetings and conferences were held in-person such as with COP26, they faced the barriers of vaccine inequities and travel restrictions.

However, despite these challenges, APWLD in collaboration with our members, partners and strategic allies continued to influence multiple spaces and mechanisms by amplifying the voices of grassroots women’s rights activists from Asia and the Pacific with our evidence-based feminist analysis. We became more resilient and creative in facilitating the engagement of members and partners at regional and international mechanisms and processes such as the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP), and so on.

We used various communication platforms, supported our members to navigate and prepare for the online set up, as well as organised and coordinated action in these spaces. We also persisted with our sustained actions through our roles in different constituencies, including the Women’s Major Group (WMG) and the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCM), both of which we coordinate. Through our role in APRCEM, we were also proactive in the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) as leads for the Advocacy and Voluntary National Review (VNR) task groups. Through the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), at COP26, we communicated our stand dedicating a space for the ‘missing voices’ of women of COP26.



Glasgow fails, a fast track to the world’s end:
Feminists, grassroots women slam world leaders’ betrayal, horrifying outcomes of COP26

We led the production of 12 Asia Pacific CSOs Factsheets (nine cluster goals and three cross-cutting issues), which contained APWLD’s positions and priorities on Development Justice. These fact sheets were used widely by Asia Pacific civil societies during APFSD. As a result, the report of the 8th APFSD and the Chair’s summary reflects our key demands, including COVID-19 vaccines as a global public good and the urgency for Member States to anchor recovery on Development Justice.

APWLD co-authored WMG’s Position Paper on HLPF Review, which was circulated to 11 Member States and used as reference points by the Governments of Mexico and Spain. The final document of HLPF Review reflected APWLD/APRCM positions, including the need to strengthen regional follow up and review such as regional forums for Voluntary National Review (VNR) as well as cross-cutting elements added to the HLPF discussion to ensure holistic approach of SDGs monitoring.

APWLD’s leadership in APRCEM, WMG and MGoS have led to a stronger and more democratic space in the 2030 Agenda processes at regional and global levels. In 2021, APRCEM was elected as co-chair of Global MGoS making it the first ever global south regional platform to lead the formal civil societies and stakeholders’ engagement process at the HLPF and highlighting our collective call on human rights and Development Justice.



Further, we created opportunities for grassroots women migrants and their organisations to directly engage with UN mandate holders. In November 2021, through a virtual regional consultation, we created a space for grassroots women migrant workers’ organisations to directly interact with the UN mandate holders and share the stories and challenges of migrant women and their communities, as well as the collective regional recommendations to ensure that the human rights issues of migrant women are fully and effectively addressed by Member States. Through the consultation, we were able to share the struggles of internal and returned migrant women in their respective countries with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants, Mr. Felipe Morales Gonzales, Vice Chair of UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls, Ms. Dorothy Estrada, and Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Dr Heisoo Shin.

Following the consultation, our members and partners are preparing submissions, highlighting the situation of women migrants to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the state review of Indonesia.

Workers Run the World: Advancing the Rights of Women Workers



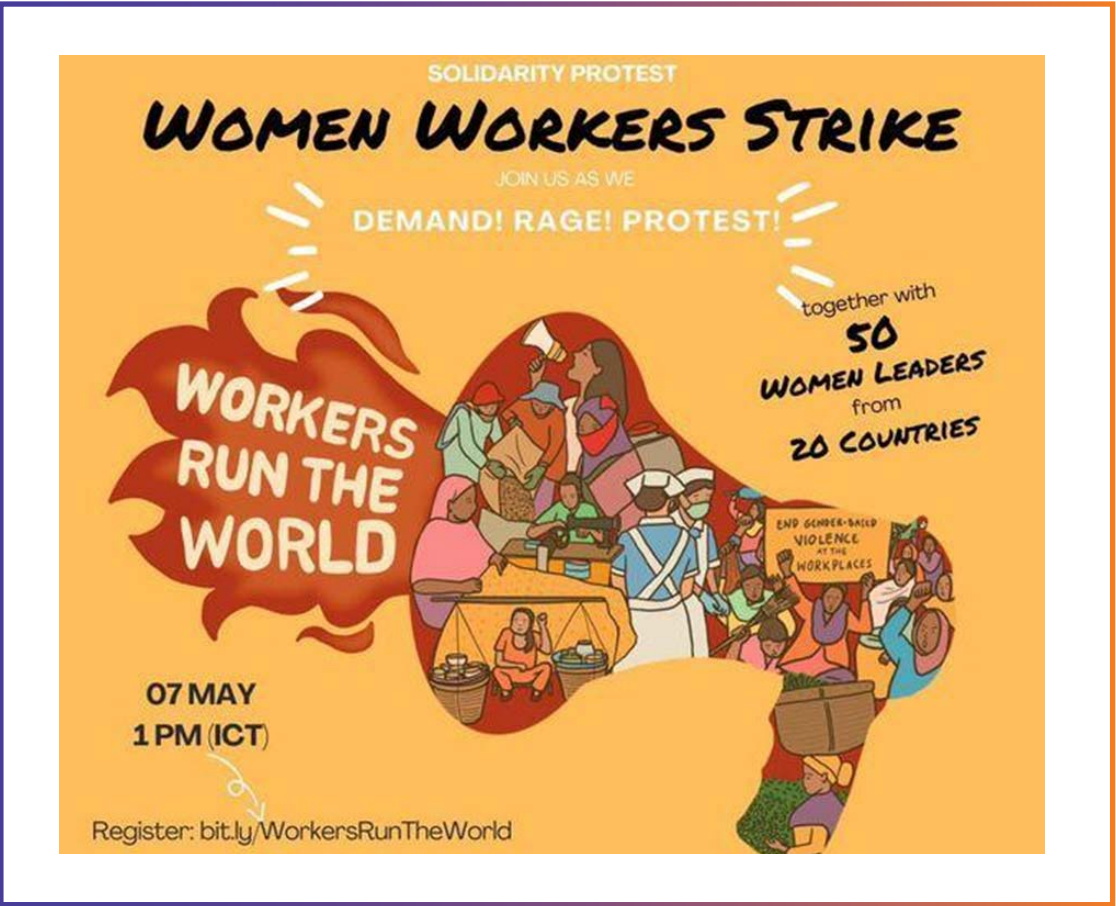
Across programmes, some of the key impacts of our work have been on advancing the rights of women workers in the region, particularly in a time of immense precarity and vulnerability for them. Along with our partners and members, we were able to push the needle on workers' rights by supporting the work of our members and partners on the mobilisation and networking of women workers including through sustained solidarity actions and campaigns which in several instances, contributed to significant changes in laws and policies in the region.

Advocating for Workers’ Rights

One of the highlights of 2021 was that there were several impactful campaigns that brought together groups, representing different sectors of workers from many countries of the region, in solidarity to advocate for and secure women workers’ rights. One such campaign, that was sustained through several events over the year along with members and allies across the region, was on the demand for the ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention on Violence and Sexual Harassment at the Workplace 2019 (No. 190) (C190).

In January 2021, Jeyasre Kathiravel, a Dalit woman garment worker from Tamil Nadu, India and a member of the Tamil Nadu Textile and Common Labour Union (TTCU), who faced months of sexual harassment by her supervisor at her workplace, was murdered. In April 2021, APWLD collaborated with the Justice for Jeyasre campaign that was run by an alliance of TTCU, Global Labour Justice, Asia Floor Wage Campaign and other organisations on a Global Vigil to demand justice for Jeyasre, including just compensations for Jeyasre’s family from the brands, an end to any and all coercion and retaliation related to the case, as well as an enforceable agreement with unions that included monitoring, remediation and prevention of gender-based violence and barriers to freedom of association. Due to the massive pressure generated by the global alliance, the brands and the supplier agreed to pay just compensation for Jeyasre’s family and provided educational scholarships to the children of garment workers in Jeyasre’s factory. The alliance is awaiting the investigation report carried out by the Workers’ Rights Consortium (WRC).

APWLD continued its advocacy on gender-based violence in the world of work with an online protest on May Day, ‘Workers Run the World’ where 41 women worker leaders from across the region gave marathon speeches, solidarity messages and vocal support to call for an end to gender-based violence in workplaces and for governments to ratify C190. More than 110 women representing over 30 countries came together in the protest. The May Day protest was also supported by our allies from Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) and IndustriAll Global Union.



The May Day protest contributed to the campaign-advocacy strategies of APWLD members and partners throughout the year. For instance, in Sri Lanka, our member, Women’s Centre continued the strike action to call upon the government to ratify C190 and to protect garment women workers in Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and Export Processing Zones. Stand Up Movement Lanka together with its alliance also launched the hotline service for women workers in FTZs to ensure survivors, victims and those affected by gender-based violence are provided with appropriate services, information and referrals. In the Philippines, the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CUTHR) and Women Wise supported the House Resolution 1167 and 1404 calling for the ratification of the ILO Convention 19 and the implementation of C190 and Recommendation No. 206.

As a continuation of the May Day Solidarity action, during the 16 days of Activism (November 25 – December 10), along with Asia Floor Wage Alliance, we conducted a series of actions and activities to fight against violence and harassment in all workplaces and create the collective power to push for the ratification and implementation of ILO C190 and Recommendation 206. An online protest was attended by over 100 participants representing different sectors across Asia and the Pacific. This collaborative action has contributed to strengthening cross-movement solidarity to end gender-based violence at all workplaces across the region.

APWLD intends to create further momentum on the C190 ratification and implementation campaign and strengthen cross-movement solidarities through a series of podcasts that will highlight the experience and recommendations of women workers on gender-based violence at workplaces across the region in the coming year. We kickstarted this with a launch event in November 2021.

Significant Policy Changes

Despite the severe challenges posed by the pandemic, the sustained work of our members and partners has contributed to significant policy changes over the last year in several parts of the region. The consistent advocacy of our partner, Da Hawwa Lur, including through the production of a film that highlighted the economic exploitation that home-based workers and transwomen of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa experience in this remote, heavily militarised province of Pakistan, contributed to the passing in March this year of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home Based Workers (Welfare and Protection) Act 2021. The Act recognises home-based workers as workers and provides legal protection and higher living wages.

In the Philippines, our Women in Power partner, Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (KMK) (Women Workers' Movement), continued its collaborations with the wider women's movements and labour rights movements to push for the Paid Pandemic Leave Bill which grants fourteen (14) days paid leave for COVID-19 infected and COVID exposed workers at 100 per cent pay and 60 days paid leave for floating/no-work, no-pay workers in pandemic-hit companies at 80 per cent pay. All employees, whether regular or contractual, can avail this leave benefit including those in economic zones. The Bill, which was filed in Congress by Gabriela Women's Party as the principal author on 20 October 2020 based on information and testimonies gathered by KMK, was approved by the Congress on 11 December 2020 at the Committee on Labour. This was a significant achievement as previous gains for women workers in the form of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSH Bill) 2017 and the Extended Maternity Benefit Act (EML Bill) that was first filed in 2007 and re-filed in the following sessions in the Congress and last in 2019 were severely curtailed as employers violated provisions for workers' rights in the name of the pandemic-induced economic crisis.

In Indonesia, our partner and member, Federasi Serikat Buruh Persatuan Indonesia (FSBPI), was an integral part of the Indonesian workers' alliance that challenged the Omnibus law in the Constitutional Court, which resulted in the law being delayed by the court in December with the ruling that the law is conditionally unconstitutional and needs to be rectified.



KMK joined the mobilisation of different labour organisations denouncing the recent veto of President Duterte of the Security of Tenure Bill.



Screenshots from the film produced by Da Hawwa Lur



HOW I SPENT MY HARD TIMES?



AND MORE THEN 50% GIRLS IN KPK ARE STILL UNABLE TO GET ACCESS TO SCHOOLS

Deepening Cross-Regional and Intersectional Solidarities

Deeper Regional Engagement in Central Asia

In 2021, we saw a deeper regional engagement in Central Asia through the work of our first dedicated Central Asia FPAR that was initiated in 2019. This enabled us to deepen solidarities among Central Asian women's organisations and movements. At the last convening of the Central Asian FPAR, during the reflection meeting, all seven Central Asian partners expressed their strong willingness to continue working together at the sub-regional level to dismantle systems of oppression and to advance women's human rights in the sub-region.



In 2021, APWLD's shared analysis, political demands and solutions enabled us to initiate, facilitate and lead cross-regional and intersectional movements to advance women's human rights and Development Justice by connecting different peoples' struggles and movements. We facilitated the strengthening of solidarities through deeper regional engagement in Central Asia, through cross-programme collaborative campaigns on a range of issues, and by creating and strengthening spaces to push for women's human rights and Development Justice in the region.

The Central Asian FPAR has rallied us into one big family and a movement. In the future, we plan to continue to work closely with all sisters at the Central Asian level to promote a common goal: to improve the status of women and girls and fight against existing systemic barriers and stereotypes in our countries.

*Zebunisso Sharipova, Young Women Researcher,
PA League of Women Lawyers of the Republic of
Tajikistan (Liga), Tajikistan*

Additionally, we were also able to build sub-regional solidarities through learning and capacity building opportunities on shared issues and network with other groups beyond sub-regions. Two of our Central Asia partners, Women Support Centre (WSC) and Centre for Socio-legal Support to Women and Children, ‘Mehrzhon’, participated in the online protest, along with other sister organisations throughout the region, to push for ratification of the ILO 190 Convention. WSC and Merzhon were able to share the situation on the violence against women at all workplaces in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and the work being done to address this, and call on their respective governments to ratify ILO C190. In addition, two Central Asia partners, WSC and Nurzholber, participated in the regional level consultations with UN Mandate holders on women migrants’ issues along with other women’s rights organisations from Asia and the Pacific. On both occasions, our Central Asia partners learnt more about the situation in different countries and sub-regions, including the shared concerns of women, and the strategies of women’s organisations on organising local women and advocating for change.

During the online protest, I was amazed by the assertiveness and active work being done to cope with the issue of violence against women at workplaces by sisters from other sub-regions. Hearing other women activists’ speeches and sharings on the situations and strategies inspired me to be more active further and boldly advocate for women’s rights locally, regionally and internationally.

Eliza Adjieva, Mentor, WSC, Kyrgyzstan

Strengthening Solidarities through Campaigns and Support for WHRDs

Over the year, APWLD initiated, led and contributed to several global and regional campaigns that sought to highlight inequalities and injustices facing women in the region and to demand the realisation of women’s human rights and Development Justice. Our campaigns were grounded in the realities of women from the Global South, were South-led but also connected and built solidarity with northern-based groups. We also worked across themes, constituencies, and regions through cross-programmatic collaborative work to identify allies to co-organise campaigns and strengthen solidarities.

The campaigns for the ratification and implementation of C190 and Justice for Jeysre brought together a diverse range of organisations and allies in solidarity against violence against women in the workplace. Similarly, the Missing Voices campaign at COP26 drew on the voices, support and solidarity of diverse constituencies of APWLD’s membership and partners to highlight the discriminatory nature of proceedings at COP26 after the COP presidency pushed back on demands from grassroots women’s rights organisations from the region to conduct COP26 in a hybrid model. The voices of more than 20 members and allies, including those working on feminist climate justice, Indigenous women’s rights, rights of women with disabilities, workers’ rights and Development Justice were widely disseminated by APWLD and our partners, including by being read aloud at the Women and Gender constituency.

Climate change adversely impacts and will increasingly impact the lives of people, especially the most marginalised as women and girls with disabilities. Throughout the developing countries women with disabilities face triple discrimination: because of their disability, gender and poverty. In face of the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, governments must design and implement comprehensive policies and measures that leave no one behind. Women and girls with disabilities should be better informed and supported during earthquakes, floods, storms and other ecological disasters. We want Development Justice ensuring peace and security in Central Asia and everywhere!

Lyazzat Kaltayeva, Shyrak Association of Women with Disabilities, Kazakhstan

At the COP26, the world leaders need to recognise that the climate crisis is a result of massive development aggression and concessions given to big corporations destroying the environment, ignoring ecological integrity. Governments must reject big companies that often destroy communities and must recognise Indigenous peoples’ rights and our important role as the guardian of the forest and the world’s natural resources.

Angel Manihuruk, Young Woman Researcher, Kelompok Studi dan Pengembangan Prakarsa Masyarakat (KSPPM), Indonesia

Our digital and media advocacy also played a critical role in mobilising action and solidarity support during COP26. Given that our engagement at COP26 was online, we prepared a set of key messages and feminist demands which formed the basis for our campaigns and other advocacy materials such as press releases, graphic designs for online campaigns, media interviews, which were then used by members and partners in their activities during COP26. As part of our online campaign together with the Women and Gender Constituency, we ran a colour campaign with key messages that were disseminated widely on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. With our members consistently amplifying grassroots women's stories and initiatives, rejecting false climate solutions and condemning the regressive outcomes of COP26, we also gained wide media coverage with a total of 12 media from various countries including Malaysia, India, the Philippines, Indonesia and Ghana covering APWLD engagement at COP26.

In response to the military coup in Burma/Myanmar and the systematic human rights violations including sexual and gender-based violence against women in the country, particularly those from ethnic minority communities, APWLD provided Urgent Response support to WHRDs in the country. We supported our member, Women's League of Burma (WLB), to demand greater accountability from the international community in their response to the military coup in the country.

Along with WLB, we held press conferences and submitted joint letters to different UN offices with specific recommendations calling for collective action, including condemnation of the sexual assault, detention, violence and brutal murder of women by the Burmese Army, 'Tatmadaw'; amplification of the recommendations put forward by civil society organisations, including publicly rejecting the so-called State Administrative Council; working with the OHCHR country office and other UN agencies to help provide safe houses/shelters for peaceful protestors, especially Women Human Rights Defenders and creating a political space for women's rights organisations and civil society to hold the military junta of Burma/Myanmar accountable, including the possible referral to the International Criminal Court for its crimes against humanity.

We received a response from Ms. Pramila Patten, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to our joint letter and a follow-up meeting was set up where the representatives of WLB shared the ongoing situation in Burma/Myanmar and the targeting of WHRDs by the military regime, as well as recommendations to be considered by the UN without delay. Ms. Patten acknowledged the recommendations and suggested that WLB share case studies and data with her office, so that she can initiate conversations with other UN Special Representatives. WLB has since shared this information with Ms. Patten's office.

With the illegal arrest of Thin Thin Aung (co-founder of Mizzima News Agency and the Women's League of Burma (WLB)) as well as other WHRDs in Burma/Myanmar, APWLD, along with other allies, including the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) in the framework of the Observatory for the protection of human rights defenders Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales A.C (ProDESC), Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), MADRE and Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative, took joint action to condemn their illegal arrests collectively and vehemently. The solidarity action called for the Military junta of Burma/Myanmar to immediately release Thin Thin Aung and to stop criminalisation of and violent attacks against WHRDs and other human rights defenders in Burma/Myanmar. After her arrest in April 2021, Thin Thin Aung was eventually released in October 2021 along with some other political prisoners.



DAZED

The young women activists fighting to make COP26 more feminist

SCIENCE & TECH - FEATURE

Climate advocates from the Women and Gender Constituency speak about the challenges of participating in environmental negotiations and share their demands for building a more just future for us all

4th November 2021

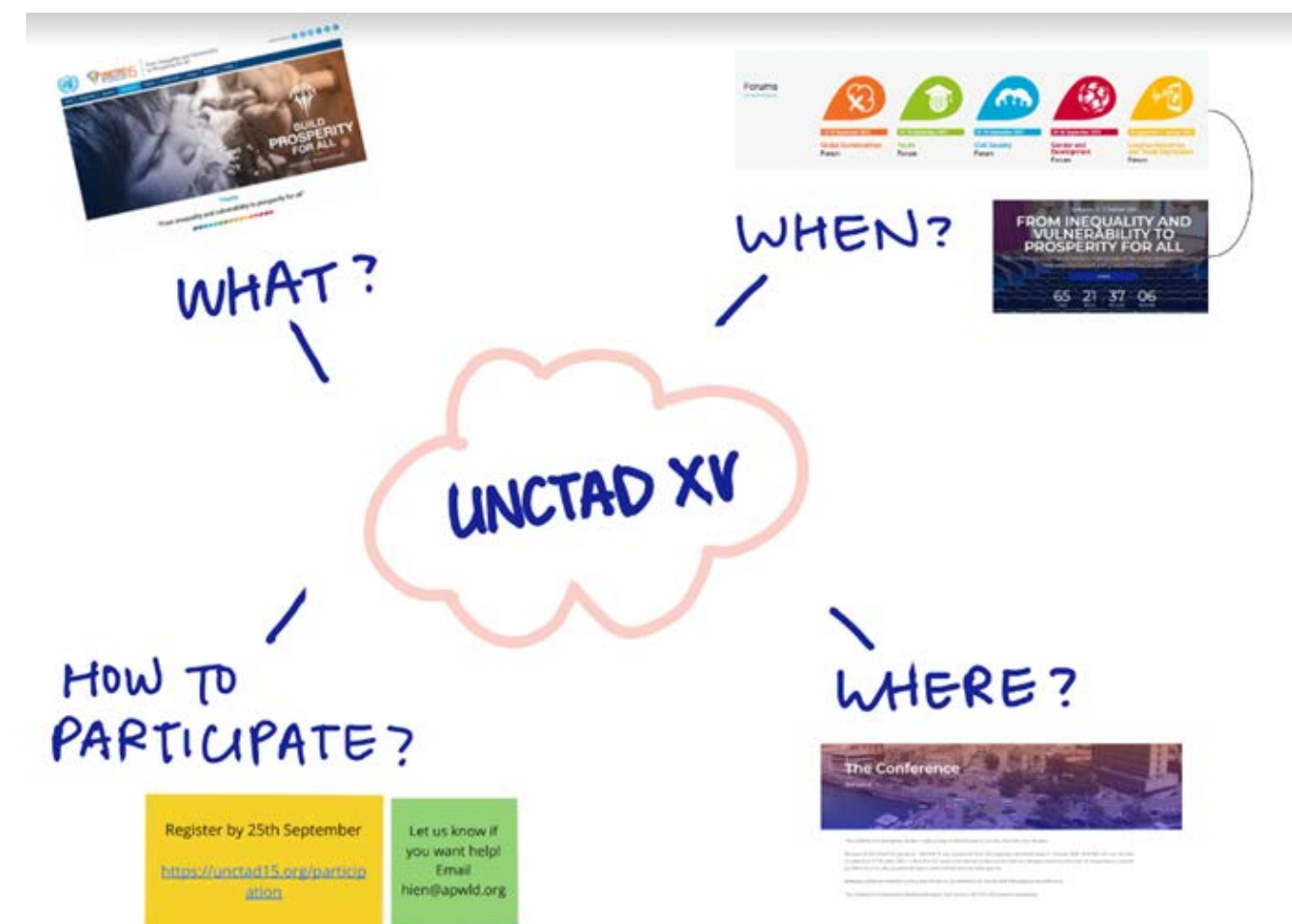
Text Mara Dolan



Call on the Burmese/Myanmar military junta to immediately release Thin Thin Aung

Creating and Strengthening Alternative Spaces to Advance Development Justice

One of APWLD's strengths is the creation and consolidation of alternative spaces, along with other feminist and peoples' movements, to shape and influence regional and international processes and mechanisms with feminist perspectives, analyses and demands centred on grassroots women's realities and voices. This year, we were able to shape the design, process and outcomes at the inaugural Gender and Development Forum at UNCTAD's quadrennial conference (UNCTAD15) based on the groundwork that APWLD had put in over the years, along with allies in one such alternate space – the Gender and Trade Coalition (GTC). The GTC, of which APWLD is a founding member, is a cross-regional feminist alliance that was formed in response to the WTO Declaration of 2017 on Women and Trade with the aim of advocating for a feminist, equitable trade policy.



At the inaugural Gender and Development Forum at UNCTAD15, APWLD was able to amplify grassroots women's voices on trade justice, strengthening our position as a leading network in the trade justice movement. We secured participation for six APWLD members and allies from diverse backgrounds representing women farmers, workers, migrants and so on at the Gender and Development Forum, the CSOs Forum as well as at side events of UNCTAD15 which enabled us to offer critical feminist narratives, analysis and alternatives, and by doing so, challenge dominant neoliberal narratives and agenda on trade and development. We were also able to have our narratives and analysis on the need for addressing systemic macroeconomic challenges, unpaid labour and care work, the impacts of COVID-19 on women, and on accountability and data, included in the outcome document of the conference.

Rural women in Rodriguez, Rizal the Philippines listen intently to the discussion led by Amihan secretary general Cathy Estavillo on the Global People's Summit on Food Systems



Peasant women in Rodriguez, Rizal, the Philippines join the Global Day of Action for Just, Equitable, Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems



Through cross- programmatic collaborations, we also conducted a series of five workshops on feminist e-learning between July and August 2021, on UNCTAD Governance, Gender and Trade and our strategy towards UNCTAD 15, as well as on related topics including Financing for Development, the Digital Economy and E-commerce. The series, in which our members and partners actively participated, enabled an exchange of knowledge from a grassroots perspective. Together, the participants also created a list of demands in preparation for UNCTAD15 in September and October. This process contributed to a collective briefing and advocacy at UNCTAD, and it enabled us to join allies, enabling a strengthening of solidarities amongst those engaged in the trade justice movement and their allies.

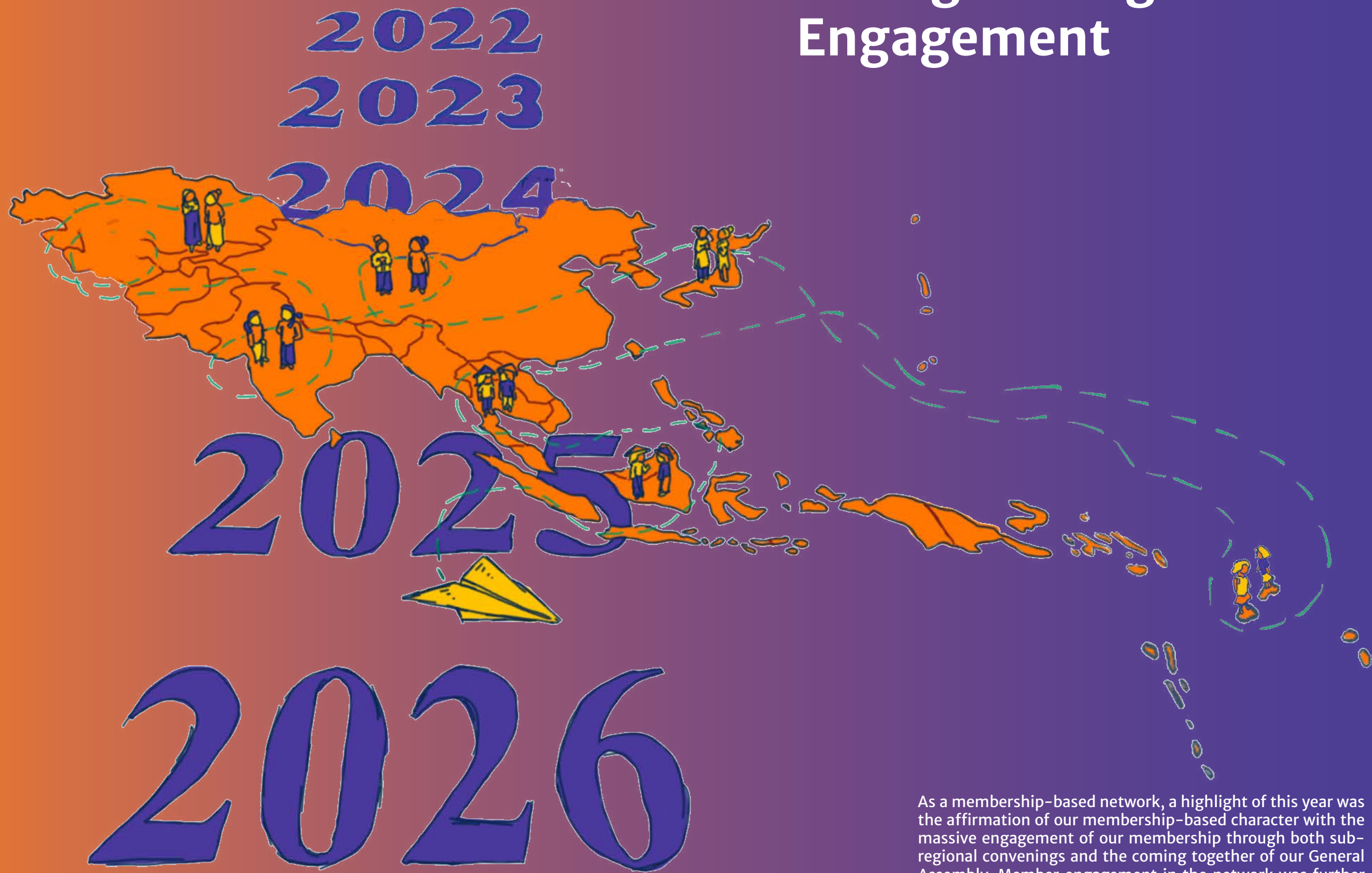
Another process that enabled us to facilitate spaces for the participation of grassroots communities was the Global Peoples' Summit on Food Systems or the 'Peoples' Summit' that was organised in September this year in response to the UN Food Systems Summit. The focus of the Peoples' Summit was on the demands of peoples' movements, including those of rural, Indigenous, migrant and urban poor women in Asia and the Pacific for a just, equitable, healthy and sustainable food system, including women's rights to food, land and resources, and the essential roles of women in shaping food systems. As a member of the Peoples' Summit, and as part of the Organising Committee, APWLD led the preparations for this summit. Ahead of the main People's Summit in September, APWLD supported our members and partners to conduct national and local activities in support of the Peoples' Summit and related events, and we also organised three simultaneous sub-regional workshops which culminated in a co-organised global workshop, #Hungry 4Change: Rural Women's Global Workshop on Just, Health, Equitable Food Systems which provided sub-regional, sector-specific analysis, demands and action plans.

Global Peoples' Summit (September 21–23)
The Peoples' Summit, co-organised by APWLD, gathered 200 groups working on food sovereignty across the world every day. It saw a mix of speak out, report back of sectoral action plans, solidarity messages and cultural presentations.

Additionally, in preparation for the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) 2022 to review the progress on the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), APWLD, together with its allies has created a platform to strengthen collaborative advocacy and action towards realising an open, inclusive and meaningful GCM process for migrants' participation.

The processes leading up to and including the Global Peoples' Summit enabled us to engage in collective sense-making and dialogues and engendered solidarities between diverse constituencies (for instance, between groups working on issues such as migration, labour, Intellectual Property) centred on the issue of food sovereignty.

Strengthening Member Engagement



As a membership-based network, a highlight of this year was the affirmation of our membership-based character with the massive engagement of our membership through both sub-regional convenings and the coming together of our General Assembly. Member engagement in the network was further strengthened this year through national consultations, as well as through the close engagement of our members with the functioning of APWLD through our organisational structures, particularly the P&M, in what has been a period of transition for the organisation.

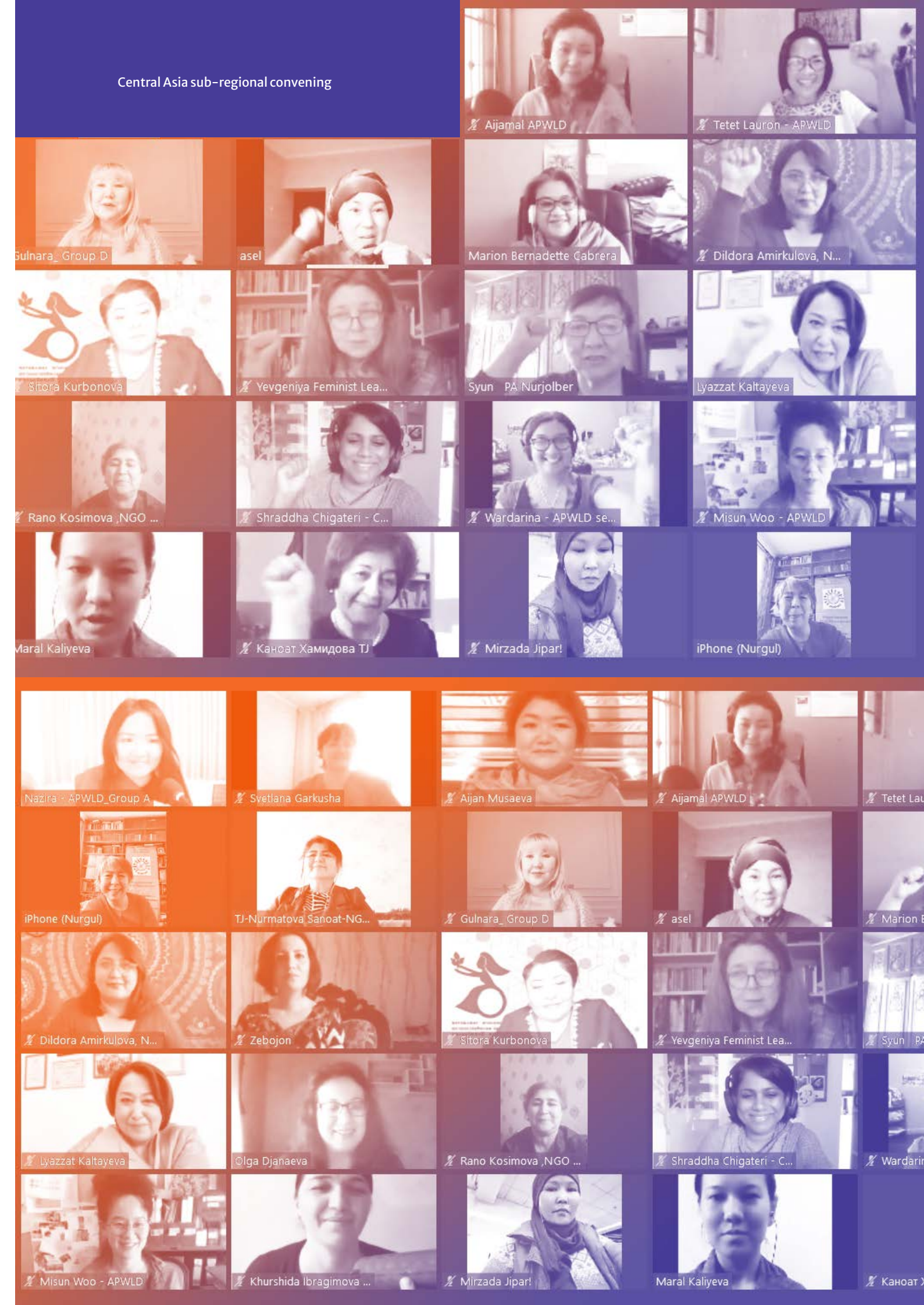
Massive Collective Engagement of Membership

Leading up to the APWLD General Assembly in May 2021, for the first time, APWLD organised sub-regional convenings and conducted surveys across the region in a collective sense-making and strategic exercise focused on gathering our members' insights and direction on APWLD's next five-year plan. This process saw a massive engagement of our membership with a total of 123 members and allies participating in four sub-regional convenings in Central Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia and 58 members and allies responding to circulated surveys in the Pacific, East Asia and Southeast Asia. The strategic discussions that also formed a significant focus of our General Assembly, which saw 93 members participate, focused on our shifting geopolitical contexts, and the key priorities and areas of our work in the coming years. The online nature of the convenings enabled the significant participation of our members, which was further facilitated by the efforts made by APWLD to support simultaneous translations in several languages.

The sub-regional convenings were a wonderful collective sharing and learning exercise that deepened our understanding of the contexts of our sub-regions. They also enabled a wider engagement with and between members. It was also possible through these convenings to reach out to non-member allies, particularly in underrepresented sub-regions, with the possibility of strengthening our membership in these sub-regions. The convenings were enriched by the diversity of our membership, as well as their deep engagement and contribution. Overall, the strategic planning process affirmed and reinforced APWLD's mission as a membership-driven feminist network by foregrounding collective sense-making and strategic planning by our membership. It also affirmed our political analysis rooted in our Patriarchy-Globalisation Fundamentalisms Militarism framework.

Supporting APWLD through a Period of Transition

This year has been a year of transition for APWLD with the move to the hybrid model of work for the APWLD Secretariat that was being implemented through the course of this year after its approval at the end of last year. The Planning and Management Committee of APWLD has provided us with support and continues to guide us through this transition period.





Programme Highlights

Breaking Out of
Marginalisation
(BOOM)

In 2021, despite the pervasive impacts of the pandemic, and the continuing systemic challenges across the region, including the increasing militarisation and shrinking of democratic spaces, particularly in Central Asia, the BOOM programme continued to push for women’s human rights and Development Justice across the region. We did this by strengthening rural, indigenous, migrant and urban poor women’s movements to effectively fight for rights-based development policies and practices and claim their rights over land, resources, food security and sovereignty, decent work, peace and democratic participation.

Some of the key highlights of our programmatic work over the year include the conclusion of our work on both APWLD’s first dedicated FPAR in Central Asia (CA FPAR) as well as the Land FPAR, initiating a new FPAR on Women’s Right to Peace and Democratic Participation (Peace FPAR) and co-organising and supporting the participation of members and allies in the Global Peoples’ Summit (GPS) on Food Systems, conducted in response to the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) in September.

In 2021, the BOOM Programme strengthened the capacities of 23 partner groups from 20 countries through our work on the Land, CA and Peace FPAR trainings, which in turn contributed to the conscious raising and capacity building of 2307 women in communities across the region.

We also prepared the BOOM COVID-19 storybook, *Stories of Rural, Indigenous, Migrant, Urban Poor Women: Our Struggles, Our Resistance, Our Solidarity!* along with our partners and members – National Indigenous Women’s Forum (Nepal), Sisterhood Network (India), Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh), Latsu Ni (Burma/Myanmar), Sabokahan Unity of Lumad Women (Philippines), SERUNI (Indonesia) and Positive Teens (Kyrgyzstan). The storybook sheds a spotlight and amplifies the experiences of women farmers and small-scale food producers, wage workers, small business owners and Indigenous communities who faced difficulties during the pandemic, including loss of livelihoods, discrimination, increasing domestic violence and political repression.



Strengthening Movements and Building Solidarities in Central Asia

This year saw the conclusion of our first dedicated Central Asia FPAR, which notwithstanding the impacts of the pandemic, saw the strengthening of grassroots women’s rights groups across the countries of Central Asia, the deepening of sub-regional and cross-regional solidarities as well as several significant gains in efforts to assert women’s human rights and advance Development Justice. Each of our partners in the sub-region was able to facilitate the formation of local groups of women, strengthen capacities and increase knowledge on women’s human rights through

participatory action research and evidence-based collective action.

In Kazakhstan, our partner, Moy Dom, provided a powerful and inspiring example of the power of movement building, strengthening capacities, and evidence-based advocacy. The aim of Moy Dom’s FPAR was to mobilise Temirtau women, particularly young mothers, and present evidence of the inadequacy of maternity rights and childcare benefits to the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan to ensure Temirtau women’s right to decent work and a living wage. Through the course of the FPAR, Moy Dom not only achieved its FPAR objectives, but also went beyond them. They built the capacities of more than 97 local women on women’s rights and state policy through participatory research tools and other research instruments such as childcare payment



expense diaries, which they also used to document the lived experiences of women on maternity leave and to advocate for their maternity rights. The advocacy efforts of women leaders from the community secured them a meeting with women parliamentarians, who subsequently raised the issue of inadequate child care benefits at the Parliament. A mentor of Moy Dom, as a result of her activism and advocacy throughout the FPAR, became a member of the national working group under the Parliament of Kazakhstan on the development of the Social Code, which will incorporate state benefits at different stages of life, including maternity payments. With these achievements, Moy Dom has become exceptionally motivated to continue its efforts to promote changes at the legislative level and achieve tangible results in 2022.

I never thought that I would talk about my simple life, and this will serve as an opportunity to change the life of Kazakh young mothers on maternity leave for the better.

Natalia, FPAR Co-researcher, community of young mothers, Moy Dom, Kazakhstan

In Tajikistan, our partner Liga, over the course of the FPAR, strengthened the capacities of over 520 women on the issue of early marriage and women’s rights, and formed an initiative group of six activist leaders in two communities in jamoat Semiganch and jamoat Guliston. The group now functions as a resource for local women, including through the provision of mediation support to prevent early marriages. The evidence-based advocacy work of Liga and FPAR women, which extensively engaged civil society and state structures through public hearings, offline and online surveys, has been effective in refining the group’s recommendations on early marriages, which have since been sent to the Women’s Committee and the Parliament. Additionally, the advocacy work has been effective in encouraging conversations on early marriages during Friday prayers at mosques.

The FPAR work with Liga also produced significant transformations at the individual levels too. A young FPAR researcher, who has begun to identify as a feminist, shared that along her FPAR journey, all uncertainty and hesitation towards feminism that she had at the inception of her FPAR journey dispersed. The young researcher also became a member of the Government Working Group on reviewing the law on prevention of domestic violence.

In Kyrgyzstan, the work of three of our partners, Women Support Centre (WSC), Nurzholber and Positive Teens supported the efforts of women, particularly migrant women and women living with HIV/AIDS to strengthen their movement architecture, build capacities and advocate for their rights. Through the FPAR, WSC, which worked with internal migrant women from Kolmo in Bishkek, built the capacities and skills on their rights as migrants, particularly in relation to their

access to health services as well as the use of advocacy tactics and strategies with authorities. WSC also formed an initiative group of 10 women-internal migrants from Kolmo who then followed through by advocating for their rights with healthcare institutions and local self-government bodies, as well as by broadcasting their issues and recommendations on programmes on Sanzhira radio and on Sputnik radio.

At the end of 2021, WSC became a part of the interdepartmental working group on the development of the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality until 2030 and the National Plan until 2023, which enabled it to make recommendations to improve the legal literacy, rights and mechanisms of access to state and municipal services (access to health, access to work) for internal migrants. This Plan is now under consideration and approval by the relevant ministry.

Our partner, Nurzholber, who focused on the issue of access of migrants to state childcare allowances in Kyrgyzstan, also strengthened the perspectives of women-returned migrants, activists, residents and relevant state representatives on the issues faced by returned women migrants. Through the FPAR process, 10 members of an initiative group of activists in Naryn and Ak-Talaa districts gained the confidence to participate in the local parliamentary elections as independent observers, with one of them even putting forward her candidacy for the deputies of the local kenesh (local parliament). The advocacy work of Nurzholber, along with FPAR women enabled women migrants develop a letter of appeal to the authorities on the access and rights of women returned migrants to state child allowance. Nurzholber also managed to include the issue of returned migrant mothers' access to state child allowance into the programme agenda of a candidate who ran for Parliamentary elections.

In Kyrgyzstan again, our partner, Positive Teens, through consciousness raising and capacity building on women's rights, local and international laws on HIV/AIDS, protection from stigma and discrimination, boosted the self-confidence and leadership skills of 15 rural women living with HIV/AIDS from Nookat district, which enabled them to share their struggles and approach decision-makers at various levels to voice their demands on their rights as women living with HIV/AIDS. At a community level, there was a remarkable transformation in the women who participated in the FPAR, who felt empowered to stop self-stigmatisation, voice their challenges and take actions to address issues in contrast to their reluctance and fear of opening up to others before.

In Uzbekistan, our partner, Mehrzhon organised a group of 17 women living in the rural areas of Yazavan to assert their rights to decent work opportunities. Through the course of the FPAR, Mehrzhon organised capacity building sessions for 126 local unemployed women on women's rights. As part of the advocacy process, several memorandums were initiated and signed

In cooperation with other partners, Positive Teens and FPAR women provided vital support (psychological and non-stop delivery of HIV/AIDS treatment drugs) during the COVID-19 lockdown to women with HIV/AIDS in rural areas through a network of peer counsellors.

with local state agencies to work on the problem of unemployment among women in Yazavan. Since then, FPAR women activists have started to independently initiate and develop collective appeals and file them to state agencies on other issues affecting women in their communities.

Another partner from Uzbekistan, Nihol, formed an initiative group of nine women, who through collective action and advocacy, became a part of the decision-making process in the village regarding the access of Namuna residents to clean and safe water. Both Nihol and Mehrzhon are continuing their efforts to promote demands of FPAR women to achieve changes with the situation of women living in rural areas to access decent employment programmes and to assert their rights to have access to clean and safe water.

Claiming Women's Rights to Land and Resources across the Region

This year also saw the conclusion of the Land FPAR with 11 organisations working on women's rights to land and resources in 10 countries of the region. The FPAR process enabled the consolidation of the work of our partner women's rights organisations to organise, build capacities and carry out participatory research and advocacy on women's rights to land and resources based on the lived realities of women.



CA FPAR Reflection meeting in December 2021

In Kyrgyzstan, throughout the FPAR journey, our partner, Public Foundation “JIPAR” supported the community through various actions to claim their rights to land including conducting trainings on leadership and advocacy, facilitating consultations and dialogues with authorities, developing media articles on the struggle of women for land rights for national and regional newspapers. They also produced a video documentary (Velvet Power) on women’s empowerment on land rights. A significant achievement of this work was the collective application by a Krasnaya Recka women’s group to the Secretariat of the State Land Redistribution Reserve Fund (SLRRF) which led to the awarding of land to the women’s group in December 2020. In 2021, while managing their collective farm, the women’s group continued to participate in regular dialogues with the local Land Commission. The newly elected (women) members of the local parliament also supported their initiatives. This led to another granting of collective land in October. Our FPAR partner, Mirzada together with JIPAR, also created a fund for women to be able to access and buy land.

Overall, the experience of JIPAR’s FPAR journey has been a fruitful one. They were able to, in their words, ‘influence the decisions of the Secretariat of SLRRF, local Parliament deputies, women councils, [and] mass media on the issue of violation of land rights’.

In Thailand, Sangsan Anakot Yawachon Development Project, through the course of their FPAR journey, saw several significant developments with the communities they work with in Chiang Mai. They pointed to the impacts of the FPAR, where a feminist school for young human rights defenders was opened in 2020, where the young woman FPAR researcher teaches and from which four batches of Indigenous, LGBTQIA, migrant and local women students had graduated in 2020 and 2021.

In India, our partner, Sisterhood Network, continued to work with local communities in Beisumpuikam village to increase their awareness of women’s land rights and FPAR methods. They have continued to use the FPAR module and the FPAR community researcher was able to conduct a training in December 2021 in a neighbouring village.

In Nepal, through the course of the FPAR with our partner, National Indigenous Women Forum (NIWF), supported the mobilisation of Majhi women affected by the Sunkoshi-II hydro-power project in the central mid-hill region of Nepal through community meetings, focus group discussions and protests from August to October 2021. The process of the FPAR enabled the community to deepen their understanding of women’s and Indigenous peoples’ rights and analyse the hydropower project as ‘a false solution of development’ that severely impacts Indigenous communities, especially women. On 21 July and 31 December 2021, the Department of Electricity Development and Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation issued similar public notices requesting the ward and municipality-level administration of the areas to be affected by project to assess its physical, biological, social, economic and cultural impacts, and submit a report along with the suggestions and opinions of the community. According to NIWF, certain political leaders have assured that the project would not take place considering the range of areas that it affects, which may be considered a positive outcome of the organisation and the Majhi community’s lobbying and advocacy efforts. However, NIWF also notes that the public notice indicates that the government is continuously working on the project, and that the deadlines mentioned may not allow sufficient time for meaningful public consultation. In any case, NIWF is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with the Majhi community.

In Bangladesh, the partner organisation Badabon Sangho made significant progress in supporting women’s rights to land and resources – they reported that during their advocacy phase, they formed a women’s land rights network composed of 14 women CSOs, significantly strengthening their movement architecture in their struggle for women’s rights to land and resources.

I participated [in] trainings, meetings after joining JIPAR. I learned about rights to land and resources in the FPAR. We learned our rights, applied for the land and got it from the State Fund [...] This year we planted vegetables on three hectares of land. We got a good harvest... The whole country was in quarantine this year, people lost jobs, and did not have any income. But we worked on the land, we had income from our harvest.

Mirzada, JIPAR

Women's Right to Peace and Democratic Participation

To further our work on women's rights to peace and democratic participation, particularly in the wake of the rise in militarised authoritarian and fascist regimes across Asia and the Pacific, which fuelled by patriarchy and fundamentalisms and worsened by the pandemic, have exacerbated human rights violations of women, the BOOM programme began work this year with six new organisations from six countries of the region.

Indigenous Women League Nepal (IWL), Nepal

Document Bote and Che-pang Indigenous women's rights violations for their right to land, food, life and meaningful participation.

Sri Vimukthi Fisher Women Organisation (SFVWO), Sri Lanka

Identify, analyse the socio-political issues and mobilise the war-affected women's groups for their wellbeing, human rights including right to land, livelihoods and security in the war-torn areas in the Northern Province.

Weaving Bonds Across Borders (WBAB), Thailand

Document human rights abuses and its impacts on women in the conflict areas in Shan State, and how women are fighting for their rights.

Samahan ng Maralitang Kababaihang Nagkakaisa (SAMAKANA), the Philippines

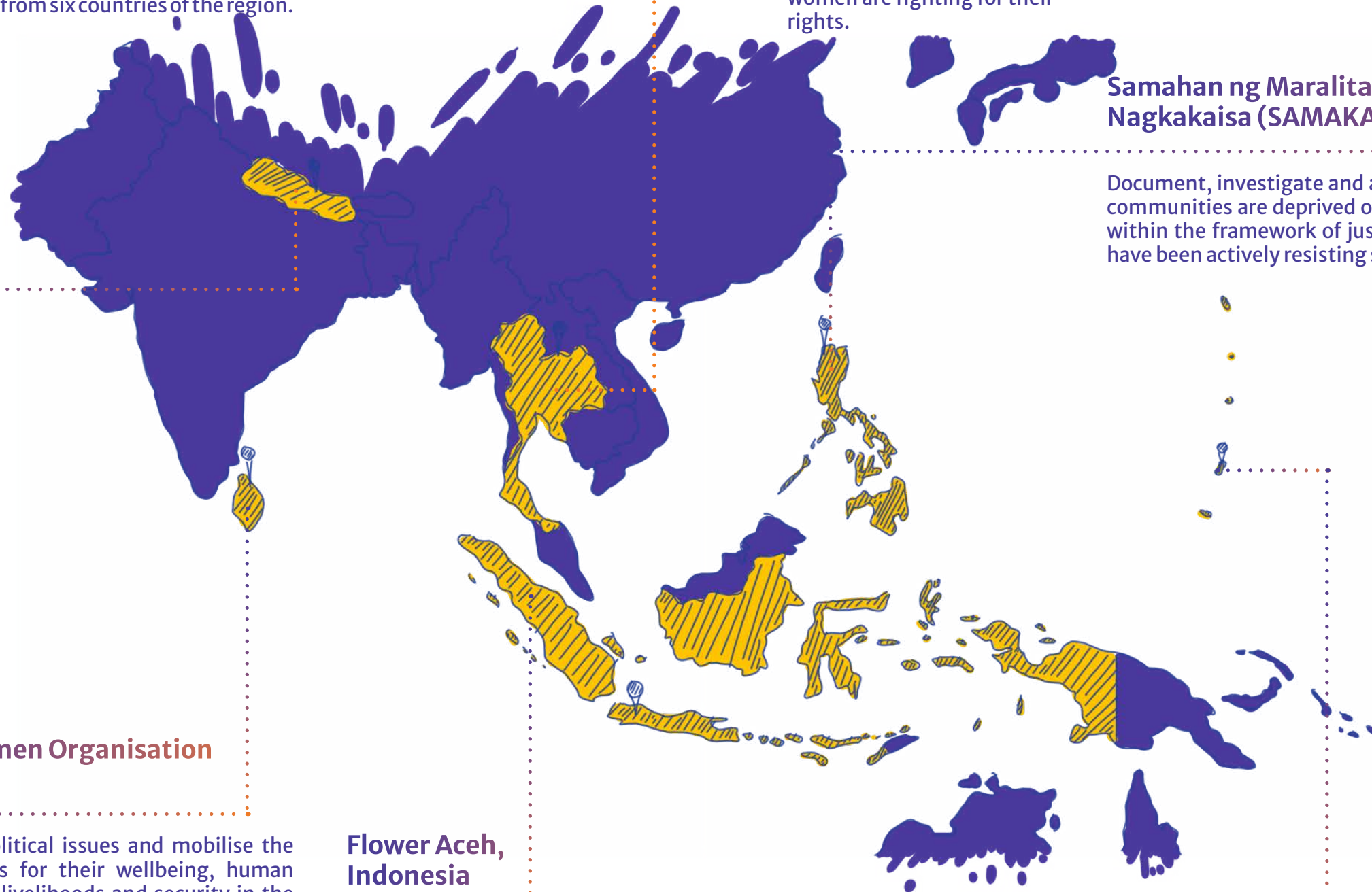
Document, investigate and analyse how women in urban poor communities are deprived of their rights to adequate housing within the framework of just and lasting peace and how they have been actively resisting state neglect and militarism.

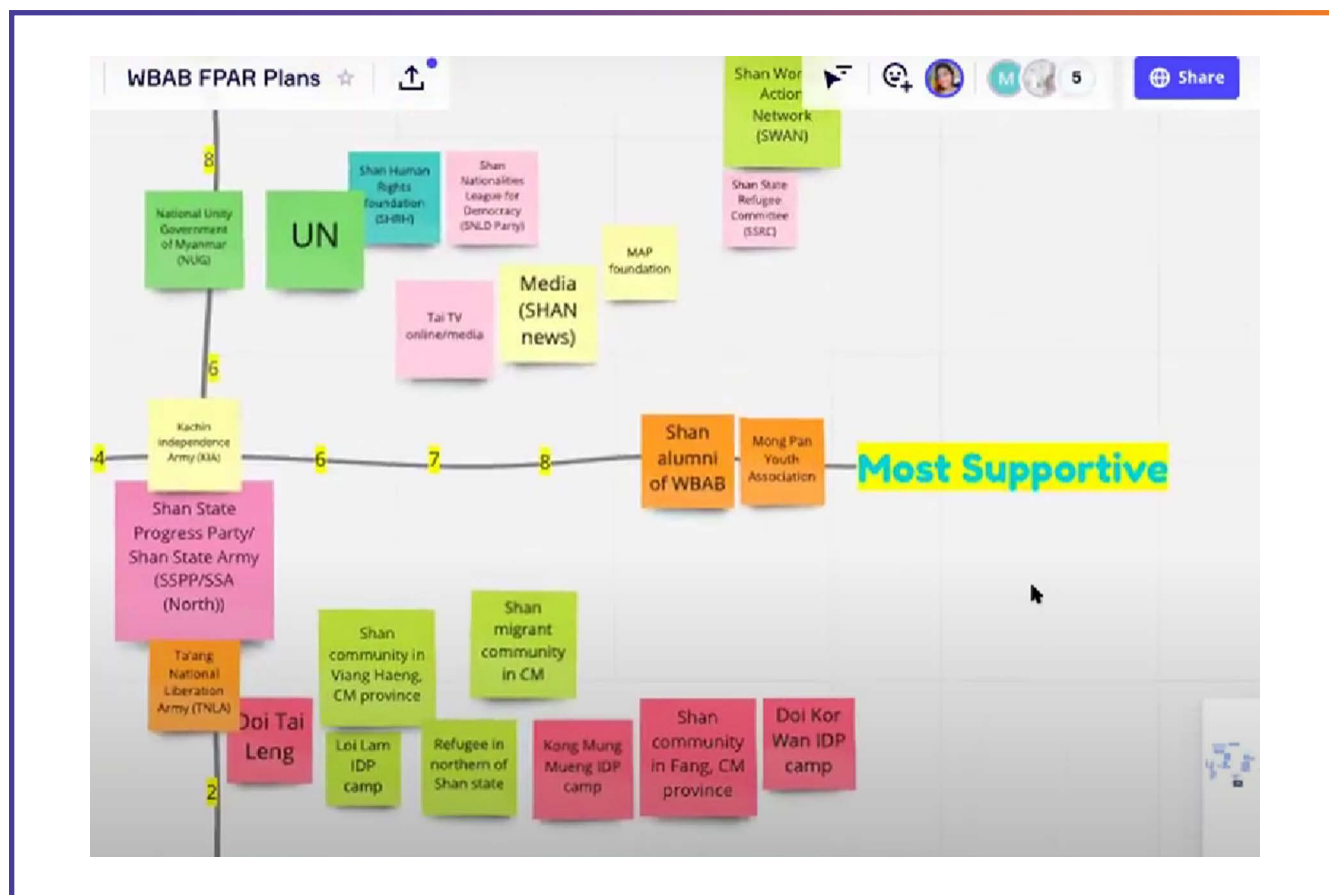
Flower Aceh, Indonesia

Document and analyse the experiences of women victims of conflict in Aceh in fighting for justice and their rights and contributing to sustainable peace building at the grassroots-level.

Our Common Wealth 670 (OCW670), Mariana Islands

Document social, cultural and economic impacts of militarism on self-determination and peace-making; create awareness and policy change against militarisation, with focus on working with Indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch women.





We have held two online FPAR trainings with our partners over the year, where they actively engaged in the discussion of the peace framework and understanding FPAR principles and tools. Overall, partners felt ‘empowered and fulfilled’ and were looking forward to ‘sitting with the community, starting the field plans and applying the participatory methods’ of FPAR.

Grounding Dialogues on Food Sovereignty

The Global Peoples’ Summit (GPS) provided an opportunity for APWLD members and partners to contribute to strengthening the perspective around food sovereignty, particularly on women’s rights to food, land and resources. In order to generate ground-up analysis including on women’s crucial roles in shaping the food systems, ahead of the GPS, APWLD co-organised a joint Rural Women Workshop on Just, Equitable, Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems to provide sector-specific analysis, demands and action plans. We also supported members to conduct local or national activities in the build-up to the GPS, with the objectives of exposing the unjust, unequal, unhealthy and unsustainable food systems; mobilising and strengthening women’s groups and movements in opposing the neoliberal or corporate capture of global food governance; and highlighting and supporting women’s local and national initiatives in addressing the food system crisis.

In all, APWLD supported six organisations: AMIHAN (the Philippines); SERUNI (Indonesia); Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD, Mongolia); Society for Rural Education and Development (SRED, India); VIKALPANI and National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO) (Sri Lanka). These discussions enabled context-specific discussions and analyses that helped to ground and shape the collective sense-making and narratives on food sovereignty and food security at the global level.



In the Philippines, AMIHAN conducted a national discussion with 72 peasant women on food insecurity and hunger, including issues such as landlessness and land grabbing even at the height of lockdown; the impact of the militarist lockdown and militarisation of communities in farming; and the deleterious effects of neoliberal policies such as the Rice Liberalisation Law on agriculture and food security. The discussion also came up with solutions including pushing for pro-farmer legislation such as the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill, Rice Industry Development Act and the promotion of agroecology. The discussions also enabled the deepening of solidarity with peasant women joining a simultaneous ‘Protest-at-Farms’ holding placards calling for just, equitable, healthy and sustainable food systems after the workshop. The protest amplified the message of peasant women on the corporate control of the food systems and the failure of the UN FSS to represent the voice of the food producers, especially of women, and to provide people-centred solutions to hunger.

We also organised three simultaneous sub-regional workshops in August 2021 in which 64 participants from 24 organisations in 12 countries participated. These sub-regional workshops culminated in a co-organised global workshop, #Hungry 4Change: Rural Women's Global Workshop on Just, Health, Equitable Food Systems which provided sub-regional, sector-specific analysis, demands and action plans. These workshops enabled dialogues and engendered cross-movement solidarities centred on the issue of food sovereignty.

Post the GPS campaign, there has been a strong interest in continuing APWLD's work on food sovereignty and food security, with 35 APWLD members who are keen to continue working on the issue.

STOP DESTRUCTION
of MUSSEL FARMS
and FISHERIES
LIVELIHOOD in CAVITE
MIHAN-ANAKPAWIS -



#HUNGRYFORCHANGE
RURAL WOMEN FOR
JUST, EQUITABLE,
HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE
FOOD SYSTEMS



Migration Programme:

Migrants United and Act for Human Rights (MUAH)

In 2021, our work on the programme continued to feel the persistent impacts of the pandemic, which particularly affected our partners from India, Nepal, Malaysia and Kyrgyzstan, who continued to face the immense challenges of loss of livelihoods and incomes with the communities they work with, even as they faced another wave of the pandemic and experienced office closures and staff illnesses. Women migrants also faced increased political risks, particularly in places like Hong Kong, where migrant women felt more reluctant to share information when they joined our FPAR activities. Additionally, migrant women leaders also felt intense pressures in terms of their own safety, rights to stay which posed additional barriers for organising work.

In the face of these challenges, while some of the activities on the programme were delayed, the Migration Programme continued to support women migrant workers' groups in the region through our FPAR strategy of facilitating participatory processes of organising, capacity building and evidence-based advocacy to amplify the systemic issues faced by migrant women at local, national, regional and global levels. The work begun on our Migration FPAR in 2019 with seven organisations from six countries of the region entered its advocacy phase this year. Over the year, our partners produced reports and publications documenting women's experiences of injustices during the different stages of migration through a range of methods including photos, documentary videos, podcasts, statements, petitions and position papers. Overall, our partners finalised seven FPAR stories, and produced four documentary films and various other materials containing original evidence owned by communities this year.



Episode 1

"We need protection, not restrictions on the freedom of movement" Interview with Amira Subba, AMKAS, Nepal

This Episode is in Nepali, but you can follow the English transcription [here](#).



Episode 2

"Sex workers are workers! They should enjoy equal rights" Interview with Seema Sayyed, Aastha Parivaar, India

This Episode is in Hindi, but you can follow the English transcription [here](#).



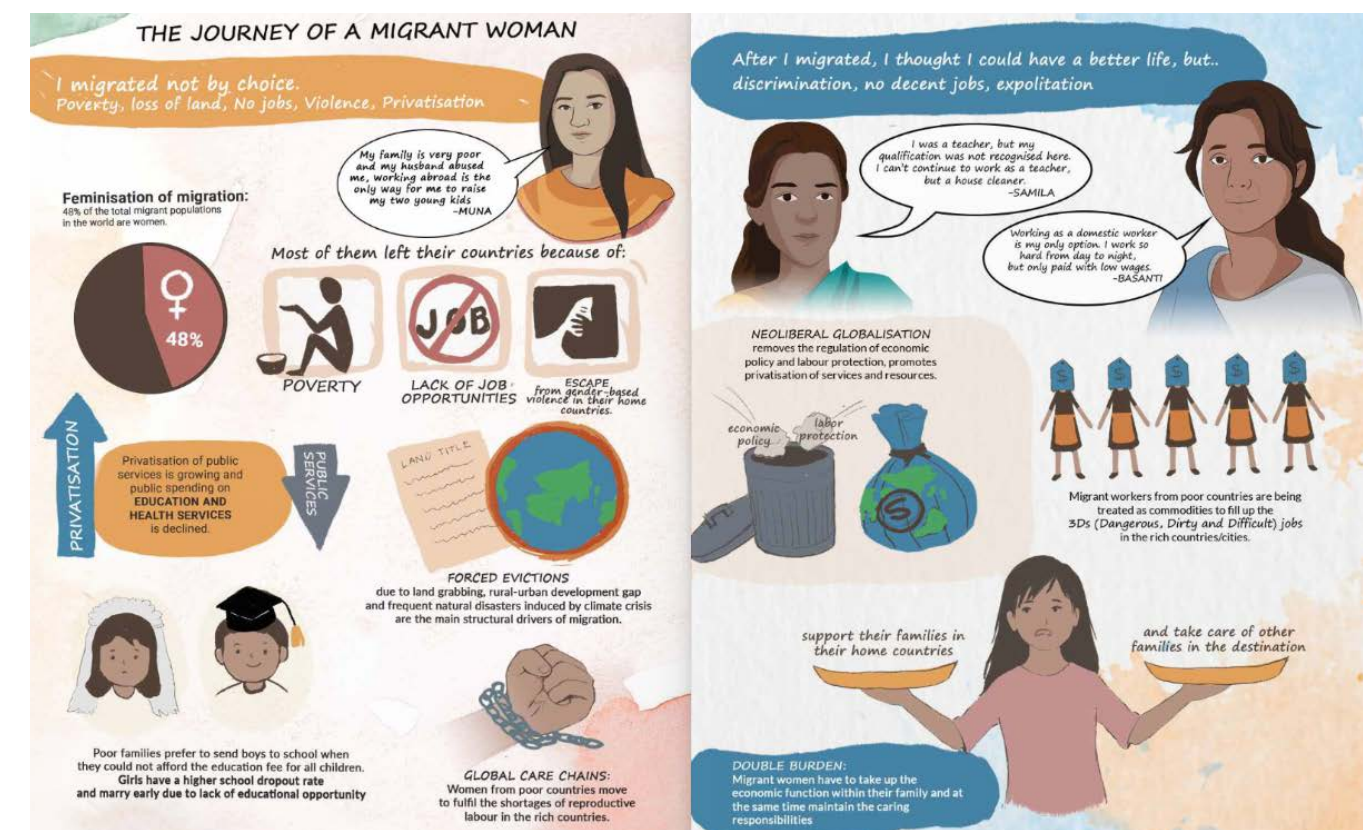
A highlight of our programmatic activities this year was the collaborative campaign that we ran along with our allies, the International Migrants Alliance Asia Pacific and Asia Floor Wage Alliance, along with the Labour programme and InfoComms on the ratification and implementation of C190 to end all forms of violence at all workplaces. A regional protest on 25 November 2021 brought together a hundred and eleven participants from more than 30 organisations representing different movements across Asia and the Pacific to campaign for the ratification of C190, showing solidarity and determination to fight for a safe workplace. The campaign enabled the amplification of narratives calling for the expansion of the definition of workers and workplaces, as well as the inclusion of diverse and intersecting issues into the framework of gender-based violence in all workplaces, for instance, on the climate crisis and rising temperatures in relation to unsafe workplaces as well as the attacks on WHRDs to undermine women's participation in public sphere.

We also used some new strategic interventions over the course of this year by holding four national consultations (in Hong Kong, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Indonesia) on the systemic issues faced by migrants in countries of origin and destination. These national consultations were not originally planned but were included as a new strategy this year based on the reflections of our Programme Organising Committee that we need to formulate progressive feminist strategies and campaigns by strengthening the coordination and collective response of APLWD to respond to structural challenges and offer solutions for a new and more just migration agenda to advance the rights of migrants. The discussion of these consultations will be consolidated in the future Migration programme plan and may potentially lead to a regional migrants' campaign in the coming 5-year strategic plan.

Producing Resources on Women Migrants' Rights

Two significant resources produced in collaboration with our partners are the COVID-19 Storybook on Migration, Stories of Migrant Women and a series of Migration FPAR podcasts, A Glimpse into Two Year Journey of Migration FPAR Partners. A cross-programmatic collaboration, along with our Migration FPAR partners in Nepal, National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD) and Aaprabasi Mahila Kamdar Samuha (AMKAS), Stories of Migrant Women documents the stories of eight women migrants. Using illustrations, the stories highlight the suffering and hardships that women migrants experienced during the pandemic, including losses of livelihoods and incomes, as well as increased virus exposure, mental health issues and gender-based violence as well as stories of being forced to return home, and in some instances, being stranded in host countries without money for food or accommodation. The storybook also highlights the actions of migrant community-based organisations to build solidarity and advocate for structural change.

The series of Migration podcasts captures the reflections and learnings of young researchers over the course of the 2-year FPAR journey – these podcasts provide the organisations with a digital means to disseminate their work to their communities (five of the seven podcasts were in local languages), even as they highlight the relevance of FPAR as a feminist organising tool. Overall, the knowledge, tools and resources were widely used by our partners in their advocacy and organising work.



Building Capacities of Women Migrants' Groups through Feminist Participatory Action Research

Over the course of the FPAR process, women migrant organisations and the communities they work with have seen the strengthening of capacities in various ways, both at the personal and at organisational levels, including through a deepening of structural analysis, and of feminist organising principles and methodology. Our partners reflected on the ways in which FPAR principles enabled shifts in their understanding and their work, and in the process strengthening them individually and organisationally.

I have been working with the community for long but we are always used to looking at the problems through the lens of health perspective only. Through FPAR, we learned to use a collective or intersection approach to understand the structural barrier and the root causes. I think it is a personal learning for me, and it is very clear that the community needs to advocate for the change of the root cause As an organisation, we understand the importance of collective action especially for migrant sex workers to take lead, and we always believe that collectively we can achieve a lot. The FPAR journey has developed our capacity and skills through various tools and principles that we have learned and we are able to apply and adapt them in our programme.

Seema, Aastha Parivaar, India

Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR)
APWLD MIGRATION Programme



Tenaganita

**FIGHTING BEHIND
CLOSED DOORS
THE DEMAND FOR
RECOGNITION AND THE
LEGAL PROTECTION
DOMESTIC
MALAYSIA**



Despite continuing to focus on changing the laws and lobbying with the politicians, we have also changed our way to create change by empowering the community, so that they (migrant workers) can fight for their rights and confront the government by themselves. I think the problem in Malaysia is, there are many NGOs fighting for the migrant communities but don't bring it back to the community. In the end, it is more like our fights and issues, and not the community's issue. So, I think with the FPAR, the community is empowered and they should be the ones who go to the government.

Azura, Tenaganita, Malaysia

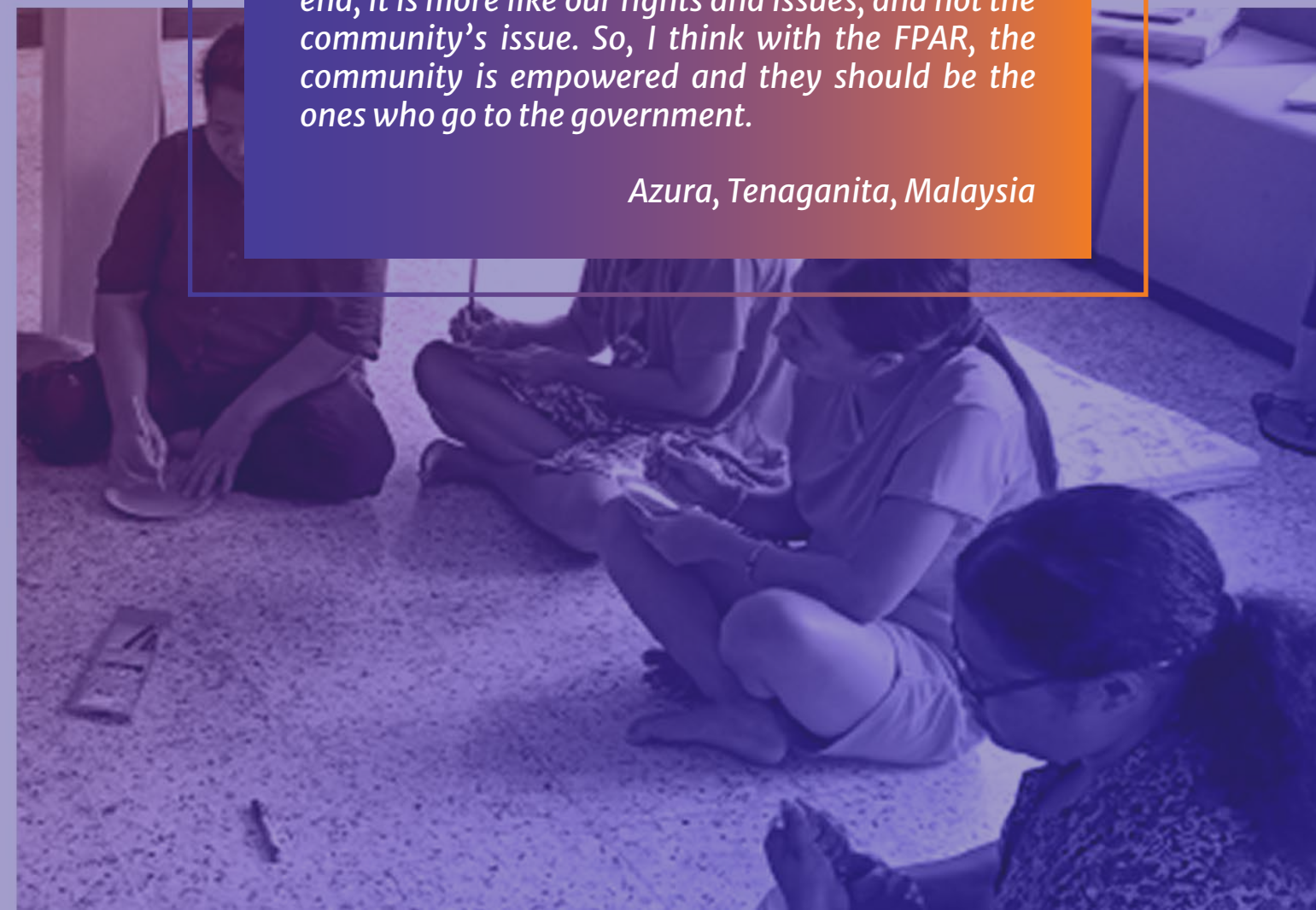




Photo by Indonesian Migrant Workers Union, Hong Kong (IMWU-HK)

Supporting Indonesian Migrant Workers In Hong Kong

Our partner in Hong Kong, Indonesian Migrant Workers Union, Hong Kong (IMWU-HK) also shared the impacts of the FPAR process on strengthening the capacities of women migrant communities to gather evidence and systematically analyse their own issues and advocate for themselves. Based on a consolidation of FPAR findings and consultation with lawyers, academics, advocates and women migrants, they produced a policy paper and statement in different languages to address the recent zero placement fee policy in Indonesia. Similarly, the documentary film produced by them not only served as important evidence to demonstrate how recruitment agencies manipulated migrant domestic workers, but the process of interviewing the women migrants also enhanced their confidence to speak out the truth. Additionally, women migrant communities showed increased confidence to present their issues and cases in the meeting and dialogues with the authorities, including dialogue with government officials, police and IOM.

The victims of overcharging who shared their testimonies in the video documentary felt more confident and encouraged to fight for their rights against their recruitment agencies. They felt the need to express their grievances to the Indonesian government that they have been cheated and trapped into debt bondage involving their families and it is unfair for them.

Erwiana, the young researcher from IMWU

Members also reflected on the support they received in formulating their media advocacy plan, as well as the ways in which they have begun to implement these advocacy plans to amplify women's voices and their agendas through local, national and international media. For instance, AMKAS in Nepal successfully conducted a media briefing, in which 21 journalists and media representatives attended, to present the FPAR findings on the impacts of the travel ban on Nepali women's labour migration. The issues raised by AMKAS including the discriminatory ban, the ongoing campaign of AMKAS and the demands of ratification of ILO C189 were widely covered and published in online news websites and newspapers, such as Kantipur Daily, HongKong Khabar, Gorkhapatra Online and so on.

AMKAS Nepal has been advocating for the ratification of ILO C189 and lifting the discriminatory ban on women migrant workers since a long time ago. This media briefing was successful to highlight the issues of women migrant workers, and provided the chance to discuss how media and AMKAS can collaborate in the future. We have also received substantive comments and suggestions from the media's perspective. The relationship between AMKAS and various media is strengthened through the event.

Amira from AMKAS

Grassroots Led Advocacy on the Rights of Women Migrants

One of the highlights of the work of our partner organisations over the year was the ways in which they rallied to the support of the communities they work with, particularly in dealing with the impacts of the pandemic. Our members relied on the data and evidence produced by the FPAR research to advocate and secure rights for women migrants. For instance, our partner in India, Aastha Parivaar used FPAR evidence to successfully advocate for free COVID-19 vaccination access for 2,400 sex workers in India by demanding their rights with local authorities. Aastha continues to collaborate with the All India Network of Sex Workers to highlight the health rights of sex workers at the national level. Similarly, our Nepali partner, NAWHRD used the FPAR story to advocate for the rights of vaccination access for internal migrant domestic workers in Nepal, successfully securing the vaccine for more than 80 internal migrant domestic workers, especially those without citizen cards.

“Workers Not Slave”: Human Rights Situation of Women Migrants

Consultation with the UN Mandate Holders by APWLD, its Members and Partners

umber of women are moving within countries and across borders to seek employment opportunities, or/and escape from violence, discrimination, climate crisis, conflict and poverty. Increas of migration has become an overt trend in the globalised world. At the same time, women migrants face unprecedented challenges with the deregulation of labour policies and gender-spei n migration policies. Governments, recruitment agencies and employers (both corporations and private employers) depend on a flexible, mobile and cheap labour force to meet the labour (tative labour contracts and weak or no labour protections. At the same time, migration policies increasingly pose barriers to mobility that criminalise migrants and make them more vulner s violations in destination countries. With these circumstances, women migrants struggle with multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities, restrictions in movement, xual and gender-based violence, racism and xenophobia.

f different forms of human rights violations, APWLD and migrant groups in the region are building and strengthening the movement of women migrants who are able to claim their rights to wage, freedom of movement and right to organise. In this context, APWLD convened a virtual consultation on 10 November 2021 for its members and partners with the UN Special Rappor ts of Migrants, Mr. Felipe Morales Gonzales, Vice Chair of UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls, Ms. Dorothy Estrada, and Member of the Committee on Economi Rights (CESCR), Dr. Heisoo Shin with an aim to share the stories, challenges and recommendations of women migrants and their communities.

I Intersecting Human Rights Violations Experienced by women migrants

Amata Mukhiya from the Eastern Nepal, was married and had three children. She opted for foreign labour migration without her husband's approval to escape her drunkard and abusive husband and d education and future. She took help from a local broker via India and Dubai as transit. As a domestic worker in the host country, Mamta had to work up to 17 hours a day without rest and adequate fo time. Her mobility was restricted and she was even abused verbally and physically by the employer."

perience is not an exception and is dismally shared by thousands of women migrants. During the consultation, APWLD members and partners shared that structural issues, such as poverty ce and lack of decent employment and livelihood opportunities in home countries often force women to seek opportunities for a better life outside their countries. Yet in host countries, th other forms of human rights violations, including lack of access to decent work, adequate healthcare services, access to safe and decent accommodation, and access to justice and legal servi rkers and their families end up in debt bondage due to the extortionate recruitment cost of migration that is converted to a loan agreement with a high interest rate, which further exacerb erabilities. Migrant domestic workers who fail to repay their loans are intimidated and threatened by recruitment agencies as well as loan companies.

employment in destination countries, women migrant workers experience violence and exploitation in multiple forms. Despite being abused or working in slavery-like conditions, most of kers were unable to leave the employment due to the debt bondage caused by the illegal recruitment fee.

In Nepal, the work of our MUAH FPAR partner, AMKAS gained the support of key government officials in their advocacy on the ratification of ILO's Domestic Workers' Convention 2011 (no 189) (C189).

“It’s time for us to move forward more strategically and make an effective action plan. For that, we need to organise a meeting including the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS), Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE) and other government bodies too as they are the policy making entities [...] AMKAS also has my full support in their campaign” – Rajan Prasad Shreshtha, Executive Director, Foreign Employment Board

“I encountered many cases of human trafficking and labour exploitation every day, but through AMKAS’s presentation I became clearer about why the ratification of ILO C189 is important. I want to see the Government of Nepal ratify the convention very soon. For that, AMKAS always has my support” – Durga Singh, SSP, Nepal Police.

Through cross-programmatic collaboration, we also created spaces for women migrants’ voices to be heard at regional and international levels through engagement with UN Mandate holders, as well as by pushing for their representation at regional and international advocacy spaces. A particular highlight was the online Regional Consultation with UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation of migrants for which our members and partners came together with those of the BOOM Central Asia programme, with the collaboration of the GG programme, to share the issues faced by women migrants in the region with the mandate holders and to demand accountability and action. In preparation for this process, we also supported the strengthening of capacities of our members and partners that were to participate in the consultation through a 2-day capacity building workshop on international human rights mechanisms, including the UN treaty monitoring bodies, special procedures and some potential engagement opportunities. The discussion and input of the training helped to build the linkage between their national advocacy work and the dialogue with the UN mandate holders.

We also supported the participation of our members and partners at other regional and international spaces, including at the Asia Pacific Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD) and the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) held in March 2021, as well as at UNCTAD15 held in November 2021. Through cross-programmatic collaborations, we secured speaking slots for our members and partners and organised workshops/roundtables, to amplify the systemic issues faced by women migrants in both origin and destination countries in the region, and to demand a just and fair system of migration.

Another regional and international advocacy space on migrant rights that opened up this year is the space presented by the processes set in motion in the run up to the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) due to be held in 2022, where the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) will be reviewed. However, migrants as major stakeholders have been largely excluded from the process of review and implementation of the GCM at national, regional, and international levels. In order to enable the active and meaningful engagement of migrant communities and organisations from the region, in collaboration with Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, Asia Pacific Research Network, Boniği Monitoring, Churches Witnessing With Migrants, Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility, Films 4 Peace Foundation, International Detention Coalition, International Migrants Alliance Asia Pacific, and Union Network of Migrants, we organised the GCM Second Echo conference that saw the participation of more than 140 delegates from more than 70 migrant and civil society organisations across Asia and the Pacific to strengthen collaborative advocacy and action towards realising an open, inclusive and meaningful GCM process for migrants’ participation. Along with the co-organisers we have decided to follow this up with a stronger collaboration to prepare for the IMRF in May 2022.

briefier

What is Global Compact for Migration (GCM)?

In response to the ongoing migrant/refugee crisis and increased forced migration all over the world, the United Nations convened its first ever summit on migrants and refugees and unanimously adopted the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants in 2016. The New York Declaration paved the way for the adoption of the two new global compacts in December 2018: The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration (GCM).

The GCM is the first inter-governmentally negotiated agreement on a common and collaborative approach to international migration. It is not a legally binding document with priority on national sovereignty but elaborates commitment to international cooperation on migration.

There are 23 objectives and ten guiding principles listed in the agreement, which focus on migrant protection, improved living and working conditions, combating labour exploitation, human trafficking and discrimination, and expanding the options for regular migration. Each objective comprises a general commitment and a catalogue of actions that states can draw from to develop their national and international responses to migration.

What is in the GCM?

The ten guiding principles of the GCM

- **People-centred:** promotes the well-being of migrants and places individuals at its core;
- **International cooperation:** requires international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue with consensual nature and joint implementation;
- **National sovereignty:** States can determine their national migration policy. States may distinguish between regular and irregular migration status to determine their legislative and policy measures for the implementation of GCM;
- **Rule of law and due process:** The rule of law, due process and access to justice are fundamental to all aspects of migration governance;
- **Sustainable development:** rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and builds upon its recognition, that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination;
- **Human rights:** is based on international human rights law and upholds the principles of non-regression and non-discrimination;
- **Gender-responsive:** ensures that the human rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected at all

2. Minimise the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin;
3. Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration;
4. Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation;
5. Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration;
6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work;
7. Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration;
8. Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants;
9. Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants;
10. Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration;
11. Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner;
12. Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral;
13. Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives;
14. Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle;
15. Provide access to basic services for migrants;
16. Empower migrants and societies to realise full inclusion and social cohesion;
17. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration;
18. Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences;
19. Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries;
20. Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants;
21. Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration;

Labour Programme:

Women Organising Workers (WoW)



In a context where the impacts of the pandemic on informal women workers, including the widespread loss of livelihoods and incomes and increased indebtedness, continued to reverberate for a second year, the work on our Labour programme faced setbacks with members and partners prioritising efforts to provide aid to women workers, and with implementation strategies being further delayed by travel restrictions. Additionally, the shrinking of democratic spaces in several countries of the region and the chilling effects of attacks on labour leaders, including through red-tagging, surveillance, arrests and killings, posed serious obstacles to the work of organising women workers. Even so, over the course of the year, we continued to support our members, partners and allies to organise, produce participatory research and amplify the issues of women workers.

There were several highlights of our work over the year – the work of our FPAR partners advanced to the advocacy stage with the production of labour briefers and several impactful advocacy strategies. We initiated a new FPAR on Women's Labour Rights in Special Economic Zones to understand the emerging challenges in the context of COVID-19 for women's labour rights, particularly in Special Economic Zones, for which we conducted two regional trainings. We also collaborated on a year-long campaign with our allies and with the MUAH and InfoComms teams on the demand for the ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention on Violence and Sexual Harassment at the Workplace 2019 (No. 190) (C190). We also supported the campaigns of our members and partners as they sought to defend and amplify the rights of women workers.



Preventing gender-based violence is essential to ensuring the health, safety and dignity of women workers. It is also a precursor to freedom of association and collective bargaining in industries dominated by women workers. These in turn, are foundational to achieving living wages – a decade-long mandate of the Asia Floor Wage Alliance. C-190 needs to be urgently ratified especially by countries where gender-based violence and harassment in the workplaces are persistent and pervasive.

*Abiramy Sivaloganathan,
Asia Floor Wage Alliance
Sri Lanka Coordinator.*

Campaigns and Solidarity Action on Women's Rights as Workers

A highlight of the work of the programme was the year-long campaign that we conducted in collaboration with allies and with the MUAH and InfoComms teams on the demand for the ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention on Violence and Sexual Harassment

at the Workplace 2019 (No. 190) (C190). The events that APWLD collaborated with allies and partners with through the year include the Global Vigil to demand Justice for Jeyasre in April 2021, the May Day online protest, 'Workers Run the World' on 7 May and the action during the 16 days of Activism (November 25 – December 10), including an online protest attended by over 100 participants across Asia and the Pacific on 25 November. This collaborative action has contributed to strengthening cross-movement solidarity to end gender-based violence at all workplaces across the region.


We also supported the Women's Global Strike campaign on International Women's Day, the 8th of March, to demand a feminist response to COVID-19. Our members, Women Wise Three from the Philippines and Bindu, Satkhira, Bangladesh shared videos in support of the campaign. At NGO CSW65, along with allies, Women Core Labour Campaign together with our member, Nurses Union of Thailand (NUOT), we co-sponsored 'IMF and World Bank's Austerities are impediments to the realisation of Beijing Platform for Action' on 17 March 2021. This parallel event, attended by 81 participants, covered the impacts of the COVID loans of World Bank and IMF on women's labour rights, as well as the power of feminist organising to create and demand feminist economic alternatives. We were joined at the event by feminist allies from Africa and Latin America.

APWLD also provided solidarity support to the calls for action from our members for May Day. On 27 April 2021, we supported the campaign organised by our member in the Philippines, Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CUTHR) together with the Labour Rights Defenders Network, to resist the attacks against workers, unions, and labour rights defenders in the Philippines. We also supported the action taken by our member in Sri Lanka, Women's Centre, on May Day calling on companies and the government to protect workers' rights in Free Trade Zones, as well as the action taken by our member, Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (IMWU), along with other allies in the labour movement on 3 May 2021 to speak out for the revocation of the Omnibus law.

In July 2021, to respond to the arrests of labour rights defenders in Sri Lanka, APWLD together with Labour FPAR partners in Sri Lanka, Women's Centre and Stand Up Movement Lanka provided their solidarity support for women workers rights activists and union leaders in Sri Lanka to resist the attacks against workers, unions and labour rights defenders in Sri Lanka, to call companies and government to immediately release arrested and detained workers' rights activists and union leaders and drop all criminal charges filed against labour rights defenders.

WOMEN LED ACTIONS THROUGH THE FPAR

Through the Labour FPAR, Awaj Foundation worked to organise 100 contractual workers from the 10 factories mentioned. The young woman FPAR coordinator from Awaj Foundation, who is also a trade unionist, organised several consultation meetings and workshops to build the workers' capacities in understanding their labour rights and labour laws. Through the FPAR process, the workers realised that through contractualisation, the employers are depriving them of their labour rights. In December 2018, 600 contractual workers (420 women and 180 men) in Amana Knit Fashion Ltd. were able to claim equal labour rights as the permanent workers including equal wages, leave days, day care centre facilities, medical facilities and fixed working hours. After becoming aware about their rights stipulated in the labour law, they collectively approached the management of the factories to demand equal labour rights and protection. Through negotiations, they were able to reclaim their rights to benefits and facilities that were never provided to them before.




Recommendations

To the Government of Bangladesh:

- Eliminate contractual form of employment in the RMG industry as it leads to deprivation of labour protection and rights of workers;
- Until the ending of all forms of contractualisation, develop a unique policy for protecting the rights of contractual workers;
- Ensure that contractual workers receive facilities and benefits as stipulated in the national labour laws;
- Provide training to the workers to raise awareness on labour rights and laws;
- Ensure that workers, permanent or contractual, can exercise their rights to association, collective bargaining and strike.

To the manufacturing companies, brands and buyers:

- Ensure that the RMG factories employing the workers adhere to the national and international labour rights standards;
- Ensure that the contractual workers receive equal benefits as the permanent workers;
- Ensure that the workers who work in an establishment on long-term basis (over one year) are employed as permanent workers, not as casual workers.



Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR)
APWLD Labour Programme

Working condition of women contractual workers in Readymade Garment Sector in Bangladesh
AWAJ Foundation

THE SITUATION OF WORKERS IN THE READY-MADE GARMENT (RMG) INDUSTRY IN BANGLADESH

The Ready-Made Garment (RMG) industry in Bangladesh employs over four million workers in 4,560 garment factories scattered across the country. Amongst the workers about 70 per cent are women. In 2017-2018, over 83 per cent of the country's export earnings came from the RMG sector totaling USD 30.6 billion¹, making Bangladesh the second-largest global apparel exporter after China.²

In April 2013, Bangladesh experienced one of the world's worst industrial tragedies when Rana Plaza, a nine-storey factory in Dhaka, collapsed killing at least 1,130 workers, most of whom were young women, and injuring another 2,500 workers. This highlighted the failure of many top Western fashion brands to comply with human rights and safety obligations in developing countries where their goods are manufactured. After the tragedy, more than 200 global firms signed a legally binding pact, known as the five-

Producing Grounded Research and Advocating for Women Workers' Rights

Due to delays owing to the pandemic, partners on our Labour FPAR (2017–2019) concluded the dissemination and advocacy phase in the early part of this year. We finalised and produced Labour FPAR briefers documenting the experiences of women workers in a range of contexts from tea plantation workers in Assam and domestic workers in Chennai, India, as well as hospital nurses in Thailand. These briefers highlight how the FPARs contributed to women workers' collective resistance to labour rights violations faced by women workers. They also highlight workers' recommendations for action by companies, employers, respective governments, as well as international stakeholders to address the barriers and discrimination that women workers face in realising their rights at work.

These country briefers are absolutely superb. I know we did a lot of work on the ground, and we did try to put out good reports. But, the work you all have done at APWLD is extraordinary. I never really imagined we could get such a clear country briefer.... frankly speaking, it's like a surprise gift.

Email from Sujata, Penn Tholilalar Sangam (PTS), APWLD member and Labour FPAR partner (2017–2019), 14 October 2021.

Some partners from the Labour FPAR (2017–2019) also continued to advance their advocacy work under the FPAR until the end of March 2021. In Bangladesh, our partner AWAJ Foundation working with readymade garment workers (RMG) workers, drew up eight recommendations to improve the conditions of women garment workers, including the elimination of contractual employment in the RMG industry, the development of a unique policy for protecting the rights of contractual workers, ensuring that contractual workers receive facilities and benefits that are stipulated in the national labour laws, amongst others. Between February –March 2021, AWAJ Foundation, together with other unions mobilised workers to lobby for their demands through a series of advocacy events at multistakeholder advocacy forums, which included the factory management, contractors and government representatives.

This series of advocacy activities contributed to building the capacities of the workers, researchers as well as the organisation staff. Additionally, women contract workers collected commitments from government representatives, employers' associations, management and contractors for equal benefits with permanent workers. Women contractual workers also negotiated with the contractor and management for an improvement in their facilities.

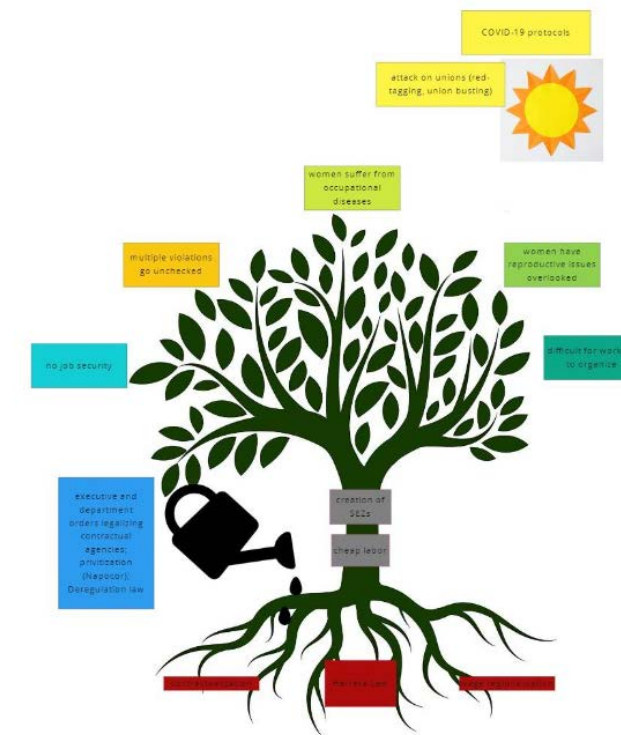
This strategy of a series of advocacy events also enabled the building of solidarities and the strengthening of the leadership of workers with more members organising and joining actions themselves and observing different days including May Day, World Women Day and so on with other workers. It has also enabled rapport building with the Federation, Union (Hop loon and Amarna Sommilito Garments Sramik Federation) as well as with the management, buyers and contractors.

Thanks to APWLD for this programme. It would be better if it could be held face to face not virtually. Unfortunately, we have COVID-19. We faced a lot of challenges. It was so very challenging to set up the programme. At last we have done it, and got your feedback on how we have done. At last we can collect some commitment from the government on our advocacy. The government thanks us for our research, some argue with us, but if we work together it can be solved.

Khadiza Akhter, Labour FPAR (2017–2019) young feminist researcher, AWAJ Foundation, Bangladesh

Overall, across organisations, as labour FPAR partners (2017–2019) reflected during their reflection meeting, the FPAR journey has contributed to building women's leadership, and enhanced their shared understanding of workers' rights and fostered their workers' collective demands to protect their rights and improve working conditions. Furthermore, FPAR partners continuously influenced employers to acknowledge gender differences and commit to respect women's labour rights, especially during COVID-19. It also fostered solidarity amongst Labour FPAR partners.

Women's Labour Rights in Special Economic Zones



After the (FPAR community) consultation, I felt empowered. I felt that we could push for structural change together, collectively. It was fulfilling to see that community co-researchers collectively agreed for a need for a strong trade union system to protect their rights. Community co-researchers agreed that the new system should be for women by women. It should be a feminist movement. It feels challenging to build a strong relationship with the larger community during the pandemic now.

*Zinara Ratnayake, young feminist researcher,
Stand Up Movement Lanka, Labour FPAR partner*

Labour FPAR co-researchers together with Karmojibi Nari shared their findings to Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) women workers in their boarding house. Photo by Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh

This year, we launched the second thematic FPAR on 'Women's Labour Rights in Special Economic Zones' with seven organisations in five countries to support women workers in SEZs to identify and analyse labour rights violations that they face as women workers and challenge neoliberal capitalist policies.

Stand Up Movement, Sri Lanka:

The 'Stand Up Movement Lanka' is a leading non-profit organisation in Sri Lanka for promoting, protecting rights and entitlements of workers and commercial sex workers in the Economic Processing Zones (EPZs). The FPAR will focus on identifying the structural barriers to women's representation and leadership in trade unions.

Women's Centre, Sri Lanka:

The Women's Centre (WC) was established in 1982 due to the Polytex garment struggle in Sri Lanka. Presently WC has four branches in Free Trade Zones in the southern part of Sri Lanka (Koggala, Wathupitiwala, Biyagama, Katunayake) and one chapter in the Eastern province (Vauniya). The FPAR will support the organisation to scrutinise the violation of labour rights, harassment and lack of legal protection for women garment workers in Killinochi, Vavuniya and Katunayake FTZ, Sri Lanka.

Bindu, Bangladesh:

Bindu is a non-political and non-profit organisation in Bangladesh committed to women's human rights and sustainable development. Their FPAR aims to investigate and document labour rights violations of women in SEZs in Bangladesh, including issues of sexual harassment, and to advocate for their rights as workers.

Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh:

Karmojibi Nari (KN), a Bangladeshi organisation, started its journey on International Labour Day 29 years ago to ensure women's rights, including the rights of informal women workers. Their FPAR will document the issues faced by women workers, focusing on sexual and gender-based violence in the SEZs. KN will organise a women worker's club that serves as a platform and space for women workers from 30 garment factories in Dhaka EPZ to share their struggles, lobby and advocate for women workers' rights.

Women Wise 3, the Philippines:

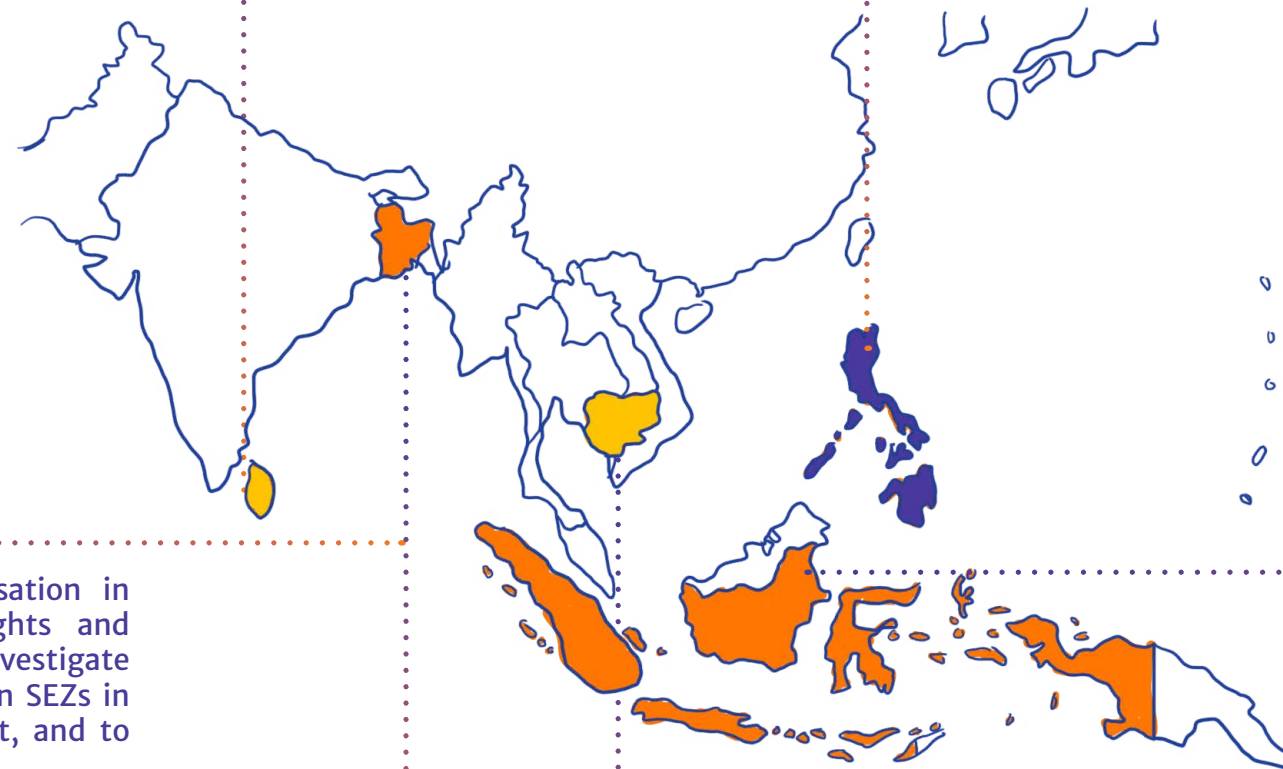
Women Wise 3 or Women Workers in Struggle for Employment, Empowerment and Emancipation started in 2008 as a Filipino network of widows and families of slain labour activists, women trade union organisers and women workers who have been displaced in the exercise of their right to unionise and those who became victims of abuse and harassment in their workplaces. Through the years, it evolved into a grassroots organisation of women workers, displaced workers and unemployed women in urban poor communities. The research will focus on decent work and a living wage in the SEZs, including investigating how women workers have been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Federasi Serikat Buruh Persatuan Indonesia (FSBPI), Indonesia:

FSBPI is an Indonesian women workers' trade union federation established to respond to the poor working conditions of the contractual workers. Their advocacy has included a focus on reproductive rights (menstruation leave, maternity leave, lactation room) and sexual harassment of women workers and LGBTQ workers. Their FPAR will focus on how women workers voice their gender injustices to create change.

Workers' Information Centre, Cambodia:

Workers' Information Centre (WIC) is a women garment workers' association registered in 2009. WIC primarily works with young women employed by Cambodia's garment factories. Through the FPAR journey, they will lead the way to fight women workers' demands on the decent work and living wage agenda, particularly during the pandemic.



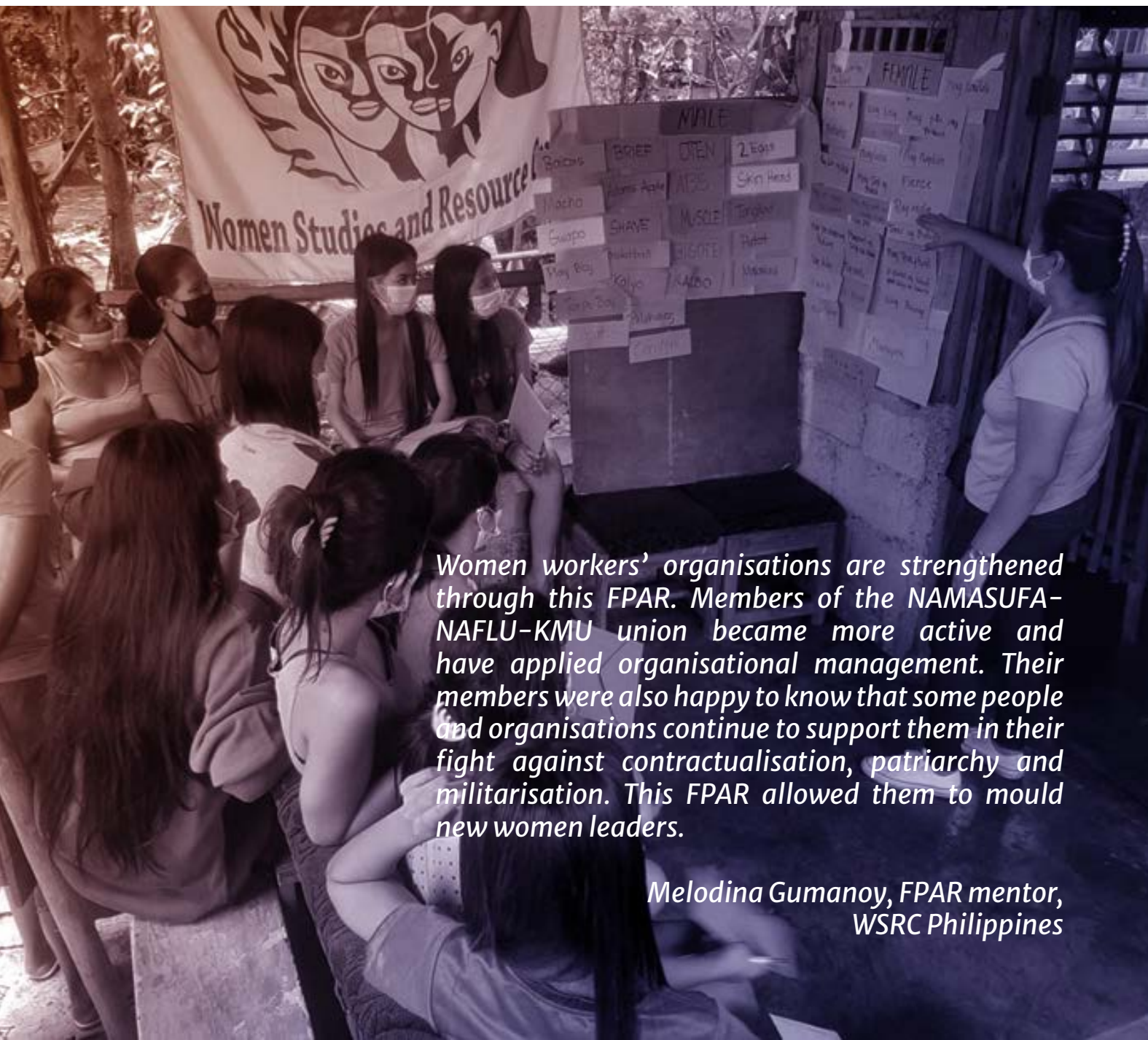
Women Interrogating Trade and Corporate Hegemony (WITCH)

In 2019, building on APWLD's legacy as a key partner in the feminist trade justice movement, the WITCH programme was launched with five partner organisations from four countries conducting FPARs on the impacts of trade and investment regimes and corporate hegemony on women's rights and focusing on demands for economic justice through alternative trade systems and community-owned solutions. Despite delays precipitated by two years of the pandemic, this year, we advanced to the advocacy phase with our FPAR partners, with strengthened organising power and a deeper understanding of the impacts of the systemic forces of neoliberal capitalist systems of trade, corporate hegemony and globalisation on women's livelihoods. We also continued to advocate for feminist trade justice at the regional and global levels through sustained campaigns on trade justice and by creating and enabling spaces for democratising regional and international mechanisms and processes on trade and development.



Strengthening Capacity on Trade and Development Justice

A significant outcome of our work over the year with our partners in four countries of the region has been the strengthening of capacities of grassroots women, at both the organisational and individual levels through a deepening of structural analysis and of feminist organising principles to make the connections between women's livelihoods and lived realities and systemic issues, and to challenge neoliberal capitalist globalisation. In Mindanao, women workers in the Sumifru banana plantation with our partner, Women Studies and Resource Center (WSRC), shared that through the process of the FPAR, there was a strengthening of the campaign against contractualisation in the plantation with the emergence of new leaders, who took the lead in mobilising the community with meetings and activities that mobilised more workers to join the group. Additionally, they were also able to produce materials, including pamphlets, a collection of workers' songs and social media memes to support their anti-contractualisation campaign. Additionally, the experience of harassment of their leader further unified the women workers with women drawing strength and solidarity from supporting one another.



Women workers' organisations are strengthened through this FPAR. Members of the NAMASUFA-NAFLU-KMU union became more active and have applied organisational management. Their members were also happy to know that some people and organisations continue to support them in their fight against contractualisation, patriarchy and militarisation. This FPAR allowed them to mould new women leaders.

Melodina Gumanoy, FPAR mentor,
WSRC Philippines

Similarly, our other partner in the Philippines, Gabriela Youth, who worked with women facing displacement due to the development of a large port in Tondo from the Aroma community shared that through the FPAR, women were able to better articulate their issues and lead their struggles for the rights to housing and livelihoods after the FPAR through collective discussions and discussions, which involved public speaking and socialising with other youth.



Women protest against the Purefood Law that will corporatise the dairy industry in Pakistan

In Pakistan too, through the work of our partner, Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT), with women facing disruptions to their livelihoods through the corporate capture of what has traditionally been a local and community-based dairy industry, there has been a strengthening of capacities in analysing their ground realities, in organisation building and in advocating for their rights. PMKT through the course of the FPAR held 15 Political Education Programs (PEPs) with participants from 25 villages. During these interventions, participants engaged with issues of the trade liberalisation and corporatisation in the dairy and livestock sector, which enabled a significant deepening of the capacities of women to analyse the political economy of the milk supply chain and its impact on their livelihoods and to be more vocal about their rights to resources and livelihoods. A member of PMKT later reflected on the impacts of the sessions on women's understanding of their rights to resources,

Women are more vocal about their immense contribution in livestock maintenance and are more assertive about their right to own and control natural, productive and genetic resources, including livestock. They have a clearer understanding of the multifaceted attack on livestock genetic resources, regulatory politics in the milk supply chain.

Member of PKMT, at the end of the Feminist
E-learning series in August 2021

In Gyeongsangbuk-do in South Korea, there is a growing movement to make local governments accountable in designing food plans. The work of our partner, Sister's Garden, with the Uiseong community to set up and implement their own agricultural models in relation to food sovereignty was strengthened through the course of the FPAR, with our partners seeing their work with the community as forming the basis for 'changing the agricultural rural structure of Korean society in the future'.



Apart from strengthening capacities to contend with issues at the local and national levels, at the regional and global levels too, we strengthened women's capacities to engage with regional and international mechanisms and processes on trade, investment and Development Justice from the perspective of grassroots women. In collaboration with the FDJ and GG programmes, we conducted a series of five workshops on feminist e-learning between July and August 2021 on a range of topics including UNCTAD governance, Financing for Development, Digital Economy, E-commerce and on Gender and Trade and our strategy towards UNCTAD 15. Sixty-two organisations registered for the sessions, and representatives of 35 organisations attended each of our sessions. The series saw the active participation of our members and partners, and it also led to the collective creation of a list of demands in preparation for the engagement with UNCTAD 15 in September and October.

I had a tremendously comprehensive and fun learning experience and feel more confident to share my learning with the local and grassroots network. Thank you, APWLD!

Reflection from a Participant at the end of the Feminist E-learning series in August 2021

Creating and Enabling Spaces to Advocate for Feminist Trade Justice

This year, we saw the fruits of creating and supporting alternate spaces in collaboration with allies with the agenda-setting at the cross-regional feminist alliance, the Gender and Trade Coalition, of which APWLD is a founding member, providing the feminist framework and narratives for the advocacy at the inaugural Gender and Development Forum at UNCTAD15. As highlighted in the Impact Stories, the WITCH programme, in collaboration with the Feminist Development Justice and Grounding the Global programmes, led APWLD's engagement at UNCTAD15 to amplify grassroots women's voices on trade justice. We secured participation for APWLD members and allies at the Gender and Development Forum, the CSOs Forum as well as at side events of UNCTAD 15 which enabled us to offer critical feminist narratives, analysis and alternatives, and by doing so, challenge dominant neoliberal narratives and agenda on trade and development.

This was the first time we engaged closely in the CSO preparation of the UNCTAD conference. As a member of the Steering Committee of the CSO Forum, we played a key role in shaping the

programme and the outcome document of the CSO forum (CSO declaration), ensuring that feminist perspectives and language were emphasised during the events and the final outcome. We were also one of four final organisations selected to organise a side event at the CSO Forum, which was well attended by participants and affirmed the importance of solidarity and system change in the current global context.

We can't really have any kind of gender equality unless there is a broad overarching transformation of our current system and that means a structural as well as a systemic transformation. And it requires an economic system that puts priority and importance on women's rights on gender equality on our planet and people over the profit.

Arieska Kurniawaty, WITCH POC from Indonesia, speaking at APWLD's side event at UNCTAD15 CSO forum

Another advocacy space that was enabled by APWLD this year was a Parliamentary Roundtable on Trade Justice and Parliamentary Oversight, a virtual event organised in collaboration with the Women in Power programme, that brought together women Members of Parliament from the Philippines and Malaysia together with more than 20 APWLD members and partners working on trade

justice. The event focused on the importance of parliamentary oversight over free trade agreements, which are often negotiated secretly, despite the significant impacts of such agreements on peoples' lives, particularly in terms of the rights of women to health, education, decent work, food, land and resources, and so on. The event highlighted the importance of parliament having information, meaningful voting power, including veto power, along with country-based impact assessments to reclaim peoples' sovereignty over the trade agreements. Additionally, it also highlighted the importance of a mechanism or process where citizens and CSOs could also engage with the process to engender accountability and scrutiny of free trade agreements. The roundtable was a significant collective space for parliamentarians and WHRDs working on trade justice to come together to strengthen political intent on advancing the feminist trade justice agenda.



Engendering Solidarities on Feminist Trade Justice through Campaigns

Another significant intervention to advance feminist trade justice this year was our focus on engendering solidarities through campaigns with allies on a range of issues. At the global level, we continued our campaign in collaboration with allies against the unjust and undemocratic Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), with a series of press releases and statements. We also produced a briefer on the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) in seven different languages to disseminate information on the ways in which foreign corporations are allowed to sue sovereign governments if they deem that their profits are in any way affected by a law, governmental action or decision, and the detrimental impacts that ISDS have on legitimate public policy on human rights, including on people's health and the environment. Apart from the briefer, the programme has also begun a collaboration with the Center for Regional Science, a partner in Kyrgyzstan, to support their work on an ISDS case on environmental issues at the Kumtor gold mining.

To respond to the current context of the unjust and inequitable access to the vaccine in many countries, particularly for marginalised groups of people, we joined the Feminist People's Vaccine (FPV) Campaign led by the Third World Network (TWN) and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), to advocate for vaccine equity through dissemination activities, including active dissemination of research done by FPV on vaccine inequality and the call for TRIPS waiver to ensure justice for all. We also worked with allies on the Regional Analysis Working Group.

Additionally, we joined hands with International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net) members to take up the call for a just and equitable recovery, demanding that states and international bodies respond immediately to the public health emergency and take transformative actions that would lead us to a new normal rooted in justice and radical transformation. In furtherance of this, in November 2021, a week before the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference was scheduled to take place, ESCR-Net hosted an online global rally and teach-in, which we joined in solidarity and support by lending our voices analysing the systemic forces prolonging the pandemic, its impact on frontline communities, and the urgent actions that need to be taken in the struggle for health justice. This is a part of the Global Call to Action initiative to advance collective demands for a just recovery and new normal in the face of COVID-19 and related systemic crises.

ISDS

VS

Women's Human Rights



1: The Secret Threat That Makes Corporations More Powerful Than Countries (2016). Retrieved from <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/chrisshamby/the-billion-dollar-ultimatum>

Origin

ISDS is a legacy of colonialism, whereby European corporations, led by the chairman of Deutsche Bank, drafted what they called a 'Magna Carta for investors'. Introduced in the late 1950s, ISDS appeared in many treaties between former colonial governments and newly independent governments as a means to prevent the nationalisation of the multinational corporations' physical property following independence.

2: Standing, G. (2016). The Corruption of Capitalism: Why rentiers thrive and work does not pay. Biteback Publishing Ltd. Retrieved from https://books.google.com.my/books?id=qgXIDAAQBA&printsec=copyright&source=gbs_pub_info_#v=onepage&q&f=false

ஐஎஸ்டிஎஸ்

VS

பணிகள் மனித உரிமைகள்



1: The Secret Threat That Makes Corporations More Powerful Than Countries (2016). Retrieved from <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/chrisshamby/the-billion-dollar-ultimatum>

தோற்றம்

ஐஎஸ்டிஎஸ் என்பது காலனித்துவத்தின் ஒரு மரபு. இதன் மூலம் டாய்ச் வங்கியின் (Deutsche Bank) தலைவரின் தலைமையிலான ஜரோப்பிய நிறுவனங்கள், 'முதலீட்டாளர்களுக்கான மேக்னா கார்டு' (Magna Carta for Investors) என்பதை வரைவு செய்தன. 1950 ஆண்டுகளின் பிற்பகுதியில் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்ட, ஐஎஸ்டிஎஸ், சுதந்திரத்தைத் தொடர்ந்து முன்னாள் காலனித்துவ அரசாங்கங்களுக்கும் மற்றும் சுதந்திரமான புதிய அரசாங்கங்களுக்கும் இடையிலான பல ஒப்பந்தங்களில் பன்னாட்டு நிறுவனங்களின் சொத்துக்களை தேசியமயமாக்குவதைத் தடுக்கும் வழிமுறையாக அமைந்தது.

2: Standing, G. (2016). The Corruption of Capitalism: Why rentiers thrive and work does not pay. Biteback Publishing Ltd. Retrieved from https://books.google.com.my/books?id=qgXIDAAQBA&printsec=copyright&source=gbs_pub_info_#v=onepage&q&f=false



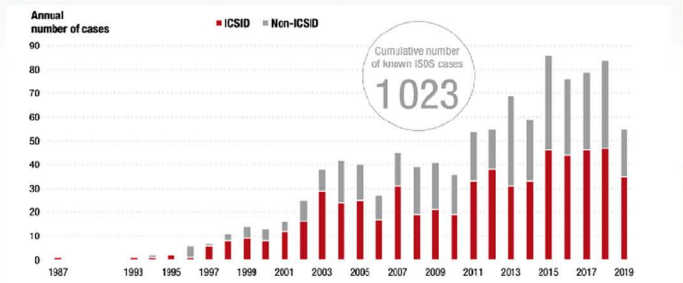
ISDS: A tool against human rights

In September 2015, the United Nations Human Rights Council's Independent Expert on International Order, Alfred de Zayas argued strongly that trade agreements should not include ISDS. In his report, he stated that **ISDS is incompatible with human rights principles** because it encroaches on the regulatory space of States and suffers from fundamental flaws including **lack of independence, transparency, accountability and predictability**. In April 2019, seven UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures mandate holders issued an open letter identifying similar fundamental flaws in the ISDS system and arguing for a systemic change.

ISDS clauses have existed for half a century, and the available public data indicates that **corporations are using ISDS more and more across the world in recent years**. In 2018 alone, 71 cases were initiated worldwide, most of them against developing countries. Up until the end of 2019 cumulatively, there have been 1,023 known treaty-based ISDS cases. In Asia and the Pacific region, 142 cases have been filed, approximately 70 per cent of which were initiated from 2010 and onwards³.

3: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD (2020). Fact Sheet on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Cases in 2019. International Investment Agreements (IIA) Issues Note (2). Retrieved from <https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/diaepcbinf2020d6.pdf>

Figure 1. Trends in known treaty-based ISDS cases, 1987–2019



ஐ.எஸ்.டி.எஸ் : மனித உரிமை களுக்கு எதிரான கருவி

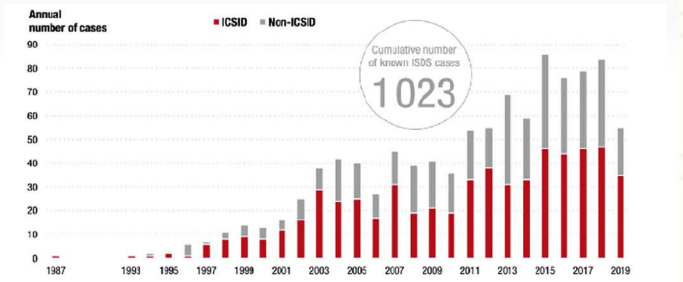
செப்டம்பர் 2015 இல், ஐக்கிய நாடுகளின் மனித உரிமைகள் பேரவையின் சர்வதேச ஒழுங்கு பற்றிய சுயாதீன நிபுணர் ஆல்பிரட் டி சயாஸ் (Alfred de Zayas) அவர்கள் வந்தது ஒப்பந்தங்களில் ஐஎஸ்.டி.எஸ்ஸை சேர்க்க கூடாது என்று கடுமையாக வாதிட்டார். அவர் தனது அறிக்கையில், ஐஎஸ்.டி.எஸ் மனித உரிமைக் கொள்கைகளுடன் பொருந்தாது, ஏனெனில் இது நாடுகளின் ஒழுங்குமுறை இடத்தை ஆக்கிரமிக்கிறது மற்றும் சுதந்திரம், வெளிப்படைத்தன்மை, பொறுப்புக்கூறல் மற்றும் முன்கணிப்பு உள்ளிட்ட அடிப்படை குறைபாடுகளால் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறது என்று குறிப்பிட்டார். ஏப்ரல் 2019 இல், ஏழு ஐநா மனித உரிமைகள் கவுன்சிலின் சிறப்பு நடைமுறைகள் ஆணை வைத்திருப்பவர்கள், ஐஎஸ்டிஎஸ் அமைப்பில் இதே போன்ற அடிப்படை குறைபாடுகளைக் கண்டறிந்து முறையான மாற்றத்திற்காக வாதிடும் வெளிப்படை சுதந்திரத்தை வெளியிட்டனர்.

ஐஎஸ்டிஎஸ் உட்பிரிவுகள் அரை நூற்றாண்டு காலமாக உள்ளன, மேலும் சமீபத்திய ஆண்டுகளில் உலகெங்கிலும் நிறுவனங்கள் ஐஎஸ்டிஎஸ்ஸை அதிகமாகப் பயன்படுத்துகின்றன என்பதைக் கிடைக்கப்பெறும் பொதுத் தகவல்கள் காட்டுகின்றன. 2018 ஆம் ஆண்டில் மட்டும், உலகளவில் 71 வழக்குகள் தொடங்கப்பட்டன, அவற்றில் பெரும்பாலானவை வளரும் நாடுகளுக்கு எதிரானவை. ஒட்டுமொத்தமாக 2019 ஆண்டின் இறுதி வரை, ஒப்பந்த அடிப்படையிலான அறியப்பட்ட ஐஎஸ்.டி.எஸ் வழக்குகள் 1023 உள்ளன. ஆசியா மற்றும் பசிபிக் பிராந்தியத்தில், 142 வழக்குகள் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளன, அவற்றில் சுமார் 70 சதவீதம் 2010 முதல் தொடங்கப்பட்டது³.

3: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD (2020). Fact Sheet on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Cases in 2019. International Investment Agreements (IIA) Issues Note (2). Retrieved from <https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/diaepcbinf2020d6.pdf>

என - 1987 ஆண்டு முதல் 2019 வரை ஒப்பந்த அடிப்படையிலான அறியப்பட்ட ஐஎஸ்டிஎஸ் வழக்குகளின் போக்கு :

Figure 1. Trends in known treaty-based ISDS cases, 1987–2019



Climate Justice (CJ)

It bears repeating and reiterating that a catastrophic climate emergency is upon us requiring urgent, strong, coordinated and sustained action that prioritises peoples and the planet over profits. The mobilisation, advocacy and campaign work of members, partners and allies on feminist climate justice in the region continued to be hampered for a second year by the impacts of the pandemic. Further, systemic challenges in tackling the climate crisis continued to impede the work of feminist climate justice movements. These include the business and market driven approaches that have dominated global climate negotiations, such as at COP26 this year, which watered down the calls to phase out fossil fuels, rejected a new financial facility to address loss and damage, and disregarded meaningful women's human rights and gender justice language in the outcome document. Despite these systemic challenges and impediments, feminists and grassroots women and their communities and organisations continued to mobilise, produce evidence through participatory research and advocate across the region at local, national, regional and global levels for climate justice.

Our Climate FPAR on the theme of 'Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Futures Sub-Grants for NDCs Monitoring and Equity' with seven partner organisations from seven countries moved into the advocacy phase this year. Through the work of our partner organisations over the course of the FPAR, which was initiated in 2019, grassroots women, including urban poor women from the Philippines, peasant women of Thailand and Indigenous women from Indonesia were able to strengthen their understanding and analysis of the impacts of climate injustices on their lives and produce evidence-based and country-specific feminist climate action and solutions. Additionally, they were able to advocate for feminist climate justice through participation and engagement in different virtual meetings, conferences, workshops and dialogues at various spaces from local to global level, strengthening solidarity and alliance with not only women climate justice activists and groups from Asia and the Pacific region but also from the Global North.



The Seeds We Plant Grow Fruits

A significant pillar of our work throughout 2021 was the Climate Justice FPAR on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Across the countries where we carried out Feminist Participatory Action Research with our partners, we saw significant strengthening of capacities on FPAR principles, which enabled grassroots women to conduct participatory research on the systemic causes and impacts of climate crises, and to write their own stories and produce advocacy materials, including videos and policy briefs on women's reality in the face of climate catastrophe and its relation to the NDCs in their countries. We also saw a strengthening of solidarities, through the consolidation of organisations, and the building of alliances and networks.

In Nepal, our partner, Women Network for Energy and Environment (WoNEE), a grassroots organisation of women working on women's human rights in energy and environment, formed a women's network in Bhaise and Satkanya villages and expanded the network in the neighbouring villages. The groups then worked together to develop posters and pamphlets on the impact of climate crises on rural and Indigenous women and the importance of gender responsive budgeting in the implementation of climate action and the NDCs of Nepal. They also shared their analysis with neighbouring communities and advocated with the local government in Lalitpur, the NDC preparation team as well as policy makers on gender responsive budgeting and climate adaptation. This led to some initiatives taken by the local government to prepare a Gender Action Plan and climate adaptation program, and a commitment to allocate a gender responsive budget focusing on climate adaptation programs for the upcoming fiscal year at the local level.



Photo by Women Network for Energy and Environment, Nepal



Photo by Forests and Farmers Foundation, Thailand

In Thailand, through the work of our partner, Forests and Farmers Foundation (FFF), an NGO working with grassroots communities, including women farmers, that have been negatively impacted by forest plans and conservation policies, 67 women built their capacities and deepened their understanding of laws and policies on NDCs and climate change. With that capacity, the FPAR women developed five stories on the impacts of climate crises on their lives and livelihoods, and a policy brief on the NDCs focusing on the women's engagement in the NDC process in Thailand. Armed with these resources, FPAR women carried out dialogues with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Climate Change Focal Point on the inclusion of heat, droughts and water management in the NDCs.

If the emissions continue to rise, women in the community will face even more severe heat and droughts. Their lives and livelihoods will be even more difficult. And all these initiatives will not be enough. Big corporations and emitters have to cut their emissions now. Women in the community know and have solutions and they must be included in the climate policy and NDC implementation. Finance must be made available to the women so they can use it to invest in further initiatives that meet their needs.

Suratjana Kanjanaphairoj, FPAR mentor, Forests and Farmers Foundation, Thailand

In Sindh, Pakistan, women cotton pickers, in collaboration with our partner, Sindh Community Foundation (SCF) strengthened their capacities on the impact of the climate crisis on their health. They also deepened their understanding of the health and safety measures at their workplaces, developed FPAR training materials and other advocacy materials in Sindhi, and conducted dialogues with the labour department and Human Rights Commission as well as big cotton growers in the region to advocate for their rights as workers.



Photo by Sindh Community Foundation, Pakistan

Many policies including climate policies of NDC and climate financing must take into account the health condition of women. The gender perspective in NDC especially in Pakistan needs to be further strengthened to help solve the impacts of climate change on women agriculture workers. We collectively want to share our voices that can change the patriarchal world into a world where women have equal pay as the other men farmers, a world where women's health issues aren't compromised! Not a world driven by the patriarchal, neoliberal and capitalistic market systems. We want climate justice. We do not want the National Determined Contributions of Pakistan to bring another false solution to the women cotton pickers in Pakistan.

*Ramsha Kalhoro, Young Woman Researcher,
Sindh Community Foundation – Pakistan*

Other partners across the region also produced a range of tools and resources to advocate for their rights and advance climate justice in their countries. Indigenous women of Pargamanan Bintang Maria in Indonesia working with our partner, Kelompok Studi dan Pengembangan Prakarsa Masyarakat (KSPPM) that is fighting for land rights and the protection of the



Photo by Kelompok Studi dan Pengembangan Prakarsa Masyarakat (KSPPM), Indonesia

environment, through the process of the FPAR developed a documentary video to reaffirm their demands on their collective rights to land and forest. Using the preliminary FPAR findings and analysis, they also put forward their demands on forest and land rights to the Regent of Humbang Hasundutan District (local level) as well as the General Director of the Social Forestry and Environmental Management (national level). In the Philippines, our partner, Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) – National Alliance of Filipino Urban Poor – together with the urban poor women of Southville produced materials including flyers, online materials and a media statement to highlight the issues faced by the Southville community in the context of climate-induced disasters such as Typhoon Ulysses. In Vietnam, rural and Indigenous women working with our partner, the Centre for Social Research and Development (CSR), on natural resource governance, especially water and fishery in areas affected by hydropower development, developed a natural disaster and early warning system to be used by their community.

Photo by Centre for Social Research and Development, Vietnam

Members also adapted their work and responded to the pandemic using a range of methods. Kadamay strengthened solidarities amongst the community through community kitchens and collective cooking for the community in the context of the pandemic. In Vietnam, in the face of the disruptions posed by the pandemic, rural and Indigenous women focused on telling their stories about the impact of climate crises through digital media. Similarly, facing the heavy impacts of the COVID crisis, the women working with the Center for Regional Science and Development (CRSD) in Kyrgyzstan, developed and conducted a survey to assess the impact of the pandemic on the women in the community.



Urban poor women demand relief supplies, photo by Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay), Philippines

Democratising Regional and International Spaces, Building Solidarities for Feminist

Apart from the work on the Climate Justice FPAR, a significant component of our work over the year has been in regional and international advocacy spaces as well as through campaigns, through which we have, with our members, partners and allies, consistently and strongly stood our ground on challenging false solutions to climate crises and amplified feminist demands for climate justice. Building on our strengths as a network that pushes for the democratisation of regional and international mechanisms and processes by ensuring grassroots women's voices reach and shape the discussions and outcomes in these spaces, we have supported our members to amplify their visions of feminist climate justice based on their lived realities of the impacts of climate catastrophes at advocacy spaces such as the intergovernmental Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2021, and campaign and solidarity spaces such as the Asia Pacific Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development (APPFSD), COP26, Global Just Recovery Gathering and so on.

Our CJ FPAR partner, Kadamay from the Philippines participated in both the APPFSD and APFSD 2021. Representing the urban poor constituency of the Asia Pacific Regional CSOs Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) Kadamay's representative and young researcher for the CJ FPAR, Kaira Cabaron addressed more than 200 civil society organisations from across Asia and the Pacific highlighting the importance of dismantling the fascist Duterte regime and calling for free mass COVID-19 testing.

We continue to call for free mass testing, greater and immediate financial assistance to the poor, urgent wage increases, an end to the evictions and the dismantling of the fascist Duterte regime. The pandemic has indeed exacerbated pre-existing problems. Climate-related challenges and economic crises go hand in hand for people who have nowhere to go and yet are forced to quarantine or face the iron claws of the state. What makes a public health crisis turn apocalyptic is when the questions on climate and economic survival are compounded by a government who insists that neoliberalism is the answer, and assaults anyone who says otherwise. Oppressed Filipinos have never faced a situation quite like this. But we have collectively and historically faced worse odds, we do not have the luxury of fear!

*Kaira Cabaron, Young Researcher, Kadamay
– Philippines (Asia Pacific Peoples' Forum on Sustainable Development, March 2021)*

In other global events such as the Global Just Recovery Gathering organised by 350.org and the Global Women's Assembly for Climate Justice organised by WECAN International, through our strong participation and contributions, our members and partners were able to reach around 20,000 climate activists, feminists and grassroots women leaders from all over the world. We were able to strengthen awareness, understanding and solidarities with other feminists and grassroots organisations and allies especially with the ones from the Global North.

The Climate Justice programme developed a one-minute introductory video as part of the Global Just Recovery Gathering panel, which was widely disseminated in collaboration with 350.org, reaching more than 1,300 people online.

For the biggest climate negotiations this year, the COP26, through cross-programmatic and cross-movement collaborations, we highlighted the exclusive and discriminatory nature of proceedings through our #MissingVoicesCOP26 campaign. Together with our members and partners, we developed tools for media and digital

advocacy including one online statement, two press releases and campaign materials which were widely disseminated throughout the climate conference to amplify the voices of our members and partners on the climate negotiations. APWLD's press releases and materials were covered by 12 media outlets from different countries including Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Ghana. The media impact of the press release is significant especially given the limitation of the online engagement at COP26 and the importance of amplifying rural and Indigenous women's voices and feminist perspectives on climate justice.

In addition to our regional and global advocacy work, a significant impact this year was the recognition of our work by intergovernmental organisations and groups in the Pacific. APWLD was invited by the OHCHR Pacific Regional Office to share its experience and perspective on how the current economic system is failing the peoples, especially Indigenous women. The discussion was attended by Indigenous groups from the Pacific region. An outcome of this discussion was that APWLD's position on false climate solutions and their impacts on grassroots women is reflected in the official summary report of the OHCHR office. This includes a reflection on whether switching to a low carbon economy through for instance geothermal development, which required the felling of Indigenous peoples' forests, or mega-projects threatening lake depletion and environmental pollution, or even destructive wind farms and biothermal production would really address climate crises.

Our engagement with the OHCHR Pacific Regional office is significant given our commitment to strengthen our advocacy and campaign work in the Pacific region.

Feminist Development Justice (FDJ)



This year, our members, partners and allies continued to face challenges in their work to advance Development Justice across the region with the persistent adverse impacts of the pandemic being felt by communities across the region, particularly those at the margins of our societies. The region, which was far from being on track to achieve any of the Sustainable Development Goals, has been further set back by the pandemic which has deepened already worsening inequalities, compounded the climate crisis and narrowed spaces for democratic participation. The work on our programme was impacted too with delays to the finalisation and publication of country briefers and Peoples' Development Justice Reports with partners being unable to visit communities and carry out data collection due to the COVID-19 surges in the region. Restrictions on face-to-face activities and the shift to online operations also placed impediments on the organising activity of civil society organisations and movements as well as their participation in policy-making spaces at local, national, regional and global levels. Increased authoritarianism, in the form of the military coup in Burma/Myanmar had a direct impact on our partner, the Women League of Burma, who had to terminate their programme with us owing to security reasons in the country.

Despite these difficulties, our members, partners and allies on the programme rallied together, persevered and continued to assert their rights and reclaim spaces to advance women's human rights and Development Justice in the region. Through the FDJ Monitoring and Women2030 Programmes with our partners, we continued to strengthen capacities of grassroots women's groups, support them to consolidate feminist organising, collect and document evidence of rights violations, and produce knowledge, tools and resources to demand governments' commitment to SDGs, and push for Development Justice at the local and national levels. We also continued to strengthen our work on democratising regional and international advocacy spaces by enabling grassroots women's voices to influence regional and international mechanisms and processes on women's human rights and Development Justice.

Strengthening Grassroots Women's Groups to Advance Development Justice

Our work on the National Monitoring of SDGs with seven organisations from seven countries in the region that was initiated in 2020 continued through the course of the year with our partners supporting the strengthening of grassroots women's organising and building capacities to produce their own analysis and critique of their governments' commitments and implementations of the SDGs. Our partners in Women2030 from 2019 also continued the work this year due to some delays caused by the pandemic, but still were able to use innovative methods to conduct advocacy activities. Their results were shared with us in a reflection session meeting in November 2021, basically highlighting how the programme has encouraged their constituencies especially grassroots women communities to engage with policy-making and SDG monitoring at the local level.

In Nepal, our partner, Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC), with the support from the programme has continued to organise and raise concerns of grassroots women working in carpet factories in Kathmandu and Bhaktapur districts of Bagmati Province, especially on the issues of unpaid care work, access to public services and social protection, and has joined other national CSO groups in monitoring the country's VNR through the Nepal SDG Forum. Apart from producing a country briefer and a Peoples' Development Justice Report, they were also actively engaged with advocacy spaces at the regional and global levels. They also organised a side event at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the systemic barriers for the realisation of the SDGs, and amplified their demands for Development Justice based on the lived realities of grassroots women.

In Vietnam, the programme supported the work of our partner, SCODE or Center for Sustainable Community Development, to create further spaces for grassroots communities enabling them to organise and join dialogues with the government, especially on monitoring SDG13 on climate action. In Bangladesh, our partner, Initiative for Right View (IRV) has been working with indigenous women from Munda and Mahato communities on issues of climate change and inclusion. In Pakistan, in collaboration with our partner, HomeNet, we were able to support the strengthening of organising power of women workers and the deepening of solidarities between home-based workers and domestic workers especially on issues of gender discrimination and decent work.

Several of our partners on the Women2030 programme also continued their advocacy activities despite the constraints posed by the pandemic by creating spaces, and strengthening the participation of grassroots women in local and national decision-making spaces. In Indonesia, our partner FKM BKA YWU facilitated the inclusion of Women with Disabilities (WWDs) in Musrena, a space at the local government level where communities can participate in development planning, enabling them to raise their issues at the local level and eventually to influence national-level policymaking. Using Development Justice indicators, the community was also able to critically engage the government in terms of monitoring SDG indicators for WWDs.



Perempuan Aman Maluku is organising a community meeting with the indigenous Women in the Sameth Community of Indonesia.

In Thailand, our partner, Climate Watch Thailand, continues to work with the communities in Pattani Province. Through continued organising and education work, the women in the community were able to self-organise, engage in government dialogues, and claim a big win, when, along with other civil society groups, they were able to stop the construction of the coal-fired power plant in South Thailand.

When a coal fired power plant with all the finance is planned in a location, it can be stopped. When a new power plant using gas is planned in a new location and financiers follow, we can stop it. This goes on and on unless we address the root cause and the systemic barriers. Addressing systemic issues through the FDJ programme has provided us and the communities we worked with, the knowledge and perspectives of looking and analysing problems and connecting them with the current structure and policies challenges. The participatory tools have enhanced the capacities and built confidence among women and communities. It has continued making us relevant to the communities, amplifying their voices, with strong evidence from the ground, reflecting the current system of injustice and exclusion that has existed for years, and the need to address and solve these problems together.

Wanun Permpibul, (Climate Watch Thailand)

In Sri Lanka, our partner, Center for Women’s Research (CENWOR) in collaboration with other civil society groups were able to form a national Women’s Major Group which specifically engages and monitors the SDG indicators at the local level. In Mongolia, along with other civil society organisations, our partner, the Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) too have formed an SDG network composed of women from the communities. They have been demanding the inclusion of grassroots communities in the SDG implementation process and have facilitated local dialogues encouraging the participation of grassroots communities including herders and pastoralists from rural areas.

We did workshops and we created community teams of women leaders who worked with government officials, and they started the monitoring of SDG 1 (End poverty). The community also gained learnings on SDGs and learned to work with computers to draft letters to officials, to speak out on media and TV, and to engage with policy makers.

From Manda, CHRD during the Partners’ Reflection Meeting

programme also resulted in further solidarity among national and regional organisations. National organisations were also able to engage in regional policy-making spaces allowing them to link with wider movements and foster a culture of solidarity.

Through the programme, in the Philippines, our partner, the Center for Women’s Resources (CWR), has conducted online public forums raising awareness on the different issues that women in the country are facing especially during the pandemic. They have also organised legislative dialogues that have contributed to influencing policy at the national level. Through consistent awareness-raising, more organisations in the Philippines are now engaged in the Agenda 2030 discussions at the national level.

The advocacy sub-grant



FKM BKA YWU conducts capacity building on gender planning and budget for women and women with disabilities to improve their understanding for advocacy process in Pidie district, Indonesia.

Deepening Cultures of Accountability and Solidarity in Regional and International Advocacy Spaces on Development Justice

The systemic barriers for the meaningful engagement of grassroots women’s rights organisations and activists from the Global South with regional and international mechanisms and processes have been severely deepened by the pandemic with many UN meetings and processes being conducted online or in a hybrid format. Despite these challenges, the programme, in collaboration with our members, partners and allies, has continued to push for the democratisation of these spaces by facilitating the engagement of members and partners at several of these spaces including the Asia Pacific Peoples’ Forum for Sustainable Development (APPFSD), the 8th Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2021, and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

We have also sustained our engagements at the regional level leading the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) in meaningfully engaging in the 8th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD). We also supported the participation and engagement of our members and partners from the FDJ programme, as well as those from the Labour, BOOM and Climate Justice programme at the Asia Pacific Peoples’ Forum on Sustainable Development which was held virtually between 17–22 March 2021. We were also able to influence narratives through the various side-events that we organised and co-

organised. Despite limited participation due to the shift to online platforms, we were still able to deliver our key messages through strategic participation in different official side-events and intergovernmental dialogues. APRCM also continues to be fully recognised as an official CSO mechanism engaging in the process.



From APPFSD, great harvest! Learned many ideas and good practices, felt concerns of civil societies, and the progress and gaps, got useful tools, data and information. All of these are very helpful for our monitoring of SDGs, and other advocacy work.

Ga Ma, Beijing–SDG 5 Facilitating Group

Homenet Pakistan is conducting a meeting with the homebased and domestic workers of Karachi, Pakistan

APPFSD makes the working network stronger because there are many friends with the same struggle, and it is very important to exist in this sense of solidarity to support each other.

Lenny, Perempuan Aman Maluku, Indonesia

The programme also supported and facilitated the participation of our members and partners in the HLPF which was held in July 2021 on the theme of 'Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic'. Forty-four Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) were carried out this year, with 10 from Asia and the Pacific, including the countries of three of our Women2030 partners – Indonesia, Thailand and China. Our partner, Association of Women with Disabilities' (Shyrak) from Kazakhstan, reflected on their experience of the HLPF.

It was the first experience for Shyrak to be engaged with HLPF – [...] we managed to contribute to the side event with the webinar on "Building an equal, inclusive and sustainable economies for resilient societies in the face of pandemics: A Gender Perspective" organised by BBC Nepal and APWLD. We gained a lot from this experience, and going to be more engaged into this platform to promote our requirements and suggestions on SDG implementation in Kazakhstan and whole Central Asia region. [...] Prior to that Shyrak participated in the Side Event «SDG implementation in Central Asia with a focus on SDG 16+ and 17 from CSO perspective» organized by ARGO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs RK. [...] The purpose of the event was the preparation of a review on the implementation of the SDGs in Central Asian countries. Shyrak contributed with a gender and disability perspective and called for actions.

*Nurzhama Iminova,
Shyrak, Kazakhstan*

The programme was also proactive in other parallel processes such as the MGoS Forum in the 4th Asia Pacific Forum of Ministers, SDG Moment 2021, and Sub-Regional Forums on SDGs where we were able to bring in our analysis and reach out to other civil society groups and stakeholders. Another advocacy space we have engaged with this year was UNCTAD15 CSOs Forum where FDJ partner Mandkhaitseten Urantulkhuur from CHRD highlighted the debt crisis and the urgent need for a just recovery from the pandemic of countries hard hit by the crisis.

Grounding the Global (GG)



The Grounding the Global (GG) programme is APWLD's long-standing programme that 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 2021, we continued to face the pervasive impacts of both COVID-19 as well as the shrinking of civil society spaces at both national and international levels. With regional and international advocacy spaces continuing to be conducted in hybrid and digital modalities, the challenges faced by grassroots women's rights organisations of access and inclusion in regional and international advocacy spaces, became even more visible and profound, posing serious questions for how we democratise these spaces and persevere with 'grounding the global'. In the face of these challenges, APWLD used a range of innovative and bold strategies to make regional and international processes and mechanisms accessible and meaningful for grassroots women's rights organisations

Creating New Advocacy Spaces

The COVID-19 protection measures made it impossible for grassroots women's rights organisations to travel to New York and Geneva to engage with international advocacy spaces. Even when key intergovernmental meetings like the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place virtually, due to the time inequities, including the vast time differences, it became challenging for grassroots activists from Asia and the Pacific regions to engage with the CSW. Due to these multiple administrative barriers, the distance between grassroots women's rights activists and international advocacy and human rights accountability spaces grew bigger over the year.

APWLD tried to mitigate the situation by creating new advocacy spaces such as a virtual consultation with the UN mandate holders, held in November 2021, through which migrant women's organisations and their communities had an opportunity to directly interact with the UN mandate holders, including the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants, the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women, and member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Through the virtual consultation, migrant women organisations from our Central Asia partners (Nuzholber and Women Support Centre (WSC) from Kyrgyzstan) and Migration FPAR partners and members (DANKO from Kyrgyzstan, Aastha Parivaar from India, Tenaganita from Malaysia, National Alliance of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRD), Aaprabasi Mahila Kamdar Samuha (AMKAS) from Nepal, Keluarga Besar Buruh Migran Indonesia (Kabar Bumi), Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (IMWU) in Hong Kong, Migrante International from the Philippines) were able to share the struggles of internal and returned migrant women in their respective countries with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants, Mr. Felipe Morales Gonzales, Vice Chair of UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls, Ms. Dorothy Estrada, and Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Dr Heisoo Shin.

Prior to the consultation, a 1-day capacity building and knowledge sharing session on international human rights mechanisms like UN Special Procedures mandates and treaty body review mechanisms (such as CESCR) was also held. The knowledge sharing session and consultation provided an opportunity to partners to learn about the relevant and significance of these processes, and to share their key policy issues and recommendations with the mandate holders. The consultation also served as an important space to influence mandate holders' upcoming thematic reports and country visits. Immediately after the consultation, a joint regional brief with legal and policy recommendations to improve migrant women's human rights situations was shared with all mandate holders.

First of all, it [provided] the opportunity to talk live with the mandate holders. I have never before had the opportunity or even the thought of communicating directly with them. Secondly, after learning about the functions of the mandate holders, I clearly decided for myself that I had to talk about the problems of our women migrants and get support from the mandate holders.

Manata Sadykova, Danko, Kyrgyzstan

As a result of the consultation, additional advocacy opportunities were created, and members were mobilised to continue advocacy and accountability of duty bearers. For example, Dr. Heisoo Shin, CESCR committee member, indicated upcoming CESCR country reviews of Indonesia and Committee's visits to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. APWLD and members and MUAH FPAR partners from Indonesia compiled and submitted a CSO report on a list of issues for the CESCR Committee's pre-working group session and participated in the Committee's pre-session meeting to share their recommendations and specific question for the Indonesian government.

Further, together with members and FPAR partners of MUAH and the Labour programme, we compiled a written submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty & Human Rights highlighting the need for universal social protection for informal women workers, including migrant workers and sex workers.

Meaningful Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms

In the face of significant barriers over the year for women's rights organisations to access and participate in international human rights mechanisms, APWLD persisted with efforts to make international and regional processes accountable for the realisation of women's human rights in the region. With CSW65 being conducted virtually this year, as convenors of the Women's Rights Caucus (WRC), we engaged with UN Women at the Asia Pacific and global levels, prior to and during CSW65. We pushed for regional preparatory processes, which have been critical for CSOs to organise their approaches and political position for CSW, and highlighted the shortcomings of the online engagement of CSOs at CSW65. We also engaged in several preparatory meetings with CSOs, and organised parallel events at CSW65 to shape the narratives based on the lived realities of women from the region.

We organised a parallel event in collaboration with the Women in Power programme in the form of panel discussion 'Grassroots Women's Agenda for Change: Womanifesto as a Strategy for Building Women's Political Leadership in Asia and Beyond' on 23rd March 2021. The event focused on sharing learnings on grassroots feminist movement building and creating robust women's leadership for structural transformations through centring women's agendas for change. The panelists included Womanifesto partners, Representative from The African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET), and the member of the UN Working Group on the Discrimination Against Women.

Despite the barriers, we influenced the Agreed Conclusions of CSW65 through our engagement with the Women's Rights Caucus and by providing language inputs to several drafts of the Agreed Conclusions. Post CSW65, together with FEMNET, we also convened a cross-regional meeting with national and regional women's rights organisations in Asia and the Pacific and Africa to reflect upon the challenges and best practices of CSW65 and to strategise for regional and global level interventions in the lead up to CSW66. An outcome of this reflection meeting was that APWLD, together with six other regional and national women's rights organisations – Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA), Asian Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW), Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM),

Korea Women's Association United (KWAU) and Alga Rural Women's Association, Kyrgyzstan – submitted a letter to UN ESCAP, UN Women HQ and UN Women Asia Pacific offices urging them to call for a regional preparatory meetings prior to CSW66 and to ensure effective and meaningful CSO engagement with the processes. In response to the letter, the relevant departments at these offices called for a meeting with the group to discuss the details of the regional preparatory meetings. APWLD and allies are currently assessing the value of engagement with the preparatory process, based on the inputs provided by UN colleagues.

We also supported the engagement of women's rights organisations in the region at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). We continued to facilitate our member, Karapatan, to meaningfully participate in the 46th and 47th sessions of the HRC by supporting them with accreditation to the UN, which enabled two of their members to make statements demanding action against the severe human rights violations against WHRDs in the Philippines.

At the 46th session of the Human Rights Council, our members called for the Council to take further steps to implement the resolution on technical cooperation and capacity building and stop extrajudicial killings and other forms of harassment against HRDs in the Philippines, consider independent and international investigation to address the climate of impunity against HRDs, and to monitor the human rights impact of the Anti-Terrorism Law in the Philippines. At the 47th Human Rights Council, members supported the view of the former Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary execution on the requirement for prosecutor from the International Criminal Court to join the UN Human Rights Council, and conduct an independent investigation on the human rights situation in the Philippines.

Grounding the Global also joined APWLD's Urgent Response Team to support our member, Women's League of Burma (WLB), in their advocacy with the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the HRC to address human rights violations, especially the sexual violence in armed conflict areas in the context of the military coup in the country. We supported WLB in the preparatory processes prior to the meeting with Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict in June 2021. We also supported them with amplifying the conditions in Burma/Myanmar through a press conference organised in collaboration with Global Justice Center (GJC) based in New York.

Apart from direct engagement with international human rights mechanisms, we also supported our members to advocate for the realisation of women's human rights through written submissions. Along with the BOOM programme, we prepared and submitted a written contribution in August 2021 to the draft general comments No.26 of the Committee on the Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. APWLD's written contribution, posted [here](#) (no. 65) stresses states' obligations to respect and protect the legitimate tenure rights of women, including customary, collective and traditional tenure rights; to recognise women's right to land as part of peasant rights; to reaffirm the importance of agrarian reform in the fulfilment of peasants and women's rights to land and to conduct credible Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) on trade and investment agreements and other economic policies; to establish a legally-binding instrument for holding corporations to account for human rights abuses; and to hold States accountable when they are themselves responsible for violations of land rights and attacks on land rights defenders.

Along with the MUAH programme, we also prepared a joint CSO List of Issues (LOI) for the CESCR Pre-working Group Meeting for Indonesia's Periodic Review. The LOI which will be submitted in January 2022 focuses on the structural challenges that lead to Indonesian migrant women's exploitation and provides recommendations for legislative and programmatic protections to improve their human rights issues.



Capacity Building on International Human Rights

As a cross-programmatic initiative, the Grounding the Global programme provided cross-programmatic support to our Migration, BOOM and Labour partners to build capacities on international human rights mechanisms. Further, we collaborated with the FDJ and WITCH to conduct a series of workshops on advocacy at UNCTAD in July – August 2021 to deepen the capacities of our members, partners and allies on UNCTAD and relevant feminist issues such as financing for development, E-commerce, as well as gender and trade. The sessions enabled collective sense-making and strategising for our engagement at UNCTAD15.

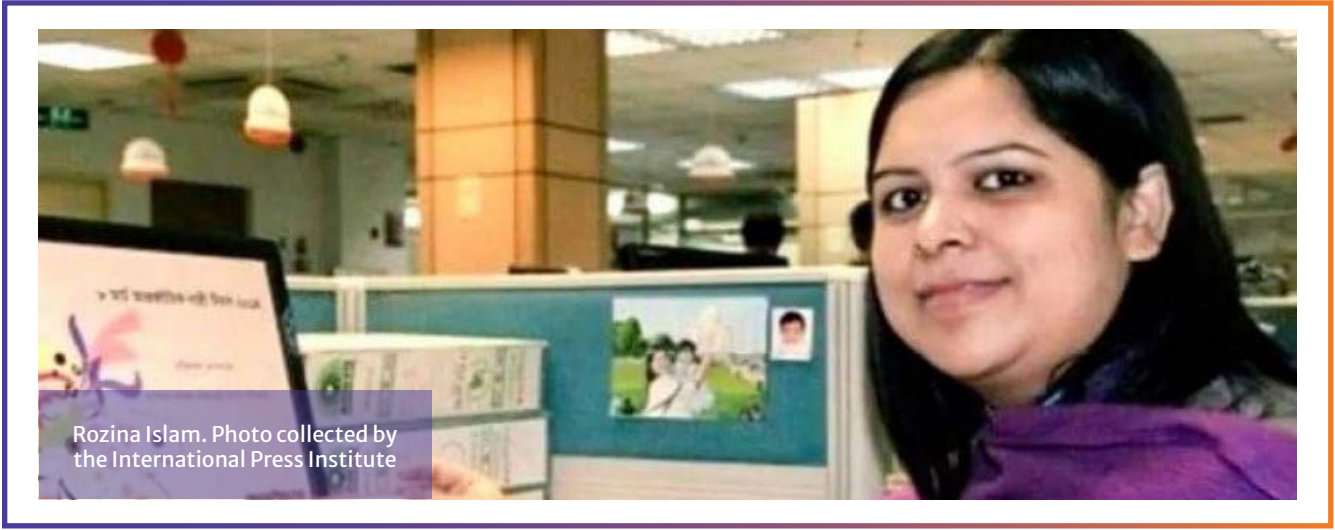
As mentioned previously, in preparation for the Virtual Consultation with the UN Mandate Holders in November 2021, we also led a day-long capacity strengthening session for our members and FPAR partners who were joining the consultation to provide a comprehensive overview of UN international human rights accountability mechanisms, including treaty monitoring bodies and UN special rapporteurs.

Feminist Law and Practice (FLP)

The purpose of the long-standing Feminist Law and Practice (FLP) programme is to support women's rights activists and lawyers to employ a feminist framework to realise the enjoyment of women's rights in law and in practice in Asia and the Pacific. Over the year, despite the barriers posed by the pandemic, we continued to support our members, partners and allies by offering solidarity support to WHRDs in the region through a range of feminist witnessing strategies, and by strengthening capacities on feminist legal analysis at regional and national levels.



In a context where WHRDs continue to be at risk in many parts of our region through arbitrary arrests, illegal detentions, harassment and attacks, we continued to offer support to WHRDs through our Urgent Response support in collaboration with the Grounding the Global and InfoComms teams. Along with WLB, we held press conferences and submitted joint letters to different UN offices with specific recommendations calling for collective action. With the illegal arrest of Thin Thin Aung (co-founder of Mizzima News Agency and the Women’s League of Burma (WLB)) as well as other WHRDs in Burma/Myanmar, APWLD, along with other allies, undertook solidarity action calling for the Military junta of Burma/Myanmar to immediately release Thin Thin Aung and to stop criminalisation of and violent attacks against WHRDs and other human rights defenders in Burma/Myanmar.



Rozina Islam. Photo collected by the International Press Institute

APWLD also demanded the dropping of charges against Bangladeshi journalist Rozina Islam, who had been arrested by Bangladeshi authorities in May 2021, and subsequently charged with stealing confidential official documents from the health ministry under two colonial era laws. Rozina had been reporting on corruption and mismanagement in the health sector amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Her investigative reporting informed the public about the negligence, irregularities and corruption in the government’s response and handling of the pandemic. While Rozina was eventually released on bail after a week, APWLD put out a statement in her support calling on the government to drop all charges against her, and to immediately hold an independent and impartial investigation into the harassment allegations. Additionally, the statement called for the government to stop attacks against journalists, and for the repeal of the colonial-era law, Official Secrets Act, which violates the Constitution of Bangladesh and international human rights law. On 23 May 2021, woman human rights defender and journalist Rozina Islam was released from jail after she was granted bail by the Dhaka Magistrate Court on the condition that she pays a bond of BTB 5000 (USD 57.37) and surrenders her passport to the authorities.

To further our work on WHRDs, APWLD held a three-day online Feminist Legal Theory and Practice (FLTP) conference on 15–17 December 2021, gathering legal practitioners, activists from the FLTP community and other like-minded organisations in Asia and the Pacific. Selected organisations from other regions were also invited to discuss the situation of WHRDs in their respective regions, the legal strategies and approaches which they use to support the WHRDs and their communities, as well as the pros and cons of those strategies. Through the course of the conference, thoughtful insights and strategies were shared and most of the participants expressed interest in working with each other on different issues. A networking platform was created by this event for our members and allies to come together to share learnings, strategies and stories, and to build and foster networks.



Participants holding posters to support WHRDs (FLTP Conference 2021)

In furtherance of our feminist witnessing strategies, we advanced the work on strategic litigation support and fact-finding missions. On strategic litigation support, we supported the capacity building of young woman lawyer Maria Sol Taule of Tanggol Bayi in the Philippines by providing her with resources to make the initial drafts of the submissions to the UN human rights mechanisms, oral statements in the UNHRC sessions, briefing notes during diplomatic briefings as well as on-the-job training in conducting lobby activities. We also developed a Feminist Fact Finding Mission Guideline to support one of our partners, National Indigenous Women Forum. We are awaiting feedback on this guideline to develop it further and share it more widely.



Photo by Tanggol Bayi, Philippines

Strengthening Capacities on Feminist Legal Analysis

Over the course of the year, the FLP programme supported women’s rights activists and lawyers across the region to strengthen their capacities on feminist legal analysis through a National FLTP Training of Trainers (ToT) held in August 2021 as well as seven National FLTPs organised by seven organisations in six countries between September – November 2021.

The 5-day online National FLTP ToT was conducted with 16 participants from seven partner organisations from six countries. For this process, we adapted the training exercises from the FLTP Manual to make them compatible for virtual delivery using online training materials and methods. These methods were then used for the National FLTPs by our partner organisations.

The ToT FLTP was focused on deepening participants' understanding of the core concepts of feminist legal theories and practice and strengthening their capacities to facilitate the training in their local contexts. We received positive feedback from all of the participants, who expressed confidence in using the capacities and methods gained during their own National FLTP trainings.

I feel empowered. I learned a lot. I feel positive energies [from] meeting all of the wonderful feminists here. I hope we have other meetings in the near future — offline, of course. Thank you so much!

Yogi Paramitha, Bali Women Crisis Centre, Indonesia

The National FLTPs were conducted by seven partner organisations in six countries. In Fiji, it was conducted by Fiji Women Crisis Center (FWCC), in Kyrgyzstan by JIPAR, in Bangladesh by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), in Nepal by Access Planet Organisation (APO) and Blind Women Association Nepal (BWAN), in Indonesia by Bali Women Crisis Centre (BWCC), and in Thailand by Women's Studies Center (WSC).

In Fiji, the objective of the 5-day National FLTP was to build the capacities of activists and lawyers to critically engage with the laws from a feminist perspective, including both the recognition of the law as a tool of oppression, and to seek to transform discriminatory laws, policies and practices and increase women's access to justice.

The FLTP training feels as if it was done offline, not online, because I felt very close to all of you. When I listen to presentations and when we have discussions, it feels as if we are all together in one room because we are so connected. Our entire team consists of feminists, activists and amazing people who are extremely familiar with their contexts -- the laws, human rights situation, and it was so interesting listening to you. Through these presentations, we learned a lot from you. I'm so glad that FLTP was conducted by very powerful, professional and inspiring people. I was very happy to meet the trainers, Albertina and Sanaiyya, here, and all the facilitators' insights were very useful. I was able to participate very intensively, and now I can see that the situation is changing very rapidly. Thank you to the trainers for showing us the reality. I thank all the people who organised this training. From a technical standpoint, it was organised extremely well. Thanks to the interpreters for making the training go smoothly. I wish everyone success and solidarity!

Asel, JIPAR, Kyrgyzstan

Being a lesbian, I never thought that I would be talking about feminism and be part of this space. I was discriminated and beaten and because of this I had to leave home to keep the family name. That is why I became an activist; so that everyone else that comes after me does not have to go through that same system. This training provides me with the tools to break barriers not only for me but for those coming after me.

FLTP Participant, Fiji



Participants from National FLTP
Fiji 2021

Similarly, the FLTP in Nepal trained participants from diverse backgrounds, particularly the module of ‘MyLifeMyRealities’ enabled participants to reflect upon their own realities from a gender lens to utilise their understanding to fight for the rights of marginalised groups of women. As Sushila Chaudhury, a grassroots activist reflected, ‘I will utilise the knowledge that I have gained for the rights of women with disabilities at the local level.’



Participants photo from National FLTP Nepal (BWAN)

In Kyrgyzstan, the FLTP focused on the context of the country in terms of the specificities of patriarchal norms and religious fundamentalisms, as well as the corruption in legal and judicial systems. Highlighting the embeddedness of legal systems in power structures, the FLTP also focused on drawing up a set of changes that participants wanted to contribute to at the individual and organisational levels. This process enabled the participants to engage with government officials with the support of allies at the community level. They also appealed to political parties to address women’s human rights and incorporate them in their political programmes in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in November.



Participants from National FLTP Kyrgyzstan 2021

The design of the FLTP in Bangladesh was based on APWLD’s FLTP Training Resource Manual, which was revised in 2020. This was adapted to the local socio-political, economic, and legal contexts, and the lived realities of women and marginalised communities across Bangladesh, through the use of case studies and illustrations, incorporating local issues of discrimination. After the training, participants talked of how the sessions had shifted their thought processes, and how they would incorporate their training in their own work.

I am writing a book. Although I was about to finish my manuscript and had talked with my publisher about finalising things, my participation training on FLTP gave me additional insights, and guided me in implementing the knowledge more profoundly in writing my book on feminist issues. So, will take some extra time for the manuscript and will put the learnings from here to my manuscript there.

Owakila Tabassum Mumu, BRAC University

There was also a cascading effect with the training, with one of the participants, Md. Samsul Hussain Sadi going back to his university and conducting a session on Feminism and Feminist Theories and sharing his experience with young women students. As a result of this, another lecturer is considering including a more focused module on this topic for students.



Participants from Bangladesh National FLTP 2021

The Indonesia FLTP, as with the other FLTPs was focused on capacity building on critical feminist analysis and the building of supportive networks; however, owing to the interest and enthusiasm of the participants, a positive unexpected outcome of the training was the production of a policy brief in the context of a proposed new law on sexual violence. The policy brief produced by BWCC provides a critical examination of the Elimination of Sexual Violence Bill (currently revised by the BALEG into The Crimes of Sexual Violence) and will be submitted to the Legislative Body of People’s Representative (DPR) to be discussed by them during the meeting of the bill. APWLD will provide advocacy support to BWCC to pursue this in the coming year.



Screenshots from National FLTP Indonesia 2021

Similarly, the FLTP in Thailand also contributed to a strengthening of networks and the expansion of LGBTQI+’s movement at the local and national levels, with participants making plans to utilise the learnings from the training. Khemmapat Trisadikoon, a researcher at the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), will organise a training with other researchers in his organisation on how to use feminism and women’s experience to critically evaluate and shape laws and policies. Slaitip Subhanka, Co-Founder and Program Manager of Green South Foundation (GSF), will apply FLTP to push forward anti-harassment policies in her organisation and network. Matcha Porn-In, our facilitator, has committed to help her draft the anti-harassment policy. In the coming months, our partner, WSC will organise a meeting with participants to follow-up on their application of FLTP learnings in their work. In addition, they will consult with them about the capacity, resources or support they need to improve their work on advocacy, legal and policy engagement.



Women in Power (WiP)



Over the year, we continued to see a strengthening of anti-democratic, hetero-patriarchal authoritarian regimes that are deeply reliant on military force and allied with neoliberal capitalism. There has been an increased weaponisation of the law and the criminalisation of dissent that has seen Women Human Rights Defenders and dissenters face false charges, arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as extrajudicial killings to quash people's movements in the region. Women's participation in decision-making processes, including their representation in structures of government, also continues to be extremely limited. The crisis in democratic rights has worsened even further over the period of the pandemic with the suspension of multiple democratic principles and political rights as countries resorted to exceptional governance that too often involved disproportionate measures, which further controlled freedoms of speech and assembly, and criminalised dissent.

APWLD, through the Women in Power programme has sought to strengthen the democratic participation of grassroots women in decision-making processes by organising and developing and advocating for feminist agendas for change based on their own lived realities, particularly through our Womanifesto component of the programme. This year, the work on our Womanifestoes, with our first Womanifesto cycle, initiated in 2018 with grassroots organisations from eight countries of the region, advanced into the advocacy phase. There have been impactful interventions and gains that our partners have achieved over the course of the Womanifesto cycle including pushing for changes to laws and policies, as well as making visible the issues of marginalised communities and pushing for the realisation of their rights. Additionally, we initiated a new Womanifesto to Combat Authoritarianism and Advance Participatory Democracy with nine partners in eight countries of the region.

At the regional and global levels, through cross-programmatic collaborations, the programme was also able to amplify the work of our partners on Womanifesto, as well as deepen conversations between women parliamentarians and those working at the grassroots on Trade and Development Justice. In collaboration with the GG programme, the programme enabled the participation of our partners at an event at CSW65 in March this year, to highlight Womanifesto as a powerful tool to frame feminist agendas of change, increase women’s political participation and build the political power of grassroots women across constituencies spanning multiple marginalisations. In collaboration with the WITCH programme, we also created a space of dialogue and exchange through a Roundtable with Parliamentarians for grassroots women and women parliamentarians to deepen understandings of the impacts of trade agreements, particularly on women and marginalised communities, as well as to provide insights into how to ensure greater policy space and accountability to reclaim people’s sovereignty over economic and development needs.

Womanifestoes: Strengthening Solidarities, Securing Change

Over the course of our first Womanifesto cycle, there have been several impactful interventions by all our partners working with groups of women that have initiated processes of change amongst communities through the consolidation of groups, the production of grounded research and innovative materials for advocacy based on the lived realities of women. These materials have in turn been used by women’s groups to push for accountability from local and national governments to realise women’s human rights and Development Justice. A key component of our Womanifesto programmes is the deepening of solidarities amongst communities. This was visible in the work of our partners across the countries.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, through the concerted efforts of our partner, Da Hawwa Lur, there was a bridging of differences with transwomen and ciswomen coming together to jointly formulate feminist agendas for change. The group also secured citizenship IDs for transwomen, enabling them to take part in political leadership.

Moreover, despite being severely affected by COVID-19, the group carried out an extensive survey, based on which they produced comprehensive documentation of the impact of COVID-19 on rural women and transwomen including the production of a film that highlighted the economic exploitation that home-based workers and transwomen face in the region.

Through the process of articulating the demands, the ciswomen, who initially did not want to attend meetings with the trans community, came to see how their demands were essentially the same--against patriarchy, injustice and oppression. This not only created a united movement and stronger Womanifesto, transwomen are now ready to contest local level elections with the support of all women from their communities.

Shawana Shah, community organiser, Da Hawwa Lur

The work of the organisation contributed to the passing in March this year of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Home Based Workers (Welfare and Protection) Act 2021. The Act recognises home-based workers as workers and provides legal protection and higher living wages.



In Mongolia, Odonchimeg. B, a local community leader, an active participant in the Womanifesto with partner Dem-Ololt decided to run for the seat in the community local governing body, Citizen’s Representative Committee. She felt empowered by her knowledge and leadership skills obtained through the Womanifesto advocacy work and was confident and committed to make a difference in women’s rights and well-being in her community. Her campaign priorities were based on the Womanifesto developed collectively by the community with our partner organisation Dem-Ololt, including gender equality, poverty of women and girls, equal access to healthcare, education and decent work. Although Dari did not secure the seat, the local election was life-changing for her. She stays active in feminist activism and plans to run for elections again with more experience. She feels capable and confident to bring feminist changes to her community.



Ms. Odonchimeg

In Nepal, our partner, Blind Women’s Association (BWA), through the course of the Womanifesto cycle, ushered in significant changes in their work with and on behalf of Women With Disabilities (WWDs). Three advocacy committees composed of five WWDs each were formed in three (Bara, Rautahat and Mahottari) districts of the country. Through the use of participatory action research tools, BWA created innovative communication materials, such as radio plays, jingles and films to advocate for the rights of WWDs with policy makers and other women’s movements in the country, leading to a number of local media channels and newspapers covering the issues of WWDs. Additionally, WWDs were appointed as advisors to local policy makers, which, along with allies and movement pressure, resulted in the creation of disability friendly architecture, enactment of inclusive education curriculums in government schools and up to 25 per cent reservation for girls with disabilities in private schools.



Stakeholders interaction in
Mohottari, Nepal

In the Philippines, the membership of our partner, Kilusan ng Manggagawang Kababaihan (KMK) (Women Workers' Movement) grew by 300 members and six chapters over the course of the Womanifesto cycle despite the harsh lockdowns and economic crisis, highlighting their resilience and determination. Twenty women workers have also assumed leadership and decision-making roles within KMK and local workers' organisations. While KMK, along with other women's rights and labour rights groups had successfully pushed for the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Law (OSH Law) in August 2017 and the Expanded Maternity Leave Law (EML Law) in February 2019, with the onset of the pandemic, the impacts of these legislations were negated as employers violated provisions for workers' rights using the pandemic induced economic crisis as an excuse. However, KMK persisted and continued collecting information on how the pandemic was affecting women workers' rights. The information and testimonies gathered through these consultations and meetings formed the basis for the Paid Pandemic Leave Bill filed in Congress by Gabriela Women's Party together with the MAKABAYAN block. This was approved in the Committee on Labor and is still pending approval in the Committee on Appropriations.



Gabriela Women's Partylist Representative Emmi De Jesus (L) and Alliance of Concern Teachers Representative France Castro (R) support the Womanifesto's campaign for 100 Days Expanded Maternity Leave.

In India, the work of our partner organisation, Astitva Samajik Sansthan brought together Dalit and Muslim women, in a context of entrenched casteism and communalisation, to create a list of common demands for land rights and to live lives with dignity free from violence. Four to five hundred women from 10 villages were supported through capacity building exercises to make women aware of the importance of political participation and leadership, as well as on their land and inheritance property rights, and equal access to resources, entitlements and most importantly respect in the society. As a result of this engagement, community women have also worked on the issue of children dropping-out of education in their communities and the group has set up libraries in Shahpur, Baghra and Purkazi blocks, for which the collective went door-to-door to collect books. The libraries have enabled women to come together, learn, have meetings and join study circles.

Astitva has also supported 120 women to secure job cards from the government. In the aftermath of the enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in India, which generated mass protests challenging the constitutionality of the CAA across the country, Astitva too joined the protests. They developed pamphlets in local languages on the CAA and carried out a number of programmes to build solidarity among the affected Muslim communities and other rural communities, forging and strengthening solidarities. They also produced a couple of videos documenting the consequences of CAA as well as the leadership of Muslim women in organising a democratic movement against CAA.

Elected parliamentarians have endorsed the Womanifesto. Historically marginalised women who have traditionally kept out of the corridors of power, emerged as leaders in various ways, with some maintaining community libraries, and others successfully winning local elections. Alliances with other grassroots movements were likewise formed, such as with religious groups and broader workers' formations. The Womanifesto has gone beyond being a mere project, it has become a movement that inspired women's leadership at various levels and participation in political processes while continuing to bring together more people in solidarity and in demanding state accountability.

Astitva Samajik Sanstha, Womanifesto first group (2018 –2020), Reflection Meeting, September 2021

Combating Authoritarianism and Advancing Participatory Democracy

In the context of rising authoritarianism in the region, we began a new Womanifesto this year – Combat Authoritarianism and Advance Participatory Democracy – with nine partners across eight countries of the region. They include

Otifa Public Organisation, Tajikistan

Otifa will mobilise women ex-prisoners to develop their women's agenda of change and exercise their civil rights.

Supporting People and Rebuilding Communities (SPaRC), Bangladesh

SPaRC will support Indigenous women leaders of the traditional judicial system to discern the discriminatory aspects of traditional laws impacting on the rights of Indigenous women particularly those related to marriage, family, divorce, custody, joint property and come up with corresponding just proposals.

Korea Network for Organizing Women in politics (K-NOW), Korea

(previous name: Korean Network of Women Politics (KNWP), South Korea Members of K-NOW together with those who want feminist political mobilisation will prepare agendas on feminist-centred political change in the process of learning and discussing from the education programme.

PowerShift, Nepal

Women involved in waste labour will be empowered as leaders and amplifiers of environmental rights and justice in Nepal.

URJA Trust, India

Homeless young women from marginalised cities and communities in Maharashtra will develop their agenda for systemic recognition, enumeration and inclusion to access their civil entitlements.

Mali Nmai Zup Women's Group, Burma/Myanmar

Political participation of women in 15 villages will be enhanced where they are able to assert women's rights in the political and social structure in Kachin State, Burma/Myanmar.

Undi18 (Persatuan Pengundi Muda), Malaysia

UNDI-18 together with 1000 young women will develop five key targets for the Manifesto Wanita Muda representing the national development aspirations of young women that they will advocate to political parties in July 2022.

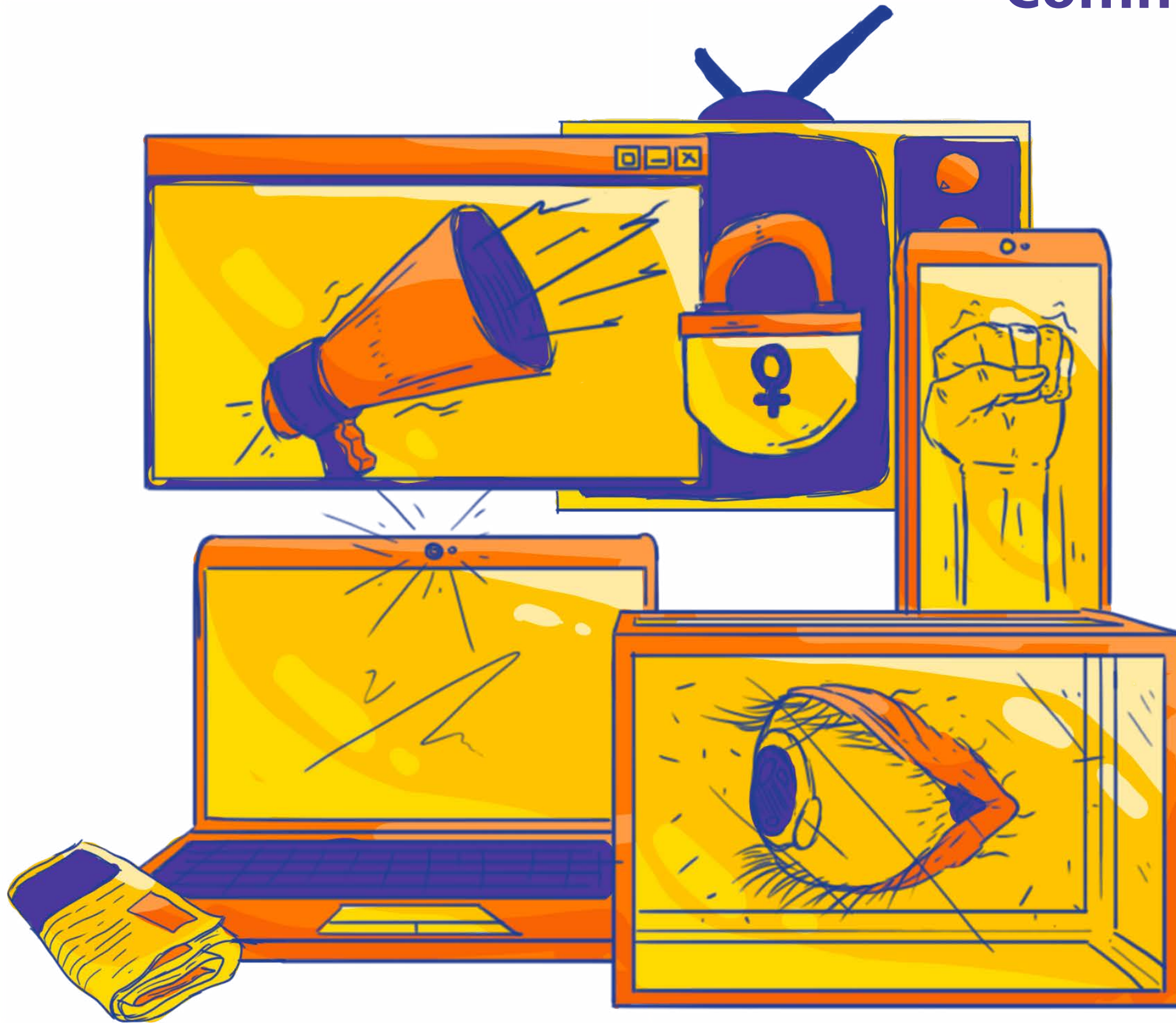
Association for Social and Human Awareness (ASHA), India

Adivasi Witch-Hunt Survivors in Jharkhand will be mobilised to develop their Womanifesto which will address the causal factors as well as critical issues they are facing and seek protective measures against them from Jharkhand Government

Perkumpulan Nurani Perempuan (PNP), Indonesia

Indigenous women in Long Isun and Datar Naha will be mobilised in building and advocating their Women's Agenda on natural resource management in Indonesia.

Information and Communications



2021 continued to pose challenges for the organising and advocacy work of women's rights organisations across the region, as access to offline spaces continued to be restricted by emergency decrees, lockdowns and restrictions such as physical distancing measures. This year, we also saw increased internet shutdowns to curtail freedom of speech and assembly, active invasions of privacy by state and corporate actors through increased use of surveillance technology and the rise of surveillance capitalism, as well as the passage and use of new laws and old to target digital security and privacy of citizens in the name of national security. There were several instances of abuse, harassment, censorship, and curbing of freedom of speech and association in online spaces against WHRDs including activists and journalists across the region, and especially in countries with authoritarian regimes.

Even so, in partnership with our members, partners and allies across the region, the Information and Communications (InfoComms) have continued to support women's movements in the region to use online mechanisms to organise in digital space and rapidly adapt to the new rules of technology. Some of the highlights of the work that we have done over the year include the support that we have offered to our members, partners and allies to amplify their voices through international and regional campaigns, communications support at regional and international advocacy spaces, as well as through capacity building, particularly on digital security, digital advocacy and media advocacy. We have also supported media fellows on the programme to amplify the impacts of COVID-19 on the lives of women across the region.

Supporting Members, Partners and Allies by Amplifying Campaigns

As a cross-cutting programme, over the year, the InfoComms had strategic collaborations with other programmes to advance APWLD’s goals and amplify women’s voices across the region. Some of the highlights of our work over the year include the support that we offered to several regional and international campaigns by our members and allies, including the Women’s Global Strike led by ESCR Net, for which we supported the global planning and communication support, and the Feminists for Peoples Vaccine (FPV) Campaign by Third World Network and Dawn Feminist advocating for TRIPS Waiver and Vaccine Equity, for which we were part of the global communication working group.



We also supported APWLD’s year-long campaign on workers’ right to freedom from gender-based violence in workplaces and a consolidated call for Ratification of C190 in Asia and the Pacific. Along with the Justice for Jeyasre campaign led by Asia Floor Wage Alliance and other allies, we also held two online rallies which were organised and co-led with Labour and Migration programmes on 7

May which was supported by our allies from GAATW, IDWF and IndustriAll Global Union, and on 25 November 2021, which was supported by Asia Floor Wage Alliance (AFWA).



The InfoComms team also supported the regional and global calls against the Burma/Myanmar coup in February 2021 and supported our member, Women’s League of Burma through strategic communication advocacy in the form of press conferences, press releases and a statement, for which we partnered with Global Justice Centre to amplify our voices were heard at a global stage.

Amplifying APWLD’s Regional and International Advocacy

For APWLD’s regional and international advocacy work, particularly for international and regional mechanisms and processes, we supported members, partners and allies to shape public discourse and build feminist solidarity by amplifying their voices. As part of the global communication working group of the Women’s Major Group, we co-led the communication advocacy for the High Level Political Forum 2021 for which we supported development of the communication toolkit used by WMG members and partners.

As part of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) Communications Working Group, we also supported the communication advocacy for the WGC at COP26. Our strategic communication advocacy during COP26 focused on putting out our feminist analysis and key demands on #FeministClimateJustice, Gender Just Solutions, and Just Transition as well as amplifying our members’ and partners’ voices. Throughout COP26, our digital media platforms

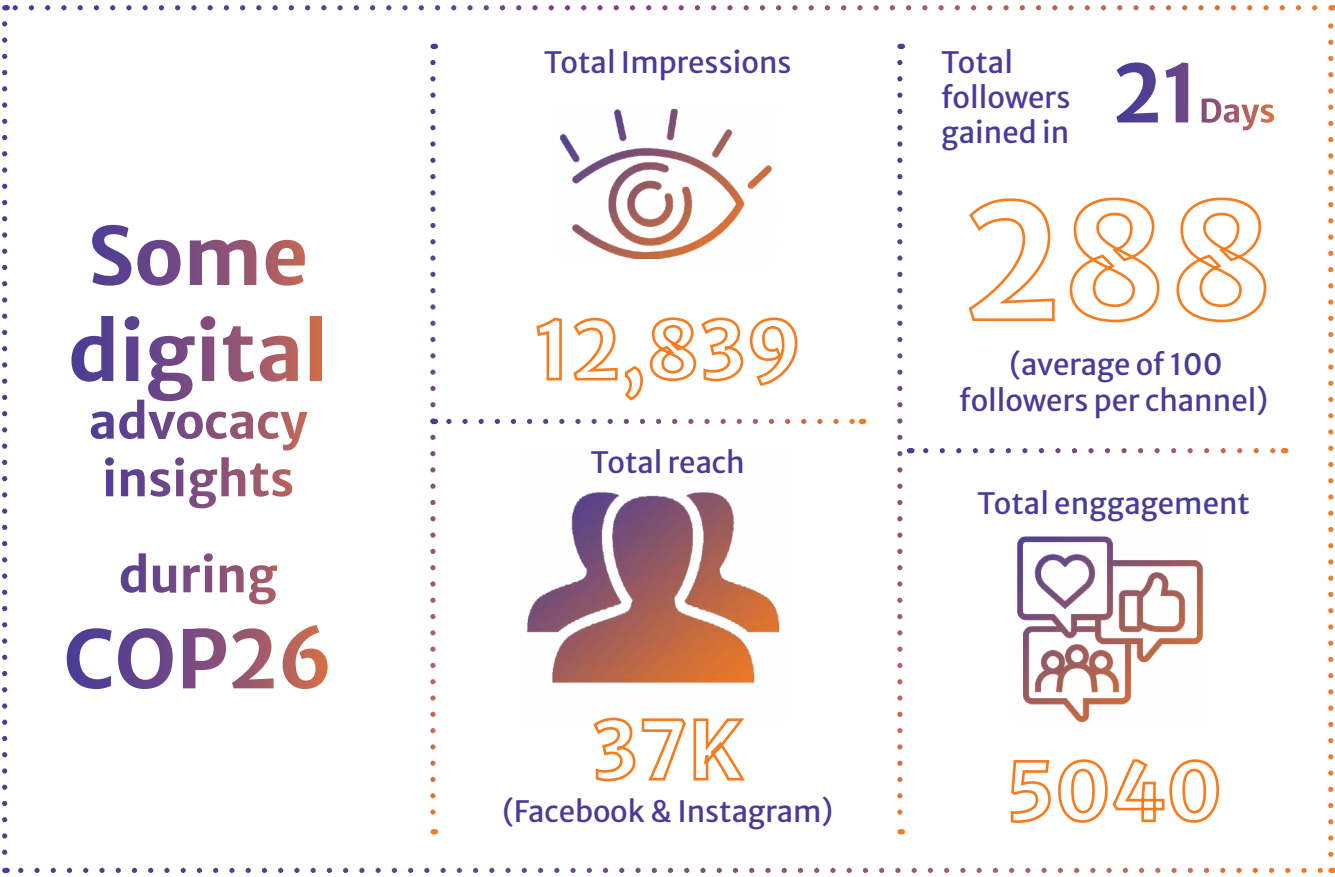


saw continuous engagement with not only APWLD members and partners, but also regional and global allies like APRCEM, International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific), Asian Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), JASS Southeast Asia, Climate Action Network International, Global Forest Coalition, ESCR-Net, Women’s Major Group, Women and Gender Constituency, Friends of the Earth, Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) as well as Urgent Action Fund, Global Fund for Women and Foundation for a Just Society (FJS).

We contributed to the WGC communications strategies that included press releases, media reports and digital campaigns. We used an online campaign and developed graphics to make our key demands more engaging and we ran a 14 day #MissingVoicesCOP26 campaign highlighting the voices of thousands of Indigenous women, WHRDs, climate warriors, environmental defenders, and activists that could not be present physically at COP26 due to exclusionary and discriminatory policies of COP26 Presidency. The InfoComms team also led the production and circulation of two press releases for the COP26. These press releases highlighted the missing voices of feminist and grassroots women in the COP26 and were covered and quoted in ten media outlets (one radio, nine online/print). One of these media coverages was a 30-minute radio interview of BFM Malaysia with our AOC member Ana Celestial of Kalikasan in the Philippines. The interview provided a platform for APWLD and our partners to discuss the issues on climate justice more comprehensively.



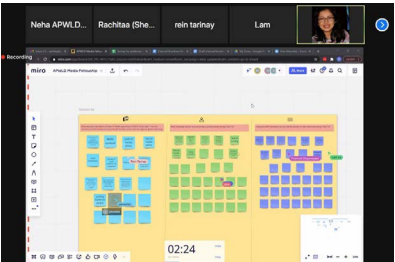
We also tested a new digital platform called Twitter Spaces to challenge the myth of net zero and challenge the dominant narrative of false climate solutions perpetuated during COP26.



Changing Media Narratives: Media Fellowships on Gendered Impacts of COVID-19

The InfoComms team also led media fellowship initiative to continue to change narrative within mainstream media bringing in feminist and Development Justice lens to women’s issues. To highlight the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women APWLD launched a new media fellowship on ‘Gendered Impact of COVID-19 and continued building relationships with women journalists in the region.’

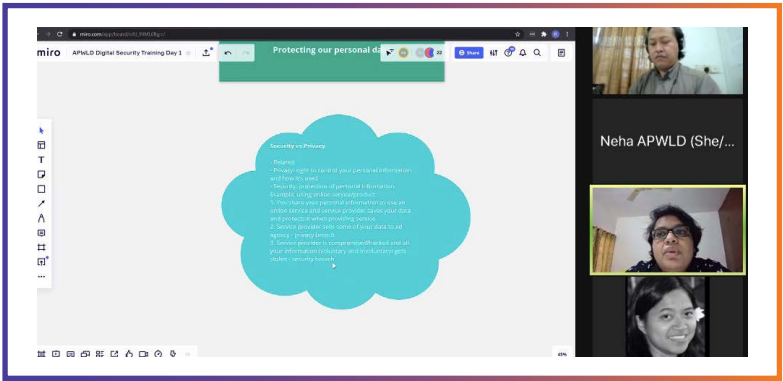
Three sets of media fellows were selected to be part of this fellowship programme. Two fellows who are from Sri Lanka and Vietnam, pursued their fellowship individually, while three other fellows, all from the Philippines, were under team fellowship. The fellows dug deeper into how unjust COVID-19 related policies and restrictions and militarised COVID-19 response have exacerbated the already dire economic situation of women and have reinforced discriminatory practices and patriarchal norms in their respective countries.



For instance, the fellow from Sri Lanka has courageously unpacked the deep structural inequalities faced by transgender persons in her country, especially during lockdowns. The fellows from the Philippines looked into how women leaders and activists, despite the unabated attacks against them, have remained steadfast in their commitment to serve the marginalised in the time of pandemic. They also shone light on the plight of women farmers who continue to struggle for their right to food during the pandemic. The team also tackled how many Filipinos, especially those in the marginalised communities, do not have access to vaccines, free tests and treatment despite the continuing and worsening pandemic. Meanwhile, The fellow from Vietnam covered the dangers that Vietnamese migrant workers face and how they were continued to be sent/ deployed and exploited despite apparent restrictions.

During the reflection meeting, the fellows shared that the stories they have written and published helped them and their media outlets understand better the situation of women during the pandemic, especially that these stories were mostly left unreported as the world focuses on reports on vaccines, tests, restrictive policies, among others. The Sri Lankan fellow shared that her story made her more aware on the situation of transgender persons in Sri Lanka, while the Vietnamese fellow shared that after she published the stories, the victim-survivors of exploitation found strength to speak about the abuse they experienced and the courage to consider on reporting their agents and recruiters in the future. The authorities, the fellows shared, also took notice of the situation reported and responded to the needs of the victims. In the Philippines, the fellows shared that the stories they wrote and published only strengthened solidarity among women leaders and activists and media workers/journalists, as they are both under attack in the current administration.

Enhancing Capacities on Digital Security, Digital Advocacy and Media Advocacy



The spread of the global pandemic last year, women’s rights organisations across the region have had to organise online and adapt to digital advocacy strategies, even as they have acknowledged the digital divide and digitally insecure environments. In response to a felt need amongst our members, partners and allies for support to adapt to this changing climate while also being mindful of the urgent need for digital security, both in terms of safeguards from potential online hazards as well as the increasing threats on WHRDs by authoritarian regimes/state actors, we expanded the scope of our InfoComms training, which was previously focused on media and digital advocacy.

Over the course of the year, we launched a three-part capacity building workshop which enhanced the capacities of 45 members and partner organisations on digital security and on digital and media advocacy. Since then, participants have conducted their own capacity building exercises for their organisations and members, and they also expressed the importance of similar capacity building exercises in the future.

The training was very good and knowledgeable. We shared the training with our organisation and it greatly helped them especially the encryption. We are planning to conduct a digital security training on our own using the documents you shared with us.

Participant from Digital Security Training

As Home Net Pakistan majorly supports home base workers who are in the fight with the government to get their rights, and also there is a lot of discrimination and violence happening on the ground with workers that need to be addressed by raising their voices sharing their cases on social media or any other relevant platform. This training will help to achieve these targets more.

Participant from digital advocacy training on building capacity of their community

This is very timely and helpful. We can use this in planning, and in reorganising our system. I realised that there is a need for organisations to relay effort and even personnel in the communications team because communications work is important.

Participant from Media Advocacy Training

Apart from Communications Capacity Building Training, which included trainings on digital security, and digital and media advocacy, the Infocomms team also conducted nine trainings covering digital security, digital storytelling, digital and media advocacy, and journalistic tools and resources for research as part of FPAR+ training with various programmes.

We also revised the digital storytelling module of FPAR to include more technical skills and digital tools and resources for our partners. Following the introduction of skills for developing podcasts, the Migration FPAR partner DANKO, Kazakhstan developed a podcast with their community highlighting the issues of migrant women within their community which was broadcast on the local radio station. Following the broadcast, the local government reached out to the FPAR community to work with them to achieve change for the women in the community.

The InfoComms team also conducted a capacity building workshop for SIDA Bangkok staff on Digital Justice, Digital Platforms, and Digital Divide and grassroots organisations' struggles with access to internet and digital challenges.

Many aspects of digital security that I had not thought about before. Both interesting and scary to hear about how all the information collected from various sources is being misused (by governments "hunting down" people)

Participant at SIDA workshop

Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability

The year 2021 has been a year for APWLD to transform, consolidate and strengthen our institutional sustainability. It has been a year of transitions and it has also been a year that showcases our resilience and tenacity.

Governance

Our Secretariat is continuing with our transition process for a 'hybrid' model, as approved by APWLD's Regional Council in November 2020. Only the staff members with legal and statutory obligations work from the Secretariat based in Chiang Mai, Thailand while most of other staff members work from their respective home countries. Regular reflection and assessment is being conducted to answer the needs of Secretariat staff in this new hybrid model arrangement.

We officially closed our Penang Satellite Office on the 31st of October 2021. The Penang-based staff and the Malaysia Board of Directors were enjoined to ensure the smooth closure of the Penang Satellite Office. APWLD Registration in Malaysia is maintained as a security buffer for APWLD given the challenging political situation in the region.

The GA elected new Regional Council (ReC) members, comprised of strong feminist activists from diverse backgrounds, act as APWLD board for the next three years. For the first time in our herstory, our ReC members includes a representative from women with disabilities and home-based workers' constituencies as well as from China and Papua New Guinea.

In 2021, we also expanded our dynamic membership. Our membership grew from 251 to 265 members as we welcomed 14 new members from eight countries. It is worth noting that new members join from under-represented countries like Samoa, and most of them are grassroots women organisations that participated in our FPAR and Womenifestos programmes. Leading up to the APWLD General Assembly (GA) in May 2021, we organised four sub-regional convenings (Central Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia) and circulated surveys



in the Pacific aiming to gather our members' insights and direction on APWLD's next five years plan (2022–2026). One hundred and twenty-three members and allies from the sub-regions (20 from Central Asia, 39 from Southeast Asia, 34 from East Asia and 30 from South Asia) participated in the sub-regional convenings. For the Pacific, and additionally for the sub-regions of Southeast Asia and East Asia, surveys were conducted which were completed by 58 members and allies from the sub-regions. Our strategic plan for 2022–2026 will be finalised and formally adopted by the Regional Council in May 2022.

Active Programme Organising Committees to lead our nine programmes are also newly elected ensuring the continuity of the programmes.

Financial Narrative

In 2021, APWLD received grants totaling USD 1,953, 812.96. Our expenditure for the year was , USD 1,732,059.46 which was higher than the previous year, but still significantly lower than the pre-pandemic era. COVID-19, particularly, the third wave with Delta variant has significantly affected APWLD work – be it in the regional and global level; as well as the work of national subgrant partners in the local level.

In 2021, 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 receive 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 new support from FJS especially for our Information and Communications work (2021–2024). We also receive new, multi-year increased core programme support from Wellspring for our regional and global advocacy work for the period of 2020–2021.

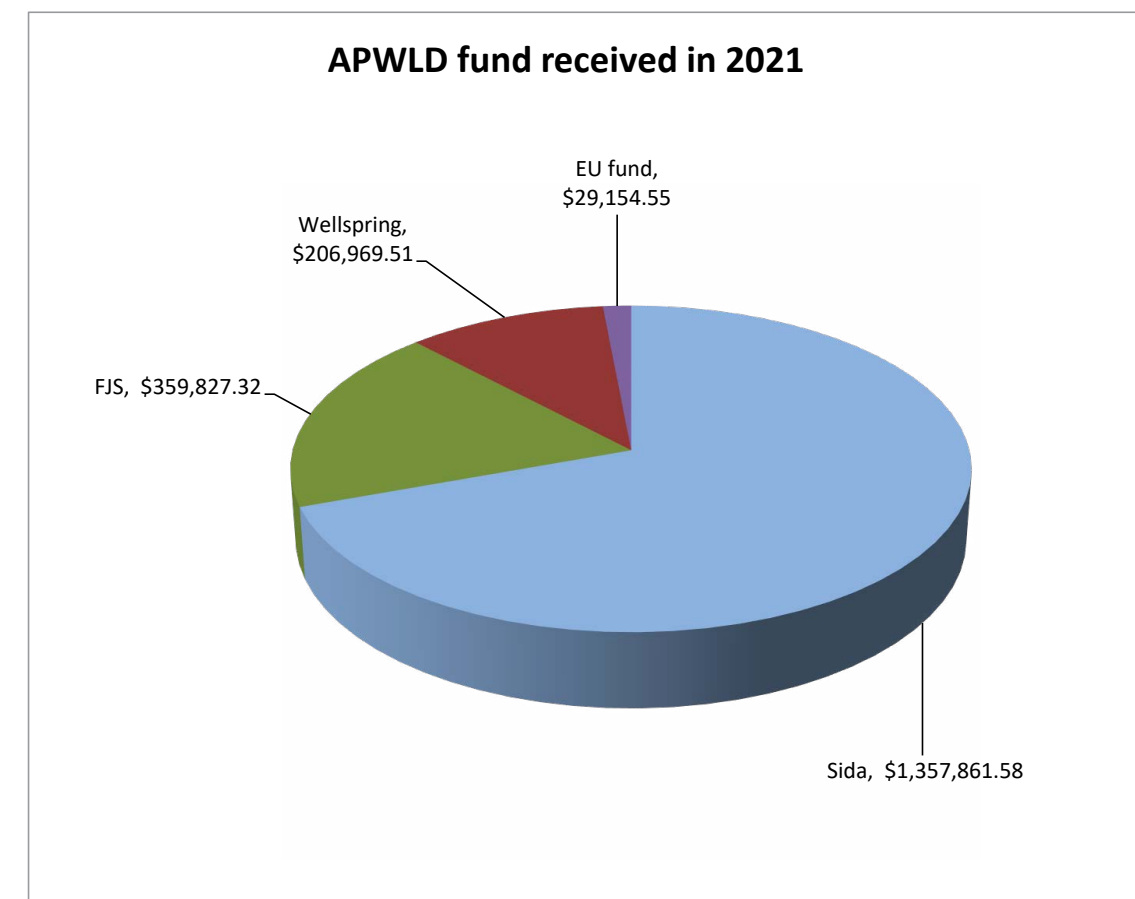
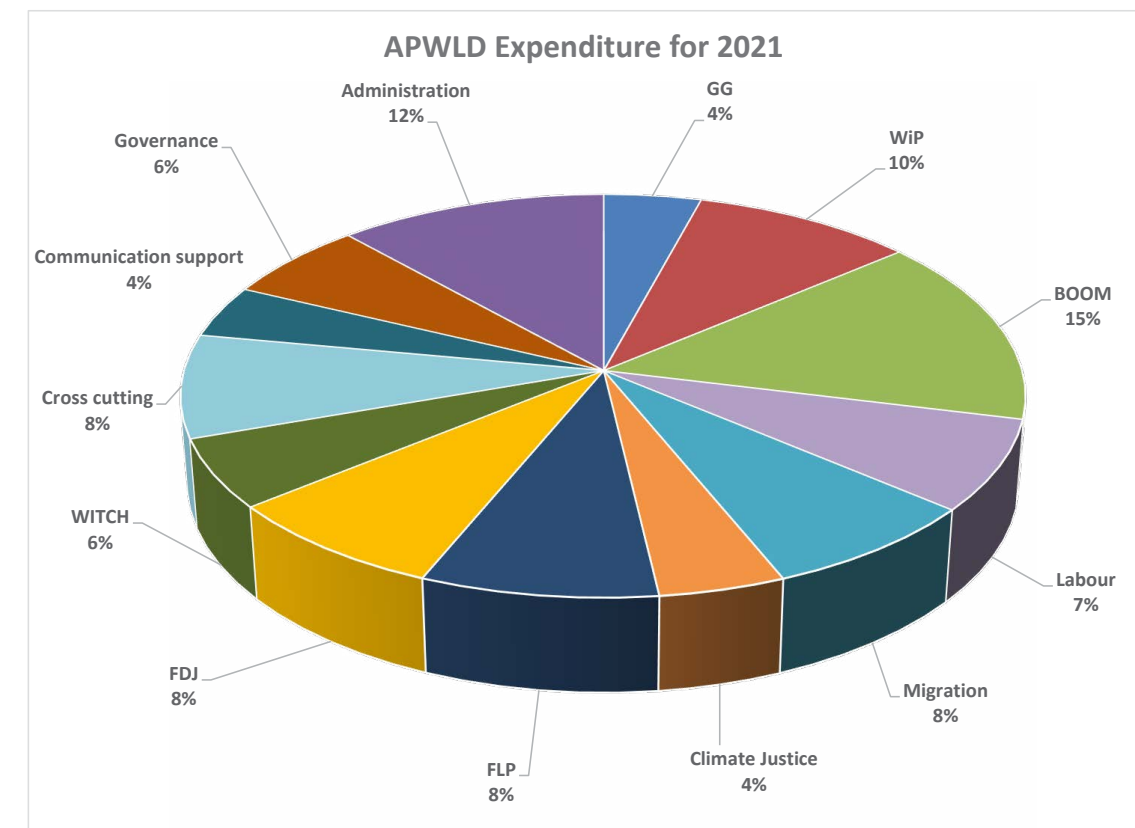
The flexibility, trust and solidarity support from our funders were so important as we thrive through the multiple challenges COVID-19 brought to us, especially as we work with our grassroots members, sub-grant partners and their communities are prepared in accordance with Thai and International Financial Reporting Standards for non-publicly accountable entities, as well as the terms and conditions of our donor contracts. We also secured understanding and support from funders in the COVID-19 context via extensions: a) costed extension by SIDA for one year, b) NORAD for one year in total; and c) Wellspring for an additional six months, shifting the nature of funding from a programme to general operating support.

Programme costs for the year constituted almost 78 per cent of total costs. Institutional development costs, which includes network support, non-programme resources, publications and materials, member governance meetings and staff development constituted 10 per cent and administration 12 per cent.

In 2021, we increased our sub-grants in a number of programmes which resulted in increased programme budgets to directly support 102 women's rights organisations and their communities from 25 countries. 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 2021

Title	Budget Used (USD)
GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) - International Mechanism	55,745.65
- Capacity Building	2,731.02
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	23,601.02
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	3,657.93
- Secretariat costs	1,945.07
- Programme Implementation costs	23,810.61
GROUNDING THE GLOBAL (GG) - Regional Mechanism	16,968.06
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	3,657.93
- Secretariat costs	1,538.11
- Programme Implementation costs	11,772.02
WOMEN IN POWER (WiP)	166,821.39
- Capacity and Knowledge Development	116,384.40
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	4,200.00
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	315.87
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	9,614.39
- Secretariat costs	1,538.11
- Programme Implementation costs	34,768.62
BREAKING OUT OF THE MAGINALISATION	260,317.11
- Capacity and Development	29,798.93
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	88,379.82
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	29,348.74
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	32,662.04
- Secretariat costs	2,027.78
- Programme Implementation costs	78,099.80
LABOUR -WOMEN ORGANISING WORKERS (WOW)	127,092.60
- Capacity and Development	22,353.95
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	41,476.59
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	2,147.09
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	8,453.25
- Secretariat costs	1,820.58
- Programme Implementation costs	50,841.13
MIGRATION	132,992.49
- Capacity and Development	4,643.15
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	24,793.71
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	42,065.83
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	11,334.96
- Secretariat costs	1,965.86
- Programme Implementation costs	48,188.98
CLIMATE JUSTICE	74,834.94
- Capacity and Development	7,200.67
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	11,832.92
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	16,244.68
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	3,657.93
- Secretariat costs	1,538.11
- Programme Implementation costs	34,360.63
FEMINIST LAW & PRACTICE (FLP)	140,043.12
- Capacity and Development	66,436.56
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	2,126.32
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	13,439.18
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	11,929.49
- Secretariat costs	2,262.56
- Programme Implementation costs	43,849.00
FEMINIST DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE	136,231.54
- Capacity and Development	18,108.78
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	-
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	51,662.81
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	3,657.93
- Secretariat costs	2,876.66
- Programme Implementation costs	59,925.37

Title	Budget Used (USD)
MACROECONOMICS AND TRADE - WOMEN'S ECONOMIC POWER	96,277.45
- Capacity and Development	13,164.33
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	7,950.48
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	19,719.87
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	3,657.93
- Secretariat costs	2,007.29
- Programme Implementation costs	49,777.55
CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES	143,470.57
- Capacity and Development	42,282.22
- Knowledge, Resource and Tools	25,601.41
- Advocacy, Mobilisation and Policy Intervention	36,585.92
- COVID-19 Response (documentation & advocacy)	12,419.63
- Consortium partners meeting	14,331.15
- Programme Implementation costs	12,250.24
Sub-total A	1,350,794.91
Institutional Development	
- Resource Development and Publications	72,576.93
- Network consolidation	22,270.37
- Governance/Management Meetings	7,263.89
- Staff Development	16,942.86
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	62,464.88
Sub-total B	181,518.93
Administration	201,332.40
Total Expenditure 2021	1,733,646.24

ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT
Chiang Mai, Thailand
Fund receipts in 2021

Balance forward from 2020	\$ 2,749,502.17
Fund received in 2021	
Sida	\$ 1,357,861.58
FJS	\$ 359,827.32
Wellspring	\$ 206,969.51
EU fund	\$ 29,154.55
Total funds in 2021	\$ 1,953,812.96
Total funds available	\$ 4,703,315.13
Others Income	
- Bank interest	\$ 4,329.15
- Miscellaneous income	\$ 37,507.91
Total receipt	\$ 4,745,152.18

(a) Average rate of exchange : USD1 = Baht 32.14

Our Donors in 2021



Sida



Norad



FOUNDATION
FOR A **JUST**
SOCIETY

Wellspring
Philanthropic Fund 

Calendar of Events

January

1st Quarter

8	WITCH: RCEP Group Meeting for Strategy Development
19-20	InfoComms: Media Fellowship Training
25-27	Labour: First Regional FPAR Training on Women Labour Rights in Special Economic Zones

February

1-5	Secretariat: Annual Planning Meeting
8-22	FDJ & FLP: Second Regional Partners Meeting
9	BOOM: Side event at Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
9-12	BOOM: CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Empowerment and Women's Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition
15-16, 22-26	Migration: Third Regional FPAR Training on Women Migrants Fighting for a Just Society
17-18	Secretariat: P&M Meeting
22	InfoComms: Media Fellowship Meeting on COVID-19
25	WITCH: RCEP Group Meeting for Strategy Development
Feb-March	FDJ, BOOM, Migration: High Level Political Forum Review Negotiations

March

Feb to March	FDJ, BOOM, Migration: High Level Political Forum Review Negotiations
1-5	BOOM: Land FPAR Reflection Meeting
8	Secretariat: Women's Global Strike 2021
11	WIP & WITCH: Parliamentarians Roundtable
15-17	InfoComms: Digital Security Training for Members
17-21	FDJ, MUAH, Labour, BOOM: Peoples Forum 2021
17	Labour: CSW65 Parallel Event with Women Labour Campaign Alliance on IMF and World Bank Austerity Measures are Impediments to the Realisation of BPfA
21	WIP & GG: CSW65 Parallel Event on Womanifesto
Week 2-3	BOOM & GG: Third Regional Training for Central Asian FPAR Partners
22-26	Labour & GG: 2017-2019 Labour FPAR Reflection Meeting
23-26	FDJ, BOOM, Migration, CJ, Labour: Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development & Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development
29-31	Secretariat: Central Asia Subregional Convening
31 - 9 April	WITCH: Third Regional Training of WITCH FPAR

April

2nd Quarter

31 March-9	WITCH: Third Regional Training of WITCH FPAR
5,7,9	Secretariat: Southeast Asia Subregional Convening
9-11	CJ: Global Just Recovery Gathering
12-15	ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development
13-14	CJ: Pacific Workshop - Indigenous Peoples and Climate Crisis
15-30	Secretariat: Strategic Planning Survey in the Pacific
19-30	BOOM: UNPFII 20 (UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) "Peace, justice and strong institutions" (SDG 16)
21	Labour: Global Vigil on Justice for Jeyasree with TTCU, AFWA and Global Labour Justice
23	WITCH, FDJ, GG: Feminist E-learning Series Preparation
26-May 7	BOOM: First Regional Training of Peace FPAR

May

April 26-7	BOOM: First Regional Training of Peace FPAR
4-5	Secretariat: P&M Meeting
5	Migration: Online Launch: Feminist COVID-19 Storybook on Migration
7	Labour, WITCH, WIP, BOOM and Migration: May Day Online Protest: Workers Run the World
7,13	WITCH, FDJ, GG: Feminist E-learning Series Preparation
10-12	Secretariat: East Asia Subregional Convening
17-20	Secretariat: South Asia Subregional Convening
17-28	CJ: Third Regional FPAR Training on Climate Justice
17-20	FDJ: APRCEM Strategic Meeting

June

1	FDJ: APRCEM Strategic Meeting
3-24	FDJ: SDGs Monitoring & Review Third Regional Training
8	FLP: Roundtable Discussion on ASEAN's Response to Burma/Myanmar
10	WITCH, FDJ, GG: Feminist E-learning Series Preparation
14,17	Secretariat: P&M Meeting
15	Secretariat: ReC Meeting
21-23	Secretariat: General Assembly
28-30	Labour: Second Regional FPAR Training on Women Labour Rights in Special Economic Zones

July

3rd Quarter

12–16	Labour: Second Regional FPAR Training on Women Labour Rights in Special Economic Zones
6–15	FDJ, Labour, WITCH, BOOM, Migration: High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
6	FLP: National FLTP TOT
22	WITCH: ISDS webinar
6, 16, 21, 23, 29	WITCH, FDJ, GG: Feminist E-learning Series Workshops
26	Secretariat: FPAR+ Debrief

August

2–6	Secretariat: Mid-year Review & Planning
10, 17, 20, 24, 25, 27, 31	WITCH, FDJ, GG: Feminist E-learning Series Workshops
16	WiP: Womanifesto MEL
16	Secretariat: FPAR+ Debrief
20	Migration: Consultation of Migration FPAR Partners with the UN Special Rapporteurs
24–28	FLP: National FLTP ToT
24–Sept 4	BOOM: Second Regional Training of Peace FPAR

September

24 Aug–4	BOOM: Second Regional Training of Peace FPAR
7–9	WiP: Womanifesto Reflection Meeting
16–17	Secretariat: P&M Meeting
22–24	InfoComms: Media Advocacy Training for Members
22–14	WITCH, GG, FGD: CSO Forum at UNCTAD XV
23	Migration: Regional Dialogue on Intersectionality and Migration
26–28	WITCH, GG, FDJ: Gender and Development Forum at UNCTAD XV
28–30	FDJ: Southeast Asia Subregional Forum

October

4th Quarter

3–8	WITCH, GG, FDJ: UNCTAD XV conference
11–13	COVID–19: FRRR Reflection Meeting
18–22	WiP: Womanifesto First Regional Training
20–22	InfoComms: Digital Advocacy Training
22,25	GG, Migration: Online consultations with the UN mandate holders

November

10	Migration: Consultation with UN Mandate Holders on the Human Rights Issues of Migrant Women
12	WITCH: Parliamentarians Roundtable
17–18	Secretariat: P&M Meeting
17–19	CJ: Asia Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum
22–23	GG: Cross–regional Reflection Meeting on CSW65
22	Labour, Migration: C–190 Online Protest
25	BOOM: 16 Days of Activism by CA FPAR partners
25–27	FDJ: Reflection Meeting of FDJ Advocacy Sub–grant Partners
29	WiP: Online Launch of Womanifesto Video
	Labour: Launch of Podcast Serie 1 on Ending GBV at the Workplaces Now and #RatifyC190

December

7,10	APWLD: MEL Workshop
9–10	Migration: Consultation UN Secretary–General’s Report on GCM Implementation and International Migration Review Forum
12–24	BOOM: CA FPAR Reflection Meeting
15–17	FLP: FLTP Conference on Feminist Legal Strategies
17	Migration: International Migrant Day – Migration FPAR podcast launch
20	GG: Meeting between UN Women Asia Pacific Regional Office and Regional CSOs on CSW66

Regional Council Members 2021–2024

Cristina Palabay	–	Philippines
Cielito “Cham” Perez	–	Philippines
Kartika Sari	–	Indonesia
Titi Soentoro	–	Indonesia
Nisha Sabanayagam	–	Malaysia
Wanun Permpibul	–	Thailand
Naw Hser Hser	–	Burma/Myanmar
Abia Akram	–	Pakistan
Ume Laila Azhar	–	Pakistan
Fatima Burnad	–	India
Madhu Mehra	–	India
Yasso Kanti Bhattachan	–	Nepal
Nurmatova Sanoat	–	Tajikistan
Mamadalieva		
Mukhabbatkhon	–	Tajikistan
Olga Djanaeva	–	Kyrgyzstan
Yevgeniya Kozyreva	–	Kazakhstan
Eni Lestari	–	Hong Kong
Heisoo Shin	–	South Korea
Feng Yuan	–	China
Stephanie Dunn	–	Fiji
Lilly BeSoer	–	Papua New Guinea
Maliwan Senawong	–	Thailand
Misun Woo (Ex-officio)	–	South Korea

Programme and Management Committee

Titi Soentoro	–	Indonesia
Olga Djanaeva	–	Kyrgyzstan
Abia Akram	–	Pakistan
Heisoo Shin	–	South Korea
Maliwan Senawong	–	Thailand
Ivy Josiah	–	(Ex-officio)
Misun Woo	–	(Ex-officio)

Our Secretariat

Misun Woo	–	Regional Coordinator
Wardarina	–	Deputy Regional Coordinator
Aizhamal Bakashova	–	Sub-Grant Coordinator
Marion G. Cabrera	–	Executive and Human Resources Officer, outgoing
Rifdah Lathifah	–	Executive Associate, incoming
Maham Tanveer	–	Human Resource Officer, incoming
Marjo Busto	–	Programme Officer (Breaking Out of Marginalisation)
Nazira Torobaeva	–	Central Asia Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) Coordinator
Hien Nguyen	–	Programme Officer (Women Interrogating Trade & Corporate Hegemony)
Ya Gan (Yasmin)	–	Programme Associate (Women Interrogating Trade & Corporate Hegemony) /Coordinator (COVID-19 Response Team), outgoing
Madhura Chakraborty	–	Programme Officer, outgoing (Women in Power)
Andi Cipta Asmawaty	–	Programme Officer (Women Organising Workers)
Ka Mei Lau	–	Programme Officer (Migrants United and Act for Human Rights)
Risca Dwi Ambarsari	–	Programme Associate (WoW and MUAH)
Patricia Wattimena	–	Programme Officer (Climate Justice)
Sadia Afrin Khan	–	Programme Officer (Feminist Legal and Practice)
Anjalee Karunaratne	–	Programme Officer, outgoing (Grounding the Global)
Samreen Shahbaz	–	Programme Officer, incoming (Grounding the Global)
Wannapong Nhuun	–	Programme Associate, outgoing (Feminist Law and Practice, Grounding the Global)
Yodmuang		
April Porteria	–	Programme Officer (Feminist Development Justice)
Ranjana Giri	–	Programme Associate (Feminist Development Justice)
Neha Gupta	–	Information and Communications Officer, outgoing
Anne Ednallyn Dela Cruz	–	Information and Communications Officer, incoming
Rachitaa Gupta	–	Information and Communications Officer
Ting Guo	–	Research and Publications Officer
Kornvika Paoprathum	–	Finance Officer
Chatchanok Anjanbhati	–	Finance Associate
Raktai Damrongmanee	–	Finance Associate
Phantiwa Da Cruz Fernandes	–	Liaison and Admin Officer
Khrueawongkaew	–	Liaison Associate
Ye Wang	–	Intern (Research and Publications)
Nadia Dian Syaputri	–	Intern (Research and Publications)



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