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# ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17

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A large, stylized graphic element consisting of overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of yellow, green, and blue, resembling a flame or a leaf, positioned behind the SAWF logo.

**SAWF**  
SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND

The graphic features a central title 'Table of Contents' in a green, hand-drawn font. It is surrounded by ten stylized leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and teal, arranged in a circular pattern. The background is a vibrant, abstract painting with swirling patterns in red, orange, yellow, and green. On the right side, there is a large yellow shape that frames the table of contents.

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Design and layout: Anirban Ghosh

Cover artwork: Vasuki Jeyasankar

We would like to thank our partners for providing us with the photographs displayed in our Annual Report.

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# Chair's Message

I look back at the year 2016-17 as a year of exciting opportunities, as well as significant challenges. Not only did we make the highest number of grants (including highest amount of funding given) since our inception, but we also added a new programmatic theme of Environmental Justice, reflecting that our strategy is dynamic and evolving, adapting to the needs of the communities on the ground.

Year 2016-17 will also go down as a watershed year in SAWF's history. We were presented with a critical opportunity to expand our work from five countries to 18 countries in Asia – an opportunity that propelled us further in realising our mandate of raising resources for women's rights work for a wider region. We transformed from being a sub-regional entity to a regional entity – a testament to the work we have undertaken in our earlier years.

Our long-term goal is to effectively influence philanthropy towards women's rights work in the Asia region. Over the next few years it will be critical to strengthen our work in the new countries, bring in new and additional resources to the region, and implement interventions that will ensure sustainable gains for women's rights.

As the only regional women's fund in Asia supporting long-term programmatic strategies, SAWF plays a catalytic role in moving social justice philanthropy towards women's human rights. This is especially true of harnessing indigenous philanthropy for positive transformations in women's lives, and providing an alternative to the traditional charity/welfare-driven model, which understands philanthropic giving in a very narrow altruistic framework. Hence, our indigenous resource mobilisation strategy is rooted within this transformative framework, and has emerged from a long process of engaging with local philanthropy through fundraising events and other donor outreach activities in South Asia.

The vision of our Resource Mobilisation strategy is to encourage local philanthropic giving through the formation of local institutions in as many countries of our operation as possible. We initiated this process when we launched South Asia Women's Foundation – India (SAWF-IN), a national-level sister fund, to raise local resources in India, given the favourable environment around CSR and other philanthropic giving. In the coming years, we are committed to strengthening SAWF-IN's work and presence in India and I am personally committed to this process as a donor. Gradually, over the next few years, we hope to emulate this model in other countries.

As we prepare for a challenging yet exciting journey ahead, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all our donor-partners - Mama Cash, Ford Foundation, Foundation for a Just Society, Oak Foundation, American Jewish World Services, The Flora Family Foundation, Filia die Frauenstiftung and The Government of Netherlands – who have displayed continued belief in our work and are committed to our vision.

I would also like to thank Prospera - the International Network of Women's Funds, for their work, vision and leadership in highlighting the critical work undertaken by women's funds all over the world.

We are extremely lucky to have a committed advisory. Thank you Jael Siliman, Sara Hossain, Kishali Pinto Jayawardena and Hana Shams Ahmed for your valuable support! And, a special thank you to Shanthi Dairiam, Honey Tan and Mary Jane Real for guiding us as we expanded our work and presence to Southeast Asia.

I end with a final thank you to the people behind SAWF – my wonderful co-board members Aisha, Gagan, Sepali, Shaheen, Sristi and Suneeta, and the fabulous team, who under the inspiring leadership of Tulika, are pushing themselves well and beyond what was expected of them.

And most importantly, our partners – thank you for the work you do, thank you for standing up for all of us. We stand only with your support and belief in us.

I look forward to realising our mandate of raising more resources for women's rights movements in Asia in the coming year!

**Priya Paul**  
Chairperson





## From the ED's Desk

As a year, 2016-17 feels like the turn of the tide in more ways than one. While we have all been witness to the disruption of the earth's ecology and the upheaval of world politics for the past many years, this last year perhaps brought all of that together. The journey of women and trans\* human rights faced significant backlash; however, like in the past, the social justice actors continued to stand strong, challenging the backlash head-on, and pushed ahead with their work.

And so have we. After over a decade as the only regional fund operational in the Asia region, with a focus on five countries in South Asia, we responded to our call to duty by expanding our outreach to Southeast Asia and Mongolia – making a leap from 5 to 18 countries. With this expansion we are committed to ensuring resources for the priorities identified by women's and trans\* rights movements across Asia. Given the limited presence of national women's funds in the region, and the lack of a regional fund facilitating networking and movement building, we strongly believe that the expansion is critical to strengthening the feminist movements in the region!

We also acknowledge that a sum total of national and sub-national initiatives cannot be seen as regional work. We will have to engage in many overarching conversations and deeper analysis to create the process through which the regional strategy will be built, and implemented. We understand that grassroots realities and strategies are very different from the regional visioning and implementation. We are committed to ensuring that our work addresses this range of challenges, and supports work that is most critical to women and trans\* people in Asia.

We have also initiated the process of institutionalising the expansion beyond the current Leading from the South programme, building our own capacities and mobilising resources to extend our core programming to the larger region.

Our work on the expansion is consistently informed by reflections on our existing programmes. We are continuing to learn from our partners and use the learning to feed into our own strategy. We are, and will continue to revisit our grant making thematics to better reflect the realities on the ground, as shared and demonstrated by our partners' work.

We close off 2016-17 with much hope and excitement, despite the significant geo-political and human rights challenges faced by our region. We are proud of and inspired by the visionary and courageous work of our partners in realising women and trans\* human rights in South Asia, and look ahead to working with and forming new and exciting partnerships in Asia.

**Tulika Srivastava**  
Executive Director



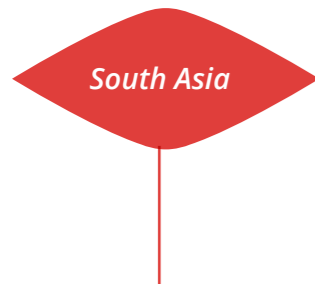
# About Us

South Asia Women's Fund was founded in 2004 to support women's and trans\* rights groups and activists in the South Asian countries of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

We are a regional women's fund, committed to supporting interventions led by women and trans\* people to enhance and strengthen their access to human rights and to counter violations thereof.

In a little over a decade, SAWF has supported over 230 initiatives at the sub-national level in the region, ensuring human rights for a diverse cross-section of women and trans\* people. This support has included technical as well as critical fiscal resources, for both women's and trans\* rights groups and donors. We also foster effective programme designing and process-oriented strategies, to nurture not only the implementers but also the constituencies, which comprise of women and trans\* people at the community level.

As of 2016-17, our geographical scope has expanded to include 18 countries in Asia. We will be supporting women and trans\* human rights work in:



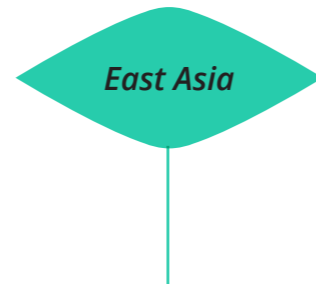
*South Asia*

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan



*Southeast Asia*

Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam



*East Asia*

Mongolia

# Our Vision

**A PEACEFUL AND EGALITARIAN REGION IN WHICH WOMEN AND TRANS\* PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP AND ENJOYMENT OF ALL THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ENSURED AND SECURE.**

**SAWF'S STRATEGY IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:**



**ADVANCING A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH**



**PROMOTING WOMEN AND TRANS\* VOICES AND STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP**



**FORGING NEW DIRECTIONS WITH REINFORCED NETWORKS**

# Objectives



Promote and support the leadership of women and trans\* people at all levels, particularly those who belong to marginalised communities and are from rural, disadvantaged backgrounds.



Enable a strong understanding of human rights and rights-based approaches among women and trans\* activists and organisations in the region, which will inform programmatic intervention and implementation.



Facilitate greater cross-learning and exchange between women and trans\* organisations and activists in the region.



Influence social justice philanthropy, especially focusing on raising resources for women and trans\* rights work in the region.



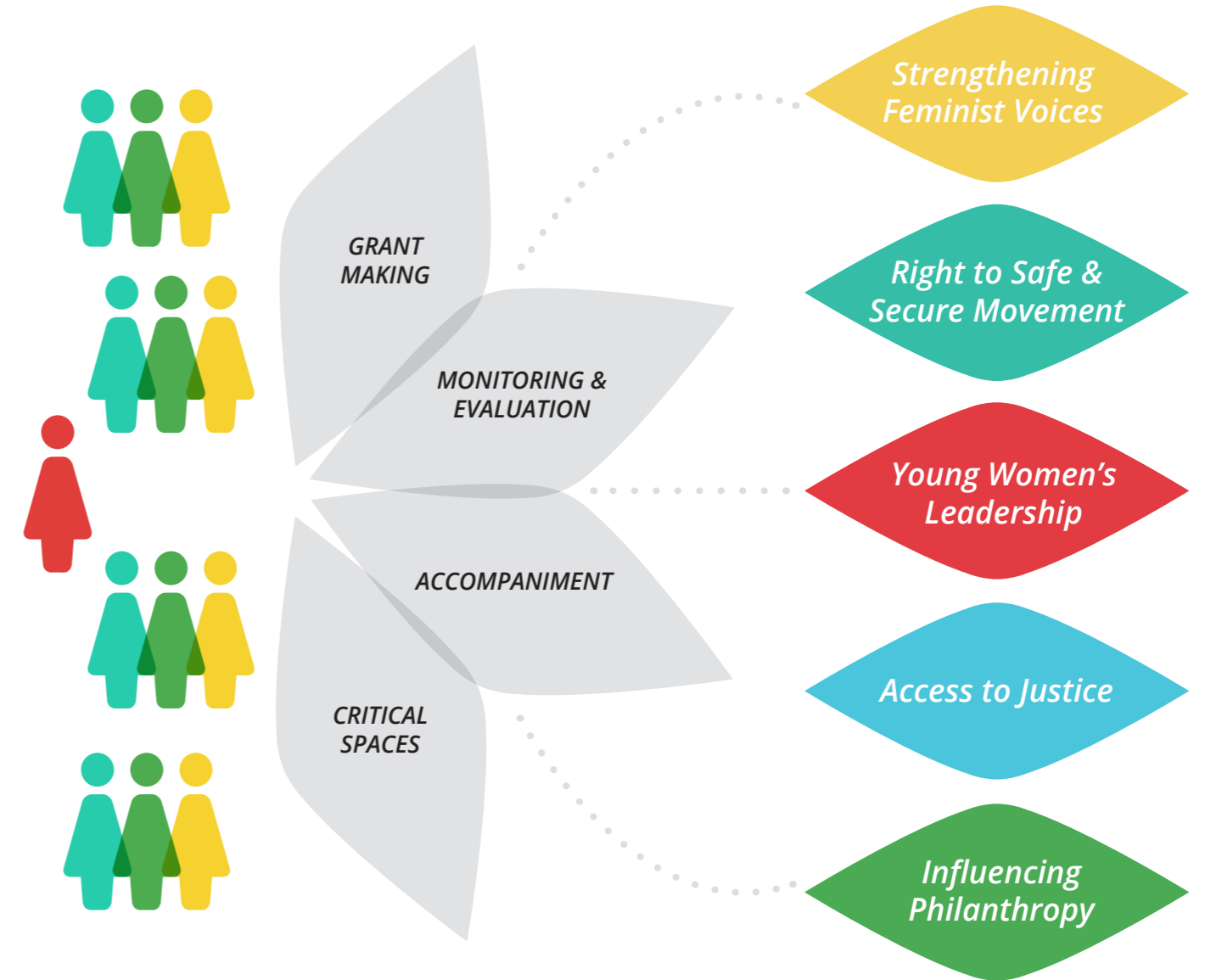
# Our Approach

In order to achieve its objectives, SAWF implements a thematic strategy which mirrors the concerns and priorities of the women's movements in the region:

1. *Strengthening Feminist Voices*
2. *Right to Safe and Secure Movement*
3. *Young Women's Leadership*
4. *Access to Justice*
5. *Influencing Philanthropy*
6. *A new thematic on Environmental Justice is currently being conceptualised*

The first four thematics (along with the 6th thematic of Environmental Justice) are implemented through:

1. **Grant making:** Supporting groups and networks as well as individual initiatives, led by women and trans\* people, that do not have access to traditional and sustainable sources of funding, and are critical in pushing forward the women and trans\* rights agendas.  
  
The grant making has two programmes:  
(i) Strengthening South Asian Feminist Movements (which is implemented in 5 countries of South Asia)  
(ii) Leading from the South
2. **Accompaniment:** Supporting the work of partner organisations through a multi-pronged capacity strengthening strategy, which is implemented at an individual and collective level.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** It is envisioned as an inherent developmental process as well as a tool for reporting and ensuring accountability with SAWF. Framed within feminist perspectives, strengthening transparent and accountable processes of learning and evaluation are important to SAWF's internal development as well as to the growth of its partners, as the lessons learnt feed into our grant making and accompaniment processes.
4. **Critical Spaces:** We facilitate critical learning spaces at national and regional levels, for sharing of experiences, knowledge and strategies between individual leaders, groups and organisations.

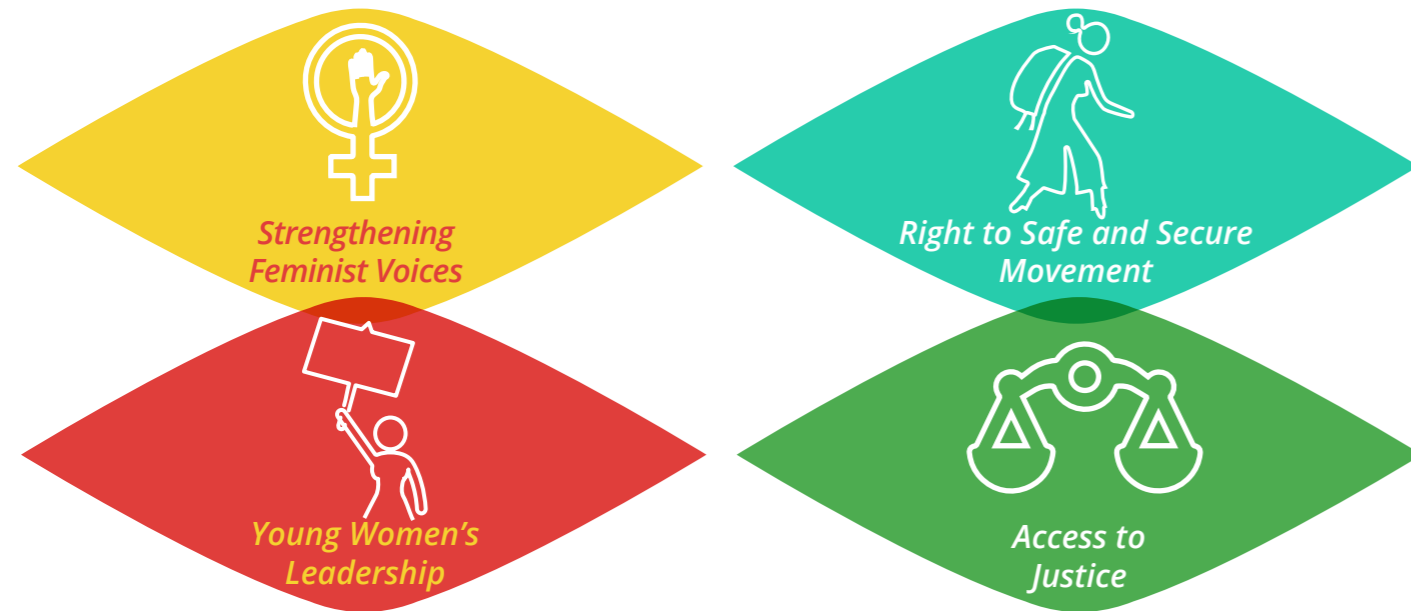


# Programme Highlights 2016-17

## Programme 1: Strengthening South Asian Feminist Movements

This is SAWF's flagship grant making programme. The programme has five thematic areas, the vision for which has been informed by over a decade of support to activists and organisations working at the grassroots. Under this programme, SAWF supports small and medium-sized women's rights groups, individual activists, women human rights lawyers (through fellowships), and sub-national, national and regional networks working on the ground to create transformational change and advocating for the rights of women.

Countries covered under this programme include *Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan*.



### Types of Interventions Supported

- Institutional support for small or new grassroots groups
- Experimental grants for groups to work in new thematics, test new strategies and explore new interventions
- Lobbying and advocacy, including support for participation in critical spaces and facilitation of meetings and workshops
- Research on community practices affecting women's human rights
- Capacity building for women's organisations and activists
- Collaborations and exchange visits

### Total No. of Applications Received

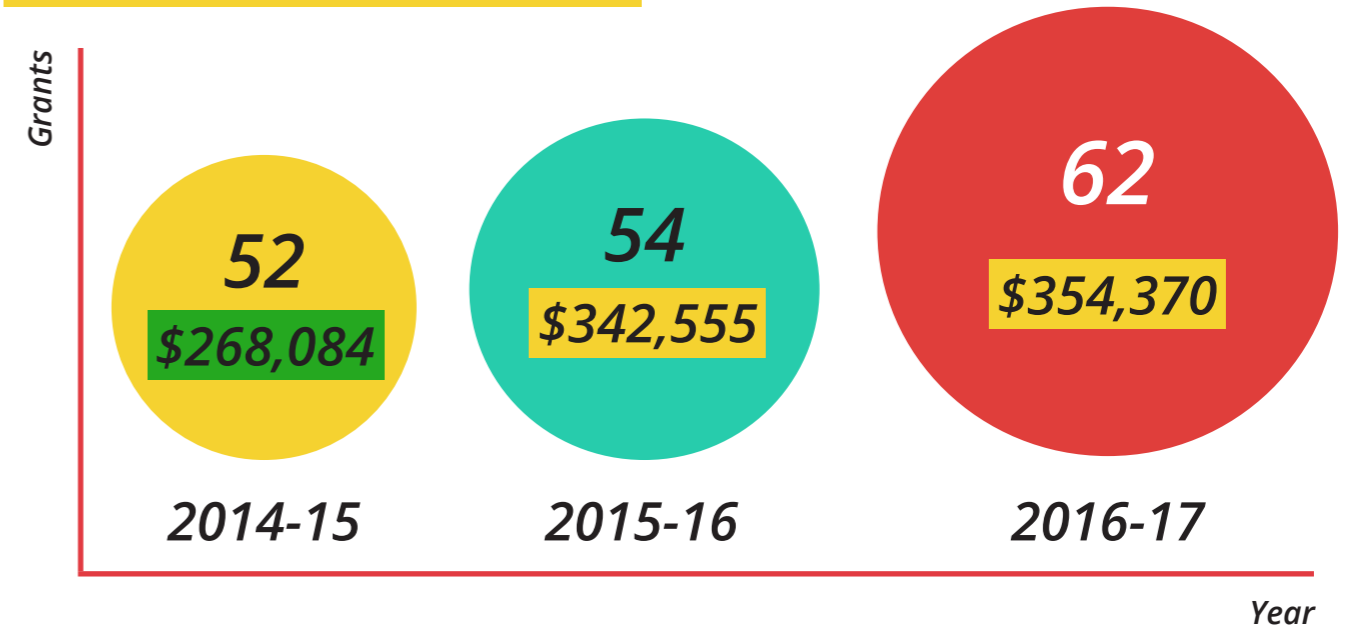
**264**

### Total Grants Given

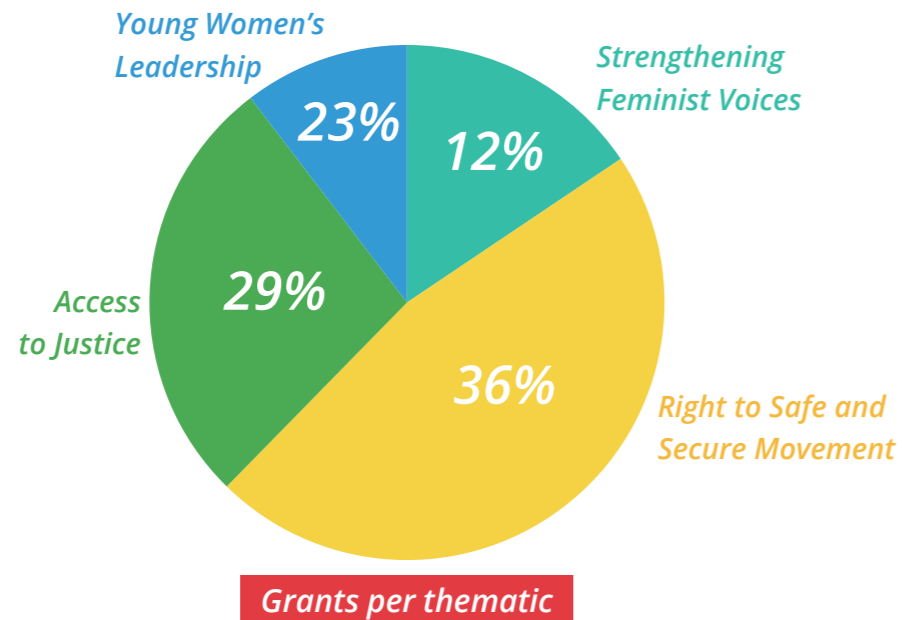
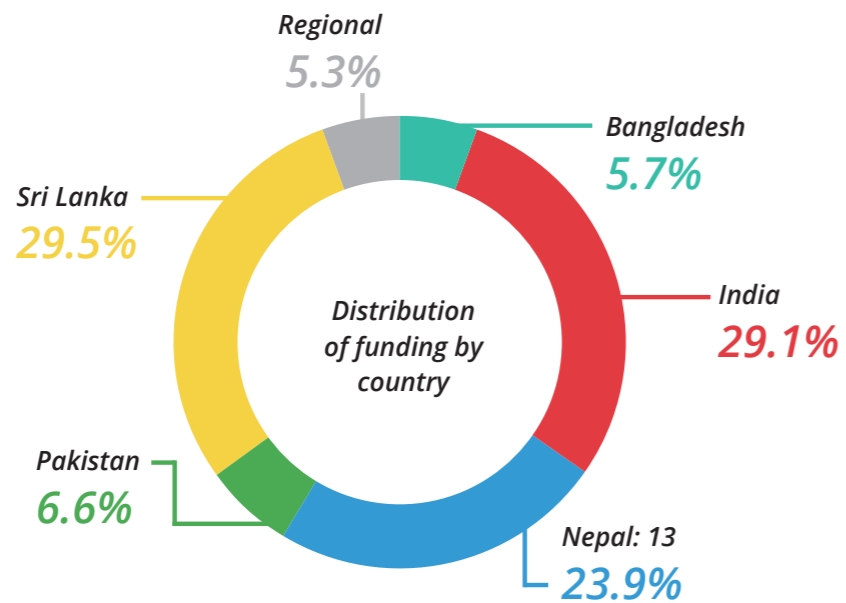
**62**

### Total Amount

**\$354,370**







## Strengthening Feminist Voices



This thematic focuses on strengthening women's voices and institutions, particularly at the grassroots, and supporting innovative strategies and ideas. The following issues and interventions were supported under this thematic this year:

- Strengthening the capacities of women with disabilities
- Research on discriminatory customary practices of the Khyang indigenous community in Chittangong Hill Tracts
- Strengthening the democratic participation and inclusion of women in governance
- Mobilising tribal Muslim women
- Strengthening a regional network of transgender women and men
- Institutional strengthening of an organisation of women living with HIV

| Organisation  | Country    |
|---|------------|
| Banusree Nari Unnayan Foundation                            | Bangladesh |
| Blue Veins  | Pakistan   |
| Didi Bahini   | Nepal      |
| National Alliance of Women Odisha                           | India      |
| Society for Human Advancement and Disadvantaged Empowerment | Pakistan   |
| Shakti Milan Samaj  | Nepal      |
| Voice and Views   | Bangladesh |

## Right to Safe and Secure Movement

19 Grants

Initiated in 2010 with a strong focus on sex work and women's migration, grants under this thematic now support the rights of women working in the estate sector, garment factories, bonded labour, domestic work and the entertainment sector. The partners address issues of entitlements and benefits, wage disparity, workplace harassment, unionisation and leadership. This year too saw an increase in support to groups working on the rights of sex workers (8 in total), who are taking up issues of right to work, decriminalisation, rape/custodial rape, community awareness and access to justice.

| Organisation   | Country    |
|--|------------|
| Abhimani   | Sri Lanka  |
| Society for Labour and Development                                 | India      |
| CEDAW Administration Grant   | regional   |
| Cividep India  | India      |
| Community Strength Development Foundation                          | Sri Lanka  |
| Dabindu Collective   | Sri Lanka  |
| Nepal Disabled Women's Association                                 | Nepal      |
| Promotion and Advancement of Justice Harmony and Rights of Adivasi | India      |
| Praja Diriya Padanama  | Sri Lanka  |
| Rahima Akhter  | Bangladesh |
| Sakhi Trust  | India      |
| Sangama  | India      |
| Sangram  | India      |
| Sarvodaya Women's Movement   | Sri Lanka  |
| Shobujer Ovijan Foundation   | Bangladesh |
| Voices of Women Media  | Nepal      |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Women with Disabilities Development Foundation | Bangladesh |
| Women and Media Collective                     | Sri Lanka  |
| Women's Resource Centre                        | Sri Lanka  |

## Young Women's Leadership

13 Grants

This thematic focuses on strengthening the leadership of young women, particularly in the areas of physical integrity, sexuality and decision-making. The following issues were supported under this thematic:

- Rights of disabled women and girls, LGBTIQ rights, Dalit women's rights
- Rights of indigenous women
- Personal laws affecting rights of Muslim women
- Domestic violence
- Gender discrimination
- Sexuality
- Abortion
- HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Preventing early and forced marriages
- Strengthening feminist leadership

The groups supported under this thematic are engaging with a varied constituency of women, mostly from communities marginalised on the axis of caste, labour, age and geographical location.

| <b>Organisation</b>                                     | <b>Country</b> |
|---|----------------|
| Association for Women with Disabilities (AKASA)         | Sri Lanka      |
| Hasanah Cegu  | Sri Lanka      |
| Mahila Swarojgar Samiti                                 | India          |
| Mullaithivu Women Development Rehabilitation Federation | Sri Lanka      |
| National Indigenous Women's Forum                       | Nepal          |
| Nazariya  | India          |
| Spandhana   | India          |
| Srijansil Mahila Samuha                                 | Nepal          |
| Suriya Women's Development Centre                       | Sri Lanka      |
| Swadhikar I   | India          |
| Swadhikar II  | India          |
| Textile and Garment Clothing Workers Union              | Sri Lanka      |
| Youth Advocacy Network                                  | Sri Lanka      |

## Access to Justice

4 Grants

19 Fellowships

Under this thematic we support women's access to justice and interventions to counter violations of their human rights, through two types of initiatives: (a) supporting organisations providing legal aid, counselling and community awareness on legal rights; and (b) supporting the work and capacity enhancement of a cadre of women lawyers (legal fellows) practicing in the primary courts across the region.

In 2016-17, we supported four women's organisations undertaking direct case work, court room advocacy, increasing legal awareness among communities, building capacity of women lawyers and paralegals, and providing legal aid to women clients. Additionally we also supported 19 legal fellows.

| <b>Organisation</b>                             | <b>Country</b> |
|---|----------------|
| Feminist Dalit Organisation                     | Nepal          |
| Institute of Development Education and Learning | India          |
| Indigenous Women's Legal Awareness Group        | Nepal          |
| Uva Wellassa Women's Organisation               | Sri Lanka      |

| <b>Legal Fellows</b> | <b>Country</b> |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Binita Hazarika      | India          |
| Priti Murmu          | India          |
| Romita Reang         | India          |
| Sasimanasi Singh     | India          |
| Savita Ali           | India          |
| Urmila               | India          |
| Binita Nepali        | Nepal          |
| Indira Shreesh       | Nepal          |
| Kaushila Yogi        | Nepal          |
| Manju Marasini       | Nepal          |

| <b>Legal Fellows</b>       | <b>Country</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Poonam Kaphle              | Nepal          |
| Asia Agha                  | Pakistan       |
| Shabnam Nawaz              | Pakistan       |
| Tabassum Rani              | Pakistan       |
| Diana Florigton            | Sri Lanka      |
| Jerusha Crossette Thambiah | Sri Lanka      |
| Nadhiha Abbas              | Sri Lanka      |
| Sasirekha Kanagaraj        | Sri Lanka      |
| Subajini Kisho Anton       | Sri Lanka      |

# Environmental Justice

In 2016-17, SAWF initiated an exploration of the intersection of women's rights and environmental justice, as it exists in the realities of the South Asian region. We were able to undertake this work through the support of the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA). GAGGA is a global alliance of women's rights and environmental justice groups and movements, committed to strengthening and unifying grassroots groups, networks and movements with the aim of centring women in lobbying and advocacy for their rights to water, food, and a clean and safe environment.

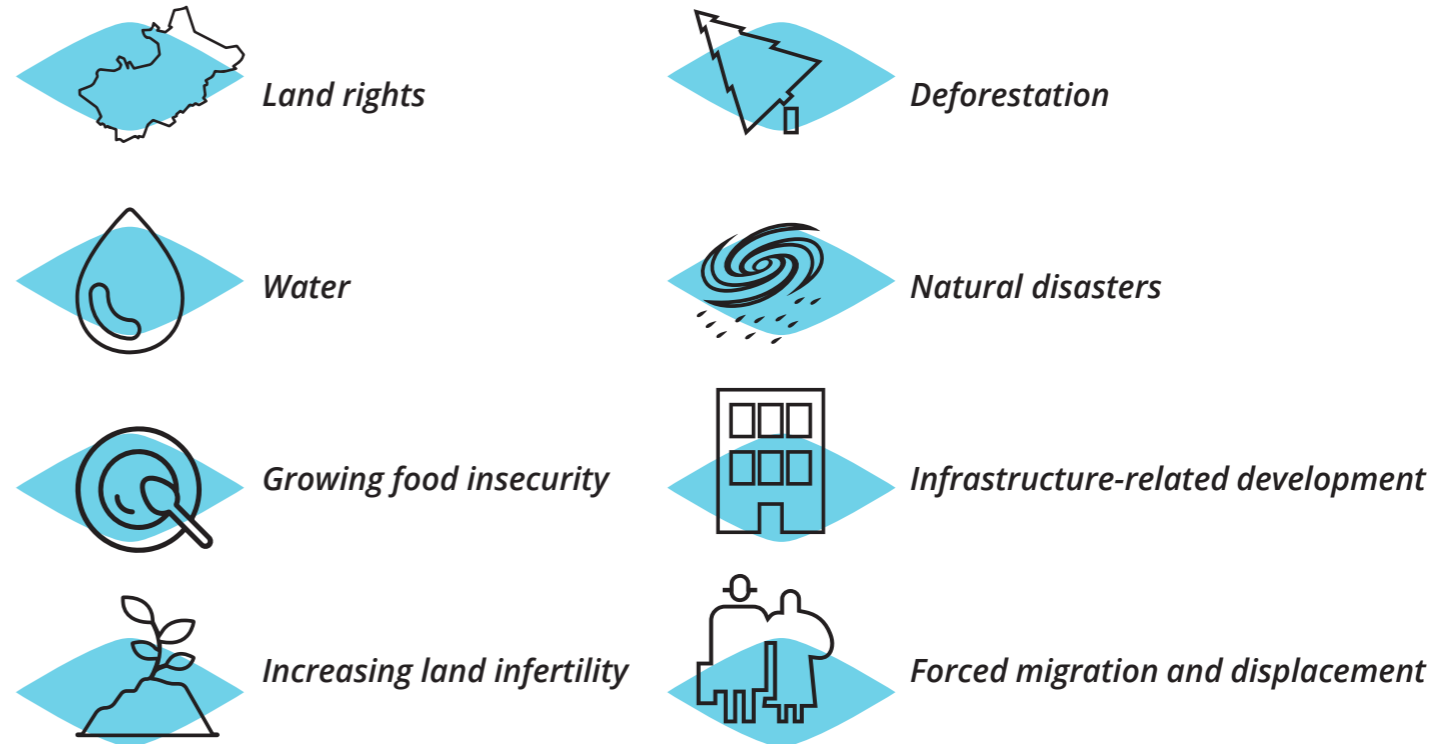
Our objective with this programme is to centre the voices and leadership of women in the decision-making processes which govern:

1. Access to and distribution of land, water, food and other natural resources
2. The creation and implementation of policies that govern disaster management, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

The programme was initiated after collaborative processes with women's funds, women's organisations, and environmental justice funds and organisations, through a series of global and regional consultations. These were followed by national consultations in South Asia, to understand the ground reality and its impact on women from grassroots communities.



The consultations brought to light critical environmental issues faced by the most vulnerable communities, especially women such as:



The next phase is to build upon the issues highlighted at the national consultations and develop a comprehensive strategy to support women's groups working on environmental justice in Asia. Simultaneously, we will also be providing critical grants, which will enable SAWF to explore linkages and build understanding of the work being done on women's rights and environmental justice.

## Programme 2: Leading from the South

### Overview

LFS is a four-year programme (2016-2020), supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands. It is a collaborative initiative between women's funds to strengthen women's human rights movements in the global south. Apart from SAWF, the women's funds which are part of this collaboration are: **African Women's Development Fund** (Africa and the Middle East region), **Fondo De Mujeres del Sur** (Latin and Central Americas) and **FIMI/AYNI – The indigenous women's fund** (supporting indigenous women's groups at the global level).

LFS promotes cooperation across borders and links grassroots organisations to networks and movements at the national, regional and global level, and works through grant-making, capacity building, and support for lobbying and advocacy initiatives. Through this process, it ensures the much-needed resource support to women's groups to influence policies, tackle unequal power relations and reduce exclusion and discrimination.

A unique feature of LFS is that the programme was finalised through a consultative process between the four funds – from developing proposals to joint indicators to criteria for call for applications.

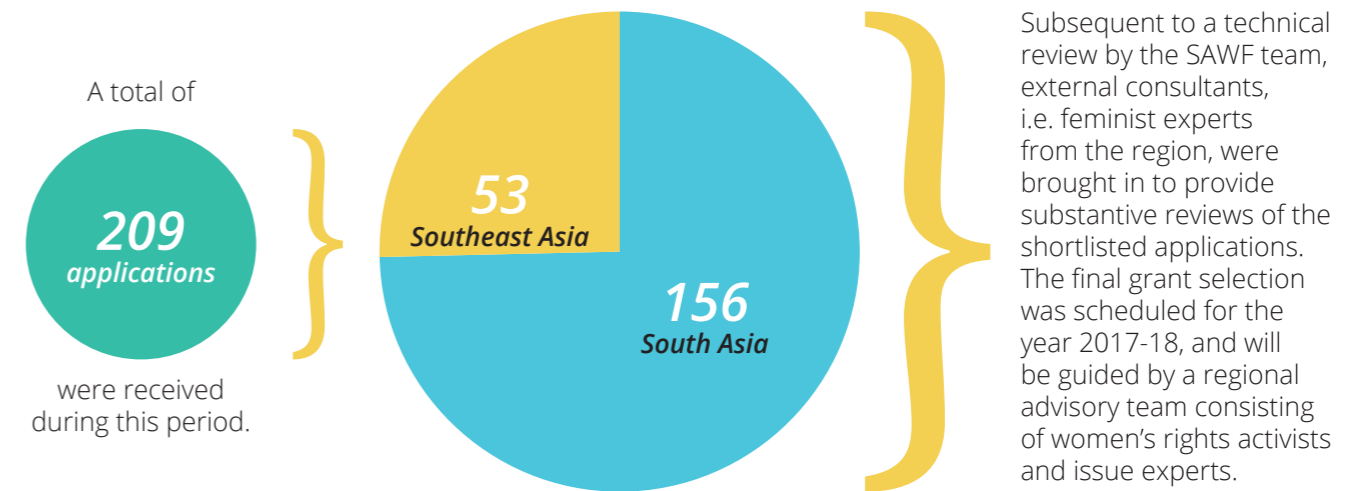
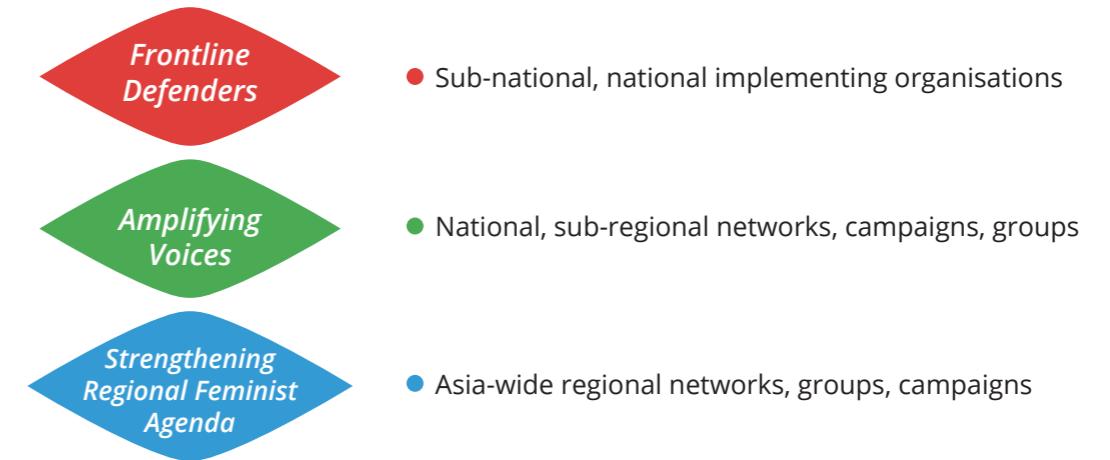
As we opened our grant-making for the first time to the Southeast and East Asia region this year, we undertook outreach visits and participated in various regional networking spaces. In December 2016 we introduced LFS at two regional convenings with international and regional actors. These convenings provided the space for extensive discussions on SAWF's expansion to the region, and its role as a women's fund, as well as the rationale, vision, politics and programming of LFS.

The call for applications was physically launched on January 9, 2017 in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) with the participation of local and regional women's groups. SAWF board member Suneeta Dhar and women's rights activist Shanthi Dairiam from Malaysia launched the call.

### LFS Call for Applications

The LFS call for applications was opened for a 5-week window, and women's rights organisations and networks from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam were eligible to apply. A detailed Call for Applications package was developed through a consultative process with board members, advisors, external experts, as well as with other LFS consortium members.

The call focused on three types of grants with different areas of strategic focus.



# Accompaniment

Strong feminist movements and sustainable institutions play a crucial role in building the future we envision – one which is rooted in the equality and non-discrimination of women and trans\* people. In addition to grant-making, SAWF undertakes accompaniment activities which work towards this goal. Activities include strengthening processes and systems within an institution; developing perspectives on feminist and rights-based issues; participating in spaces which strengthen capacities; building and developing particular skills within the movement; and so on. In 2016-17, SAWF undertook a number of key accompaniment activities, some of which are:

## **Support to Partners through the Grant Making Process** *Ongoing*

SAWF's grant making process is structured so that the programme officers work closely with the partners, particularly the grassroots groups, to strengthen their capacity to conceptualise and design interventions in keeping with their long-term objectives and vision. They also provide support in building budgets, articulating ideas, and through their reporting, being reflexive and analytical about their work. SAWF intends for this accompaniment support to contribute towards partners strengthening their processes and skills, particularly in writing proposals and raising funds from other sources.



## **Participation at Commission for Status of Women** *March 13-24, 2017*

The theme of Commission for Status of Women this year was 'Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work', and the focus area was 'The Empowerment of Indigenous Women'. SAWF supported two partner organisations from Nepal – Media Advocacy Group and Nepal Indigenous Women's Forum – to attend the forum. This was an opportunity for the partners to strengthen their networks, conduct advocacy and bring their experiences and perspectives from the Global South to an international forum.

## **Sexuality and Sexual Rights** *February 6-7, 2017, Colombo*

A workshop was organised with participation from young women leaders from SAWF partner organisations in Sri Lanka. The workshop was aimed at addressing the challenge of inclusion of sexuality within women's movements, particularly with regard to LBT rights activism. The conversation also looked at taking activism beyond sexual and reproductive health rights, to addressing women's right to sexuality and bodily integrity.



# Case Study

## CEDAW Administrative Grant

Normative standards, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), are central to SAWF's vision of strong, rights based women's movements in South Asia. The CEDAW shadow report process in particular provides for the representation of marginalised communities of women, allowing them to voice their concerns in an international forum.

The SAWF CEDAW administrative grant was devised to support the participation of our partners in their respective national CEDAW review processes, to strengthen their own capacities, and to increase representation of sex workers' voices in the national and international women's rights discourse. Sex Workers Allies South Asia (SWASA) provided the technical support for this process. This was the first grant of its kind that SAWF has made, in terms of its different national and regional components and SAWF administering the entire grant itself.

### **Sri Lanka National Process**

RBA training, data collection, shadow report writing and review

### **Regional Alliance Building Meeting**

10 – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016, Kathmandu

### **Participation in CEDAW Country Reviews for Sri Lanka and Bangladesh – Geneva, Switzerland**

### **Expert Group meeting on Rights of Women Sex Workers under CEDAW**

28-20<sup>th</sup> July

*These details of sex workers' lived realities being brought to the attention of the Committee and documented in a standard setting space is critical if the standards are to be informed by ground realities and, in turn, be useful to women's lives.*

### **Outcome #1**

Sex worker groups from both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were able to submit their own reports to the Committee and represent their issues in Geneva.

### **Outcome #2**

The CEDAW committee raised issues of sex work and women in prostitution in the Concluding Observations for both Bangladesh and Sri Lanka – such as violence against sex workers, particularly trans sex workers; forced evictions; discrimination against children of sex workers; sexual bribery and harassment within the judicial process.

# Influencing Philanthropy

Influencing Philanthropy, i.e. advocating for more resources for women's human rights work, is a critical component of SAWF's mandate. The unique aspect of women's funds, including SAWF, is that we go beyond the traditional definition of resources. We believe that resources are a political issue, and the very definition of resources needs to be broadened, to include capacity and human resources. In addition to ensuring that financial resources are made available to women's rights groups, we also provide an institutional process to engage and influence donors and the larger philanthropic community to take on the women's rights agenda in a manner which is politically transformative.

*We operate on the principle that women must own the issues, substance and process.*



## Donor Outreach and Engagement

- Continuous outreach to potential donors and donor education at local, regional and global levels, such as at the Donor Forum at Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) 2016 Forum in Brazil
- Collaborating with a collective of like-minded human rights donors to influence more resources for sex workers' rights



## Promoting Indigenous Philanthropy

- Strengthening of South Asia Women's Foundation India, launched in 2015
- Reaching out to local philanthropists in other countries, especially Sri Lanka and Nepal



## Peer Networks

- Being part of networks of like-minded donors and women's funds such as Prospera – The International Network of Women's Funds and its Asian chapter; the Asian Network of Women's Funds (ANWF); Human Rights Funders Network; and the WIN-WIN Coalition
- Participation at The International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG) annual convening in July 2016, New York.
- Session hosted by ANWF members on their work and strategies in July 2016, New York
- The regional meeting of ANWF members on collective learning on grant making and monitoring and evaluation in November 2016, Sri Lanka

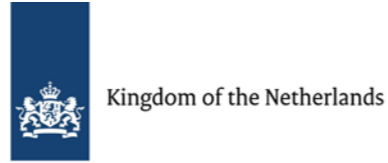


## Engaging in Critical Feminist Spaces on Politics of Resources

- At the regional level, SAWF participated in the Regional Feminist Strategising Meeting organised by ARROW in July 2016, in Kuala Lumpur
- At the international level, SAWF participated at the AWID Forum held in September 2016, in Brazil



# List of Donors



# Financial Reports



KPMG  
(Chartered Accountants)  
32A, Sir Mohamed Macan Markar Mawatha,  
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Internet : www.kpmg.com/lk

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND

#### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of South Asia Women's Fund ("the Company"); which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2017, and the statement of income and expenditure, statement of changes in funds, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Board's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Board of Directors ("Board") is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standard for Small and Medium-Sized Entities ("SLFRS for SMEs"), and for such internal control as the Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making these risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 March 2017, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standard for Small and Medium-Sized Entities ("SLFRS for SMEs").

M.B. Mulari FCA  
T.S. Rajasinghe FCA  
Ms. S.M.B. Jayasekera ACA  
G.A.U. Karunaratne FCA  
R.K. Rajan ACA

P.V.S. Perera FCA  
W.W.J.C. Perera FCA  
W.K.D.C. Abeyaratne FCA  
R.M.D.B. Rajapakse FCA

C.P. Jayatilake FCA  
Ms. S. Joseph FCA  
S.T.D.L. Perera FCA  
Ms. B.K.D.T.N. Rodrigo FCA  
Ms. H.S. Gonesaratne ACA  
Ms. C.T.K.N. Perera ACA

KPMG, a Sri Lankan partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity.

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**Report on other legal and regulatory requirements**

As required by section 163 (2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we state the following:

- The basis of opinion and scope and limitations of the audit are as stated above.
- In our opinion we have obtained all the information and explanations that were required for the audit and, as far as appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Company and the financial statements of the Company, comply with the requirements of section 151 of the Companies Act.

  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**  
 Colombo  
 26 September 2017


**SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND  
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

*As at 31 March,*

|  | Notes | 2017<br>Rs.               | 2016<br>Rs.               |
|--|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                              |       |                           |                           |
| <b>Non current assets</b>                  |       |                           |                           |
| Property plant and equipment               | 2     | 496,709                   | 712,332                   |
|  |       | <u>496,709</u>            | <u>712,332</u>            |
| <b>Current assets</b>                      |       |                           |                           |
| Other receivables                          | 3     | 753,519                   | 457,552                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents                  | 4     | 330,575,589               | 100,362,052               |
|  |       | <u>331,329,108</u>        | <u>100,819,604</u>        |
| <b>Total assets</b>                        |       | <u><b>331,825,817</b></u> | <u><b>101,531,936</b></u> |
| <b>Funds and liabilities</b>               |       |                           |                           |
| <b>Funds</b>                               |       |                           |                           |
| Accumulated fund                           |       | 14,387,073                | 12,399,599                |
| Mama Cash                                  | 5     | 13,964,570                | 3,566,784                 |
| Ford Foundation                            | 6     | 5,081,055                 | 14,041,851                |
| Oak Foundation                             | 7     | 11,011,338                | 30,792,447                |
| Foundation for Just Society                | 8     | 26,934,065                | 20,129,686                |
| Global Fund for Women                      | 9     | 3,168,499                 | -                         |
| AJWS                                       | 10    | 11,289,946                | 9,171,861                 |
| FILIA                                      | 11    | 1,342,233                 | 81,029                    |
| Flora Family Foundation                    | 12.1  | 1,930,615                 | 5,734,133                 |
| Flora Family Foundation - Tides Foundation | 12.2  | 6,054,629                 | -                         |
| Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs          | 13    | 233,353,445               | -                         |
| Both ends sponsorship                      | 14    | -                         | -                         |
| Catapult                                   | 15    | -                         | -                         |
|  |       | <u>328,517,468</u>        | <u>95,917,390</u>         |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                 |       |                           |                           |
| Accounts payable                           | 16    | 1,308,478                 | 4,220,109                 |
| Income tax payable                         | 17    | 1,999,871                 | 1,394,437                 |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                   |       | <u>3,308,349</u>          | <u>5,614,546</u>          |
| <b>Total funds and liabilities</b>         |       | <u><b>331,825,817</b></u> | <u><b>101,531,936</b></u> |


The financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the related notes, which form an integral part of these financial statements of the Company.

I certify that these financial statements are prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No.07 of 2007.

  
 Director of Finance and Operations

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with SLFRS for SMEs.

Approved and signed for and on behalf of the Board of Directors:

  
 Director

  
 Director

Colombo  
 26 September 2017

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND  
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the year ended 31 March,

|  | Note | 2017<br>Rs.        | 2016<br>Rs.       |
|--|------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |      |                    |                   |
| Utilization of funds                                 |      |                    |                   |
| -Mama cash   |      | 9,382,424          | 14,930,545        |
| -Foundation for Just Society                         |      | 31,202,542         | 28,892,657        |
| -Ford Foundation                                     |      | 9,522,295          | 8,209,140         |
| -Oak Foundation                                      |      | 20,399,004         | 32,205,174        |
| -Global Fund for Women                               |      | 1,332,113          | 650,950           |
| -AJWS  |      | 12,260,038         | 5,222,169         |
| -FILIA   |      | 677,021            | 990,191           |
| -Flora   |      | 3,723,211          | 2,658,117         |
| -Flora Family Foundation-Tides Foundation            |      | 2,987,270          | -                 |
| -Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs                   |      | 5,541,001          | -                 |
| -Both Ends - regional meeting partner                |      | 5,406,235          | -                 |
| -Catapult  |      | 403,944            | -                 |
| Institute of international education                 |      | -                  | 849,674           |
| Reimbursement of event costs                         | 18   | 1,286,943          | 85,684            |
| Interest income                                      |      | 2,323,941          | 909,827           |
| Other income   | 19   | 1,051,940          | 716,924           |
| <b>Total income</b>                                  |      | <b>107,499,922</b> | <b>96,321,052</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                   |      |                    |                   |
| Grant making   | 20   | 48,453,400         | 40,049,189        |
| Administration and salaries                          |      |                    |                   |
| -Staff expenses                                      | 21.1 | 23,352,316         | 13,682,051        |
| -Other administration expenses                       | 21.2 | 5,741,575          | 19,804,326        |
| -Governance  | 21.3 | 1,156,383          | 969,024           |
| Resource mobilization                                | 22   | 7,847,572          | 2,501,302         |
| Support activities                                   | 23   | 12,439,023         | 16,253,290        |
| Travel and conferences                               | 24   | 3,771,108          | 28,133            |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                             |      | <b>102,761,377</b> | <b>93,287,315</b> |
| Excess of income over expenditure before tax expense |      | 4,738,545          | 3,033,737         |
| Income tax expense                                   | 25   | 2,751,071          | 1,465,374         |
| <b>Excess income over expenditure after tax</b>      |      | <b>1,987,474</b>   | <b>1,568,363</b>  |

The financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the related notes, which form an integral part of these financial statements of the Company.



# Board

**Priya Paul**  
*Chairperson, Founding Director, India*

Ms Priya Paul is the Chairperson of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels. In 2012, she was awarded the Padma Shri for her services in Trade and Industry by the President of India, and two years later, in 2014, she was conferred the prestigious Insignia of the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite by the President of France.

**Suneeta Dhar**  
*Member, Founding Director, India*

Ms Suneeta Dhar is a feminist activist, trainer and facilitator of change processes. She is active in the women's movement and has supported grassroots and leadership development initiatives on women's rights, building bridges and alliances across diverse sectors.

**Aisha Gazdar**  
*Member, Pakistan*

Ms Aisha Gazdar is a celebrated documentary filmmaker. Her company Films d'Art has produced numerous films on social issues, including Another World is Possible, which references the implementation of CEDAW in South Asia.

**Gagan Sethi**  
*Member, India*

Mr Gagan Sethi is a renowned development practitioner, organisational development expert and a gender trainer. He has been instrumental in setting up several strategic organisations in the country, such as Janvikas, Kutch

Mahila Vikas Sangathan, Sahjeevan, Drishti, Centre for Social Justice, HID Forum and Dalit Foundation, among others.

**Sepali Kottegoda**  
*Member, Sri Lanka*

Ms Sepali Kottegoda is the Executive Director of the Women and Media Collective and Chair of Asia Pacific Women's Watch. She has worked as an expert on the Sri Lanka National Committee on Women, National Plan of Action on Human Rights, National Plan of Action for Women, and the National Plan for Overseas Labour Migration.

**Shaheen Anam**  
*Member, Bangladesh*

Ms Shaheen Anam is the Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, a grant-making organisation. Ms Anam has extensive experience in the field of development with a specific focus on gender and human rights.

**Srishti Malla Joshi**  
*Member, Nepal*

Ms Srishti Malla Joshi is the Chairperson of SAARC Business Association for Home Based Workers (SABAH Nepal). Ms Joshi is a well-known woman entrepreneur and has twice been presented with the Woman Achiever Award (2004 and 2005).



# Advisors

## **Jael Silliman**

Ms Jael Silliman is globally known for her work and commitment to human rights. She is currently supporting SAWF on grant-making, and developing its strategic profile and advocacy portfolio to build SAWF's ability to advocate for the enhancement of indigenous philanthropy towards women's rights.

## **Kishali Pinto-Jayawardene**

Ms Kishali Pinto-Jayawardene is a well-known human rights lawyer from Sri Lanka who has worked closely with the Asian Human Rights Commission on many issues relating to the protection and promotion of human rights in Sri Lanka, as well as in Asia.

## **Sara Hossain**

Ms Sara Hossain is a lawyer practicing in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, in the areas of constitutional, public interest and family law. She is a member of a human rights organisation, Ain o Salish Kendra and heads Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust.

## **Hana Shams Ahmed**

Ms Hana Shams Ahmed is a freelance writer and has extensively written about the rights of Bangladeshi migrant workers, Urdu-speaking groups of Bangladesh, abuse of domestic workers, and nationalism and identity politics in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh.

*SAWF would also like to thank our International Goodwill Ambassador, renowned opera singer Ms Kishani Jayasinghe-Wijayasekara, for her support throughout the year.*



# Team

SAWF has a diverse team of women, spread across 4 different locations in South Asia.

**Tulika Srivastava** - Executive Director

**Anisha Chugh** - Director of Programmes

**Kishani Cader** - Director of Finance & Operations

**Tehani Ariyaratne** - Programme Officer, Grants, Impact Assessment & Accompaniment

**Meenu Pandey** - Programme Officer, Grants, Impact Assessment & Accompaniment

**Astha Thapa** - Programme Officer, Communications and Resource Mobilisation

**Vineeta Tewari** - Administrator, Liaison Office

**Heloise de Lima** - Office Manager, Colombo

**Amutha Bharath** - Programme Administrator

**Virginia Miruna Sylvester** - Accounts Officer

**Anukriti Rastogi** - Accounts & Admin Officer

*We would like to thank our former team members Surbhi Mahajan – Programme Officer; Ruvi Fernando – Programme Administrator; Dishani Malliyawadu – Finance and Accounts Manager; and Priya Thangarajah – Finance and Administration Officer; for their contributions to the organisation in the year 2016-17.*

# Partners supported in 2016-17





# SAWF

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN'S FUND

We are grateful to our donors and friends for their support and solidarity

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admin@sawf.info  
sawf.info

 @SAWFund

 @SouthAsiaWomensFund



