

Feminist
Funding
in Practice:



Prospera

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF WOMEN'S FUNDS

5

YEAR
TRENDS



2016 - 2020

We acknowledge the unwavering commitment of our members whose data informed this report to enrich the network's knowledge base and information in identifying the trends, stories and calls-to-action that are important to the feminist funding ecosystem. Our hope is that this report will mobilize greater resources towards diverse women's and feminist movements across the world.

By Kika F.B., Martha Tukahirwa and Sofia Karakaidou of Prospera INWF.

Designed by Martha, orotaller.com

Feminist Funding in Practice



PROSPERA INWF's 5 YEAR TRENDS

2016 - 2020

2016-2020¹

Prospera INWF harnesses the collective power of women's and feminist funds to influence funding towards diverse feminist movements across the world.

We act as a Facilitator, Connector, Convenor, Influencer, and Enabler for the consolidation and influence of our membership by:

1. Supporting our members' infrastructure needs:

- | Staffing
- | Communications
- | Resource mobilization
- | Monitoring, evaluation, and learning
- | Governance
- | Leadership

2. Convening development and philanthropic practitioners:

- | To build alliances to reach grassroots groups and movements through feminist funding, including during times of crises.
- | To transform philanthropic and donor practices in line with feminist funding principles.

To strategize on funding policy and advocacy agendas led by feminist activists.

3. Functioning as a platform:

- | To share experiences and practices among members; learn from and with each other; and strategize politically within regional groupings, biennial gatherings, and cross-network-wide thematic groups.

While these five-year trends indicate significant growth, expansion, and impact of women's and feminist funds, they are still only able to grant 23% of eligible applications- on average- from their activist partners.

What would the world look like if feminist movements were fully resourced?

We need \$1.5B² a year to make this happen!

Join us.

1. The following report has been created with yearly data which are gathered from Prospera full members during the period of 2016-2020. Our members report on their yearly revenue, expenditure and grantmaking data through our internal database tool according to their own fiscal years. Numbers of members reporting per year in this report differ: for 2020 40 full members, for 2019 and for 2018, 39 funds and for 2017 & 2016 35 women's funds. All amounts are in USD.

2. This number has been calculated by research conducted by Bridgespan Group in the *Lighting the Way: A Report for Philanthropy on the Power and Promise of Feminist Movements* (2022). <https://www.bridgespan.org/insights/library/philanthropy/philanthropy-and-feminist-movements>

Prospera - International Network of Women's and feminist Funds is a global network that brings together

44

full and associate members of dynamic, autonomous, and diverse women's and feminist funds.

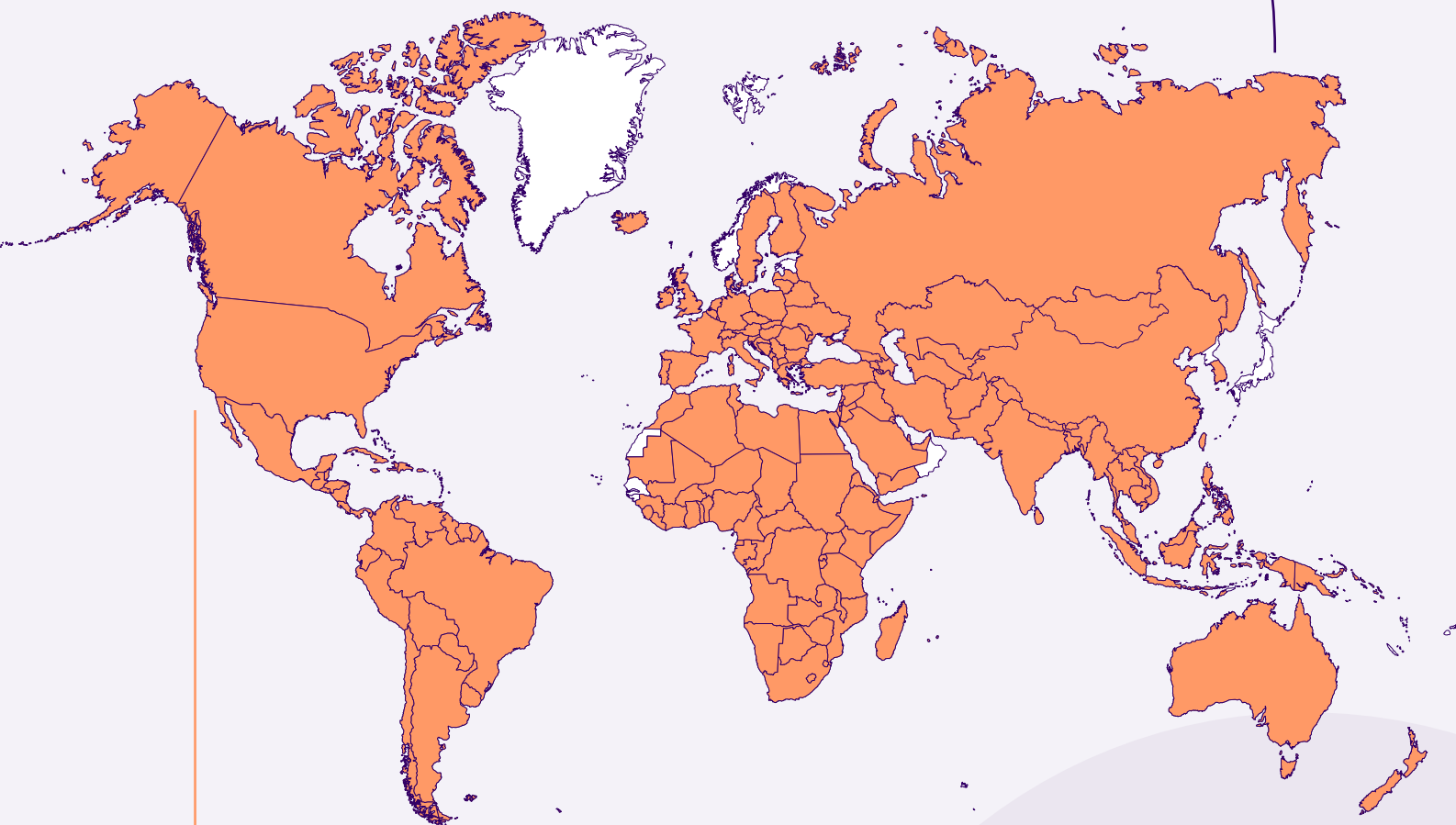


As the global hub of women's and feminist funds led by and resourcing predominately movements in the Global South and East, Prospera collectively mobilizes quality funding to groups in over

172
countries.



75% of Prospera members are based in the Global South and East.



Most of our collective funding goes to formerly colonized territories in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



9 Funds are located in the Global East:

Bulgarian Fund for Women, Ecumenical Women's Initiative (Croatia), FemFund Poland, Reconstruction Women's Fund (Serbia), Slovack-Czech Women's Fund (Czech Republic), Taso Foundation (Georgia), Ukrainian Women's Fund, Women's Fund Armenia, Women's Fund Georgia

12 Funds in the Global North:

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (USA), Calala (Spain), Equality Fund (Canada), filia die frauenstiftung (Germany), FRIDA I the Young Feminist Fund (Canada), Global Fund for Women (USA), Heart and Hand (USA), Mama Cash (Netherlands), Mediterranean Women's Fund (France), Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (USA), Women First (USA), Women Win (Netherlands)

23 Funds in the Global South:

African Women's Development Fund (Ghana), Her Fund (Hong Kong), Doria Feminist Fund (Lebanon/ Egypt), Fondo de Acción Urgente para América Latina y el Caribe (Colombia), Fondo Alquimia (Chile), Fondo Boliviano de Mujeres Apathapi Jopueti, Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (Costa Rica), Fondo Lunaria (Colombia), Fondo de Mujeres del Sur (Argentina), Fond pour les Femmes Congolaises (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Fondo Semillas (Mexico), Fundo Elas+ (Brazil), International Indigenous Women's Fund (FIMI) - (Perú), Korea Foundation for Women, Mongolian Women's Fund (Mones), Urgent Action Fund-Africa (Kenya), Urgent Action Fund- Asia and the Pacific (Philippines), Tewa (Nepal), South Asia Women's Fund-India, Women's Fund Asia (Sri Lanka), Women's Fund Fiji, Women Fund Tanzania, Xoese the Francophone Women's Fund (Togo)



Prospera INWF members are a leading voice and example in feminist philanthropy. We subscribe to a shared set of values and practices that uphold bold visions for the future, and which are rooted in ending multiple systems of oppression, including patriarchy, capitalism, ableism, colonialism, racism, xenophobia, and fascism. We support and fund women's and feminist movements so they are well-resourced, resilient, and enabled to pursue their activism for a more just world. We acknowledge that movements and collectives are at the very center of developing solutions and initiatives that will have a lasting impact.

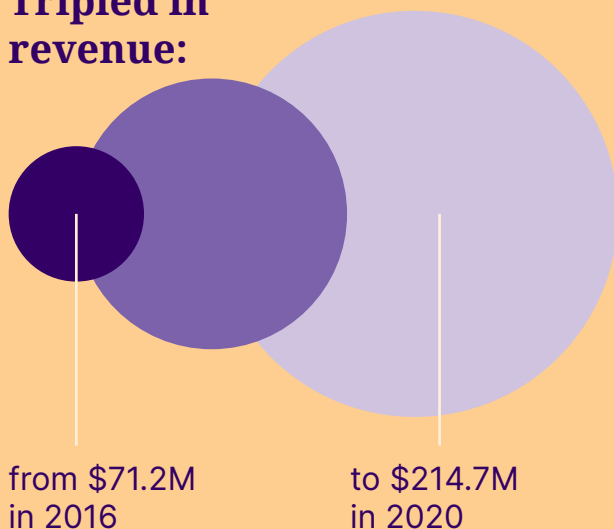
We are a diverse and interconnected network committed to resource justice and to transforming philanthropy around the world through shifting power and putting flexible money directly into the hands of women, girls, trans, intersex, non-binary feminist activists, organizations, groups, and movements.

As Prospera, we work for a feminist world where structures of exclusion, oppression, and inequity are transformed into ones of diversity, inclusion, freedom, equality, and justice. A world where all can live joyful and dignified lives and where the planet flourishes along with people.

The following five year trends analyze Prospera's data in order to demonstrate the power of our collective action, reach, influence, and opportunity.

From 2016 to 2020 Prospera members:

**Tripled in
revenue:**



We collectively gave a total of

15,631

grants to activists, organizations, groups, and collectives in 172 countries.



Mobilized:
659M USD

Invested:
426M USD

Top issues funded (*grants)

1. Women's, LBTQI and minority's human rights:

7,838*

2. Gender Based Violence:

4,357*

3. Leadership, participation, and empowerment:

3,340*

4. Sexual rights and reproductive rights:

1,502*

5. Environmental Justice:

636*

Some of the populations our members support:

Women, young women, girls, adolescents; LBTQI communities; rural women and farmer communities, indigenous peoples, black, ethnic and racialized populations; migrants, refugees and displaced people; victims of conflict and war; and sex workers, among many others.

6 new Women's and Feminist Funds joined our network:



FemFund Poland

Women's Fund Fiji



FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ASIA & PACIFIC

Urgent Action Fund Asia & Pacific

Women's Fund Armenia



Doria Feminist Fund

XOESE- the Francophone Women's Fund



Prospera Feminist Funding in *Practice*



Prospera member funds staff come from the same feminist movements they support. Because of our affinity and proximity, we understand local contexts and dynamics, and can reach groups and populations that are structurally marginalized, traditionally underfunded, and sometimes not formally constituted.

Funds are uniquely positioned to be innovative, flexible, and adaptable in finding creative ways to grant flexible resources where political and economic strife, health crises,

and environmental destruction increases the challenge of reaching women, girls and trans people and their communities.

Women's and feminist funds practice trust-based, democratic, and de-colonial philanthropy which means **activists are at the center of our work**, where funds listen, see, and respond with intention to activist needs. Prospera member funds resource movements in ways that respond directly to movement agendas, needs, and contexts.

These resources are for the most part:



Funds also provide sustained accompaniment, enable dialogue and convening spaces, as well as foster connections to other funders within our ecosystem.

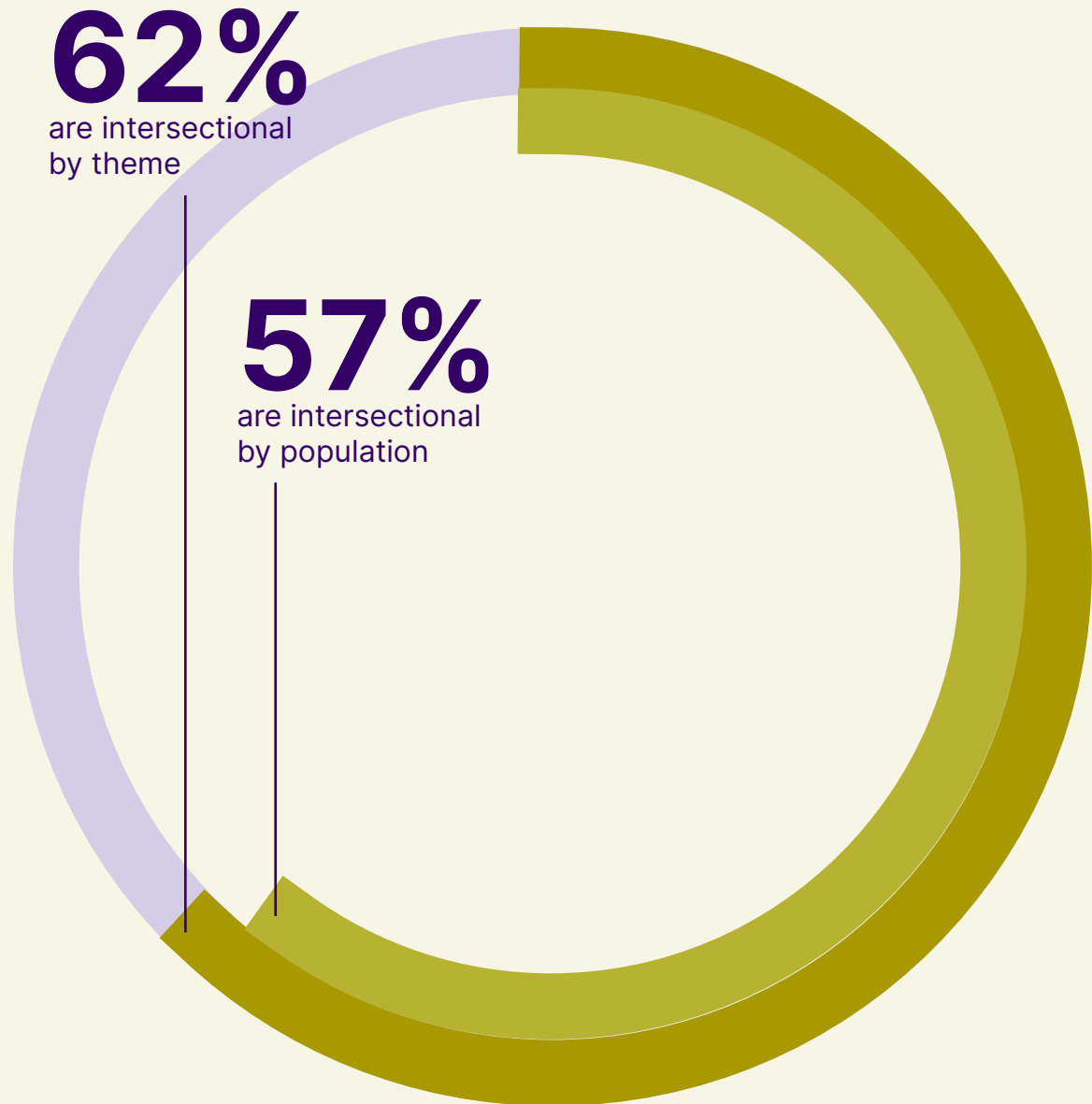
This way, feminist and social movements can fully focus on their activist and advocacy work, instead of struggling to achieve financial stability.

Intersectional approach

Women's and feminist fund members of Prospera recognize the plurality of movements and organizations. By breaking down working in silos, our members apply an intersectional lens to accelerate social change through engaging with partners at multiple levels beyond financial involvement. This means being intentional about reaching women, girls, trans, and gender non-binary activists where they live, responding to their multi-layered needs, and the complex contexts that they navigate.



From the total grants given in the 2016-2020 period,



For example, many climate justice movements intersect their work with women's and indigenous rights and with women's economic empowerment.

Similarly, communities and organizations that work for climate justice work with several populations, including girls, women, LGBTQI people. And, in many cases intersect with a diversity of races and ethnicities.



Women's and Feminist Funds in times of Crises

Survival is Political

Over the last five years, we have witnessed a multitude of unparalleled and unprecedented crises across the world —with women, girls, trans, non binary and intersex people and their historically oppressed & marginalized communities bearing the brunt of the consequences.

Pushbacks on social justice were further complicated by the Covid-19 pandemic, making it even harder for funding to reach groups and organizations — especially those that are grassroots-based and at the frontlines of holding truth to power. Notwithstanding, women's and feminist funds have demonstrated a unique capacity to reach and provide resources to structurally marginalized activists and organizations in complex contexts.

As a response to the pandemic, Prospera members acted rapidly and supported the survival and existence of feminist organizing at the grassroots. Women's and feminist funds were able to fundraise, mobilize, and multiply their resources to sustain movements who struggled to

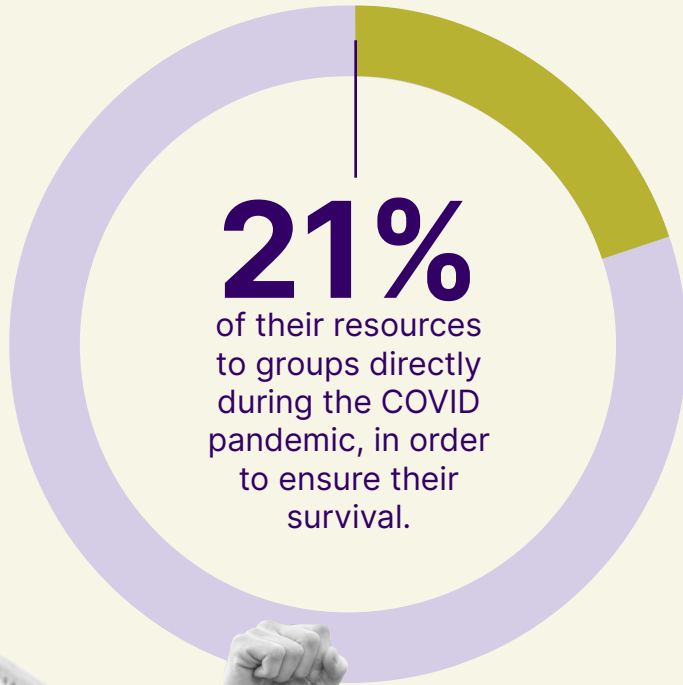
survive through lock-downs, closing civic spaces, economic downturns, and political crises.

Prospera members employed multiple strategies to mobilize resources for girls, women, intersex, non-binary and trans people despite the challenges of uncertainty and the adaptation to political organizing in a virtual world, both with colleagues and partners. Crucial strategies lay in the flexibility of resources and in supporting existing partners to re-purpose and reallocate funding as they needed.



Given women's and feminist funds' ability to reach groups during multiple crises, Prospera members designated

At the cusp of the global Covid-19 pandemic, grantmaking by Prospera members mainly focused on:



Safety



Security



Resilience of their partners



Prospera

The power of *diversity*



The Prospera network is an ecosystem of diverse funds that strategically respond to movements prioritizing the identification and distribution of resources backed by intentional listening to the needs of movements.

Prospera members reach almost every corner of the world. Our diversity allows us to analyze the local, regional, and global contexts, crucial to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities underpinning gender justice. Our members are embedded in local movements and uniquely positioned to respond to their needs within their contexts in an agile manner.

The different configurations of how each fund works is complementary, allowing for holistic collective activations, responses, and resource distribution.

Prospera provides its members with a platform for learning amongst each other, and to fostering collaboration and complementarity. One such noteworthy example is the learning circles around a feminist resource mobilization agenda during the Covid 19 pandemic, held amongst the Prospera Asia and the Pacific Chapter which culminated in:

'Responding to Feminist Movements during COVID-19' report.



Prospera in *numbers* 5 year trends 2016-2020

Prospera's Global Reach

During the 2016 to 2020 period, Prospera members gave grants to activists, organizations, groups, and collectives in 11 new countries and in a total of 172 countries around the world.

(see the *Annex* for list of countries)

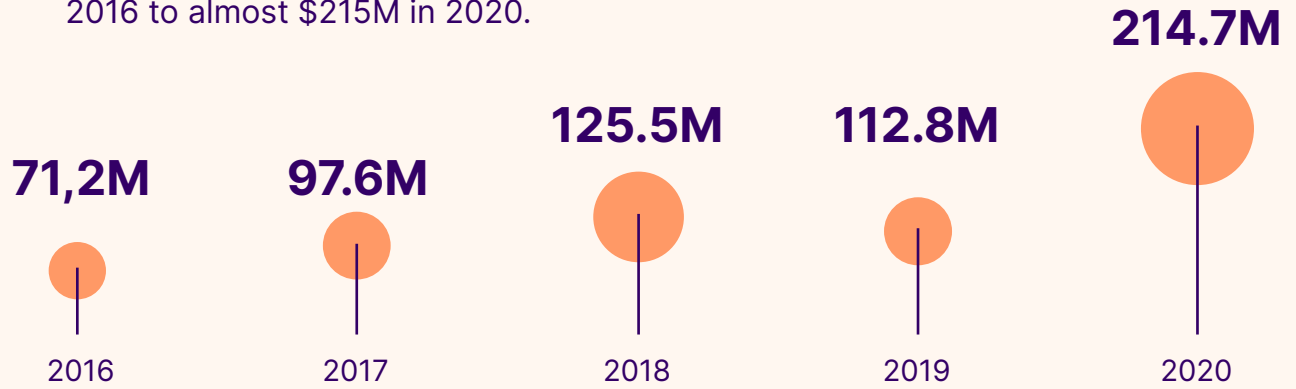
77%

of whom are located in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Central and Eastern Europe



Revenue

During the 2016-2020 period, the network recorded exponential growth tripling its revenue from \$71M in 2016 to almost \$215M in 2020.



Mobilizing

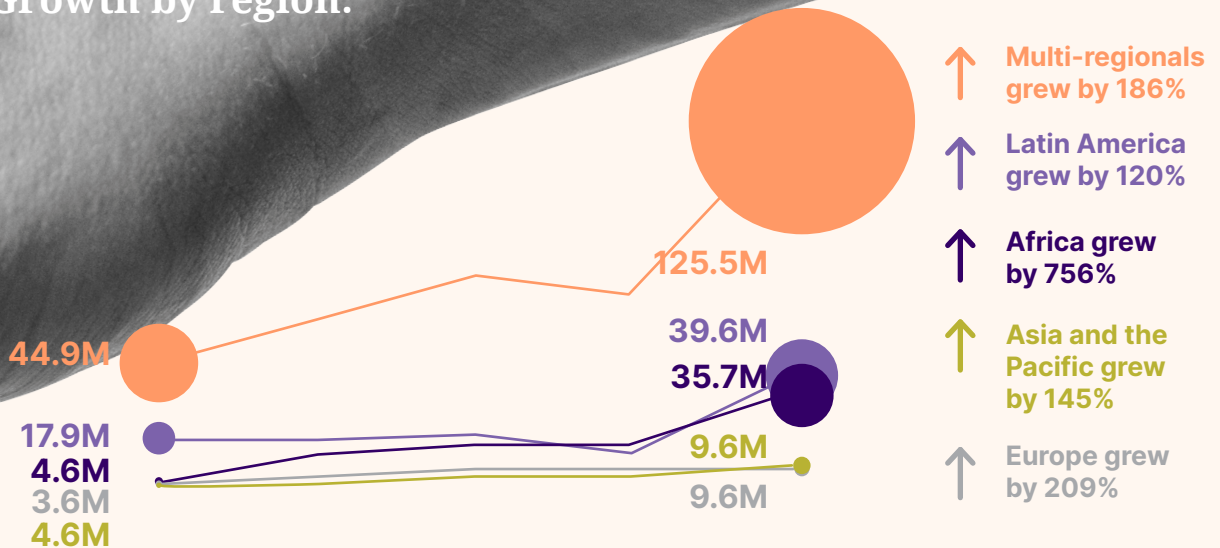
\$622M

for women's and feminist movements around the world.

Overall, the network's collective revenue grew by

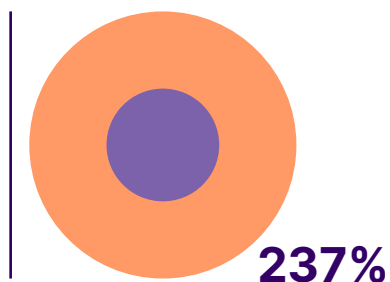
202%
from 2016-2020

Women's and Feminist Funds' Revenue Growth by region:



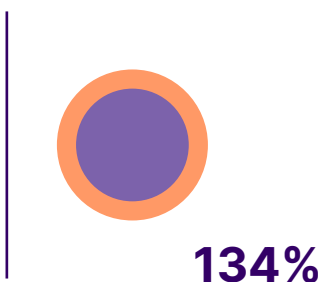
All Funds in the Network tripled their annual revenue from 2016-2020

**Global South
grew by**



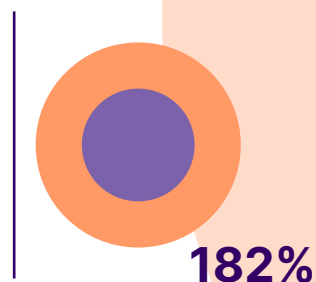
from
\$26,668,447 to
\$89,923,305

**Global East
grew by**



from
\$1,681,168 to
\$3,938,642

**Global North
grew by**



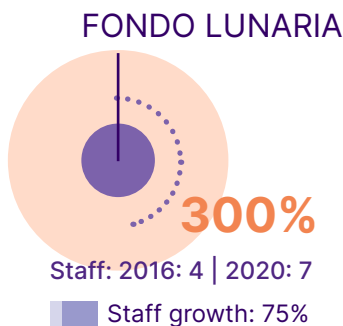
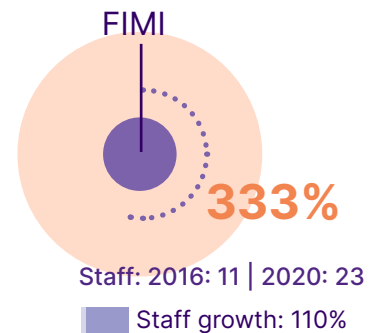
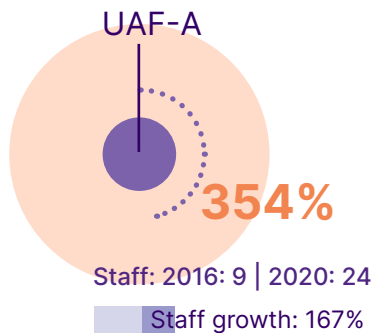
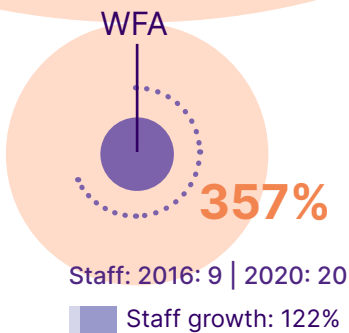
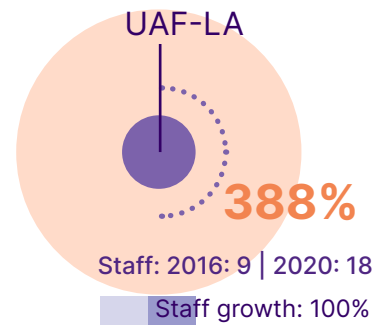
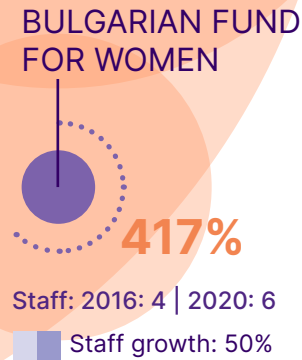
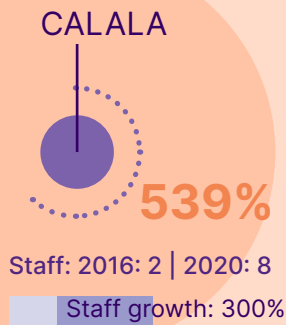
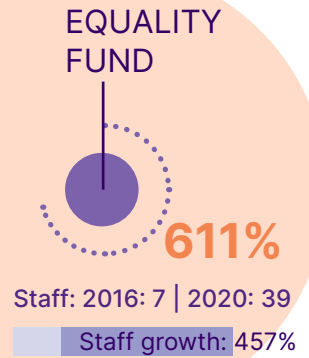
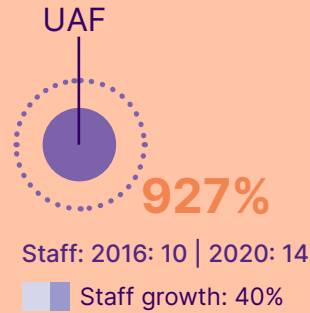
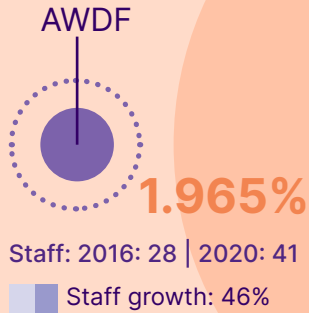
from
\$42,829,885 to
\$120,807,510

Within the feminist funding ecosystem, we are constantly advocating for more and better resources for feminist movements. Through flexible funding, we acknowledge that human rights and social justice groups and collectives are at the very center of developing solutions and initiatives that will have a lasting impact while ensuring their increased financial security. Funding that is long, predictable and flexible also allows organizations to prepare ahead of time providing increased stability.

We are moving away from a place of scarcity towards one of abundance and collective sustainability with key investments such as Leading from the South, the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action, On The Right Track, and MacKenzie Scott gifts to our network.



Top 10 women's and feminist funds by average growth 2016-2020



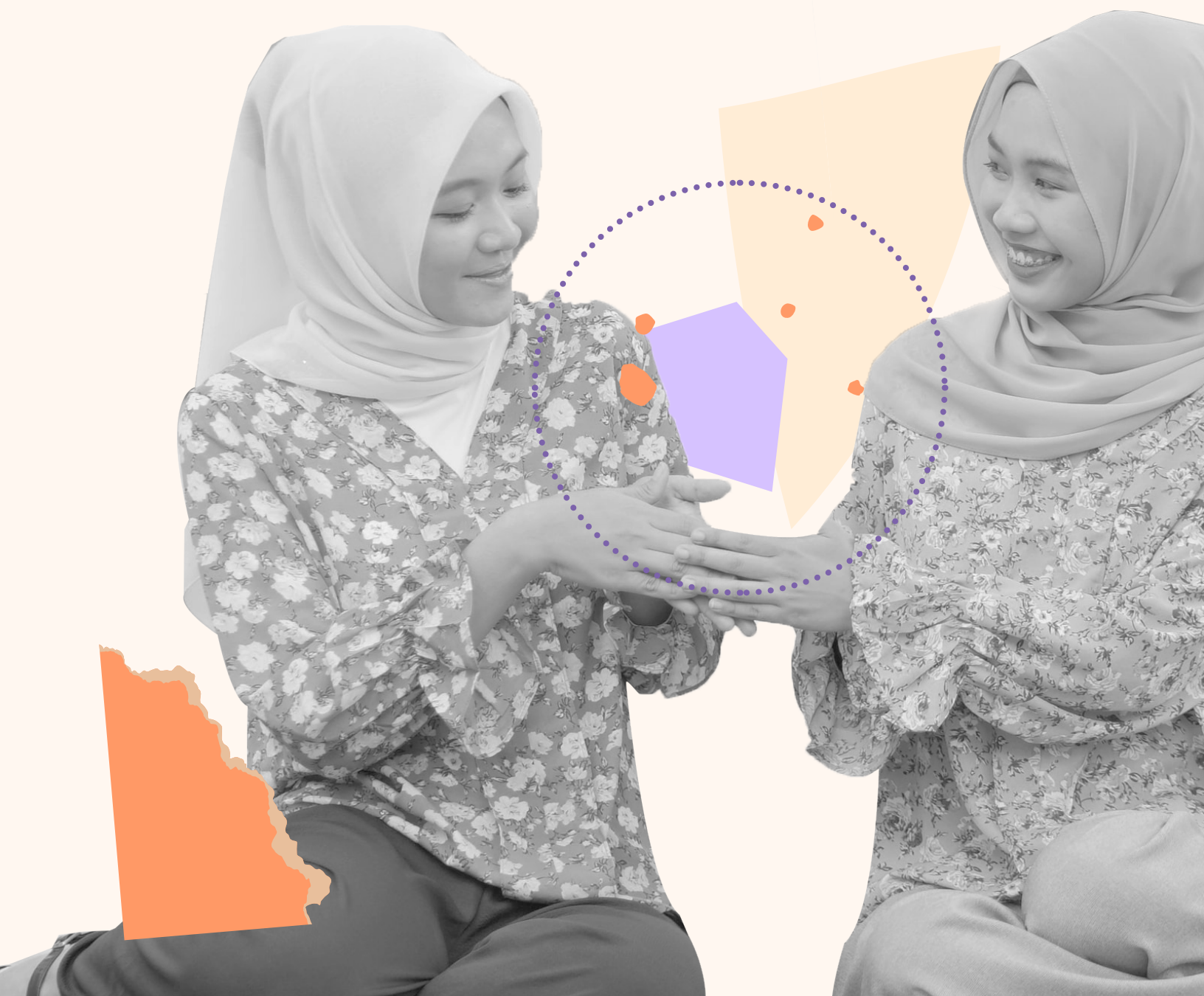
Average growth per year

Average growth 2016-2020

Staff growth 2016-2020

Building institutional resilience

In the last 5 years, Prospera INWF has become more resilient due to the investments made by our members in their own organizations. This has meant growing their staff, putting in place salary scales, benefit packages, and collective care policies in order to ensure that people's wellbeing is prioritized. Prospera members' growth implied funds growing by an average of 8% a year, adding approximately between 2 staff for national and local funds, and between 4-6 for sub-regional, regional, and multi-regional funds. In addition, Prospera members are creating important financial health indicators for sustainability such as financial reserves.



Expenditure

Prospera Expenditures: 2016-2020

15,628

Number of Grants

\$15,653

Average Amount Granted

To over

12,000

organizations

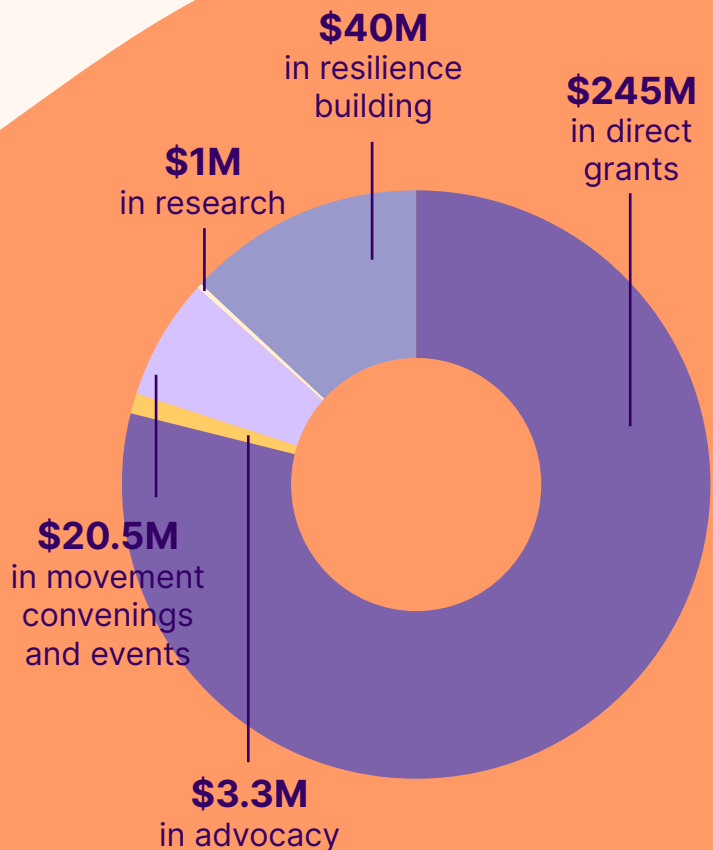
172

of COUNTRIES
granted

70%

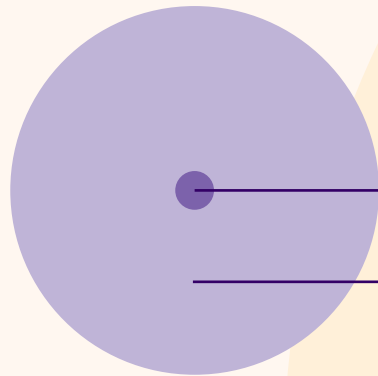
more grants than between
2010-2015

**Prospera members
granted \$309M
from 2016-2020,
strengthening
the feminist
funding ecosystem
and supporting
movements through:**



Prospera Grantmaking 2016-2020

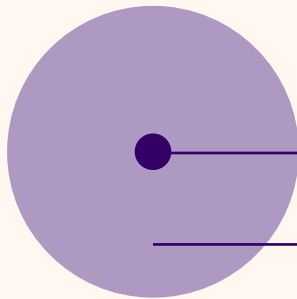
By region



Latin America

From **9.7M** in 2016
to **16M** in 2020

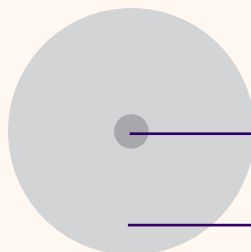
through
4,244
grants totaling
51.4M
in 37 countries



Africa

From **1.6M** in 2016
to **12.7M** in 2020

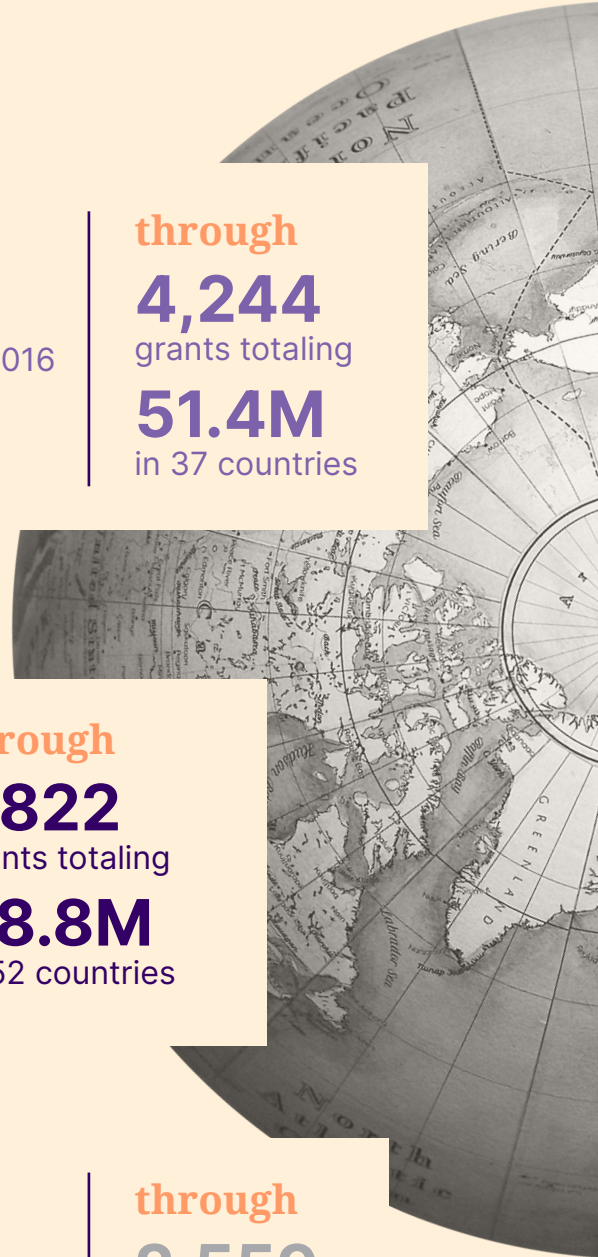
through
1,822
grants totaling
38.8M
in 52 countries

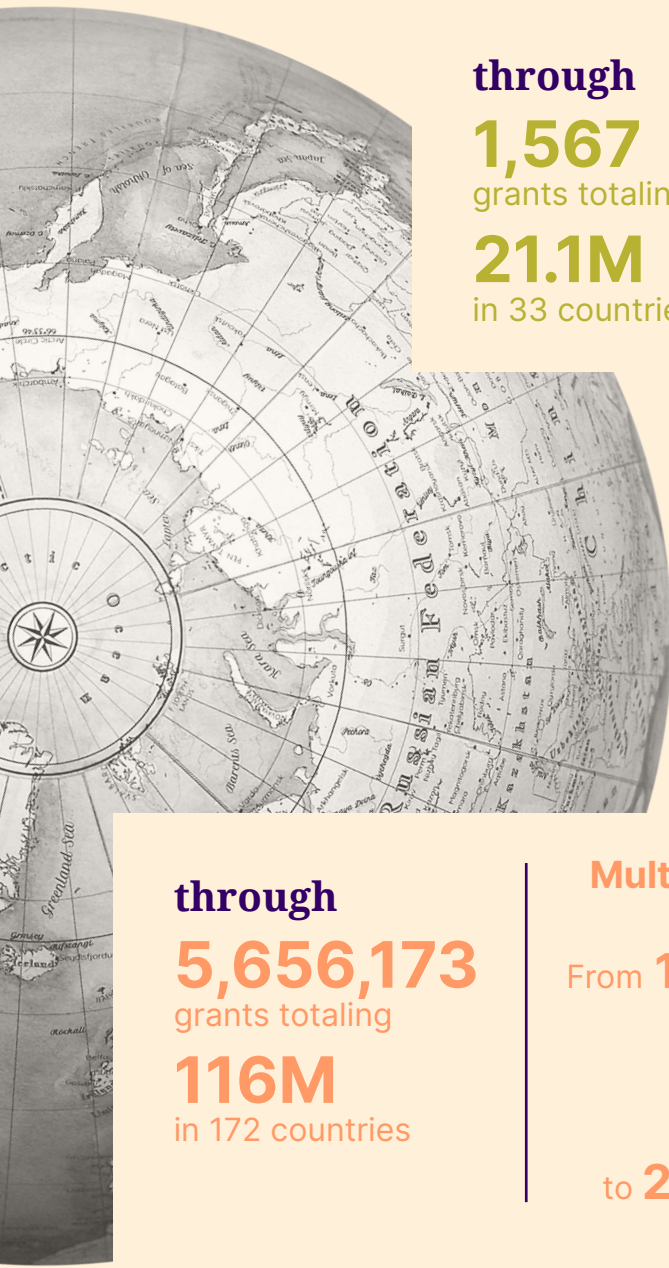


Europe

From **1.5M** in 2016
to **10.7M** in 2020

through
2,559
grants totaling
18.3M
in 19 countries

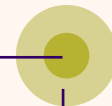




through
1,567
grants totaling
21.1M
in 33 countries

Asia and the Pacific

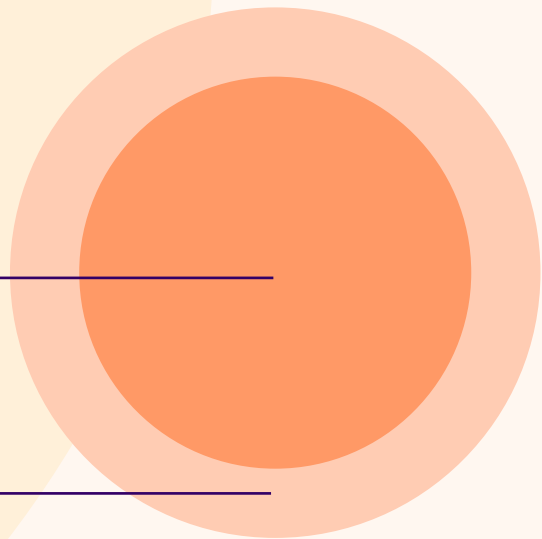
From **2M** in 2016
to **4.4M** in 2020



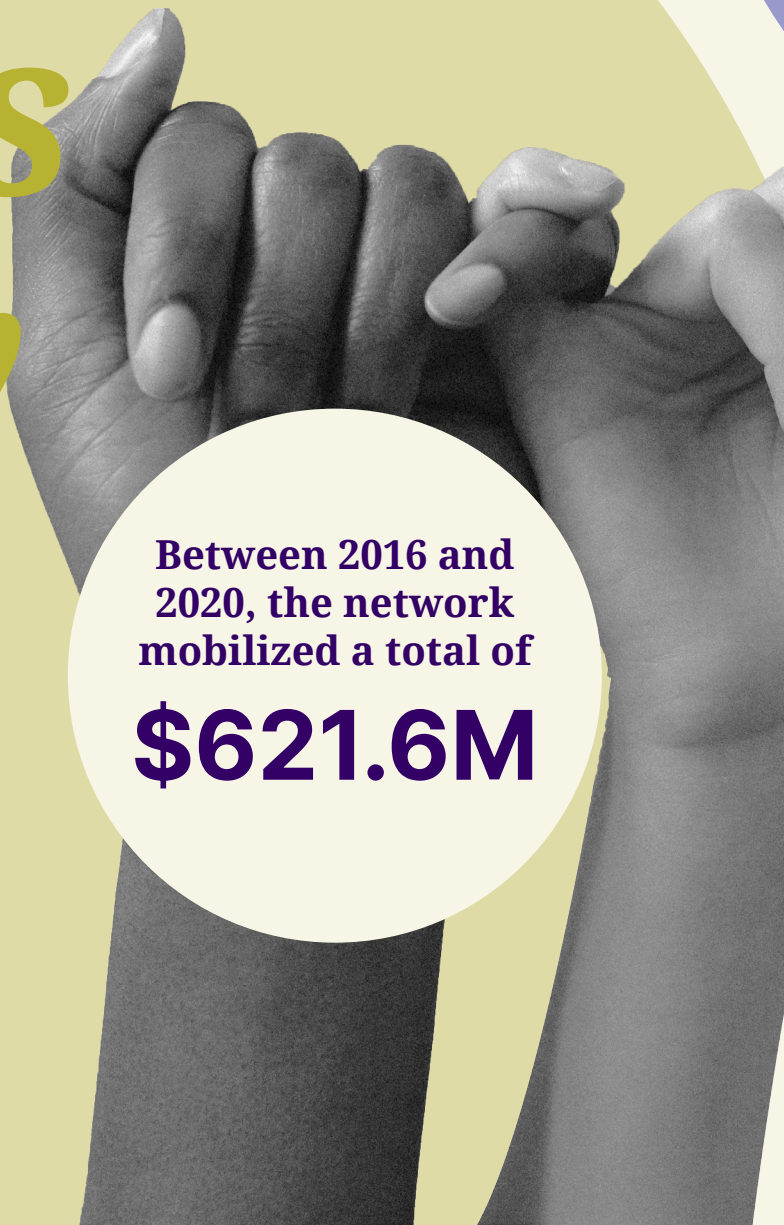
through
5,656,173
grants totaling
116M
in 172 countries

Multi-regionals

From **17M** in 2016
to **23M** in 2020

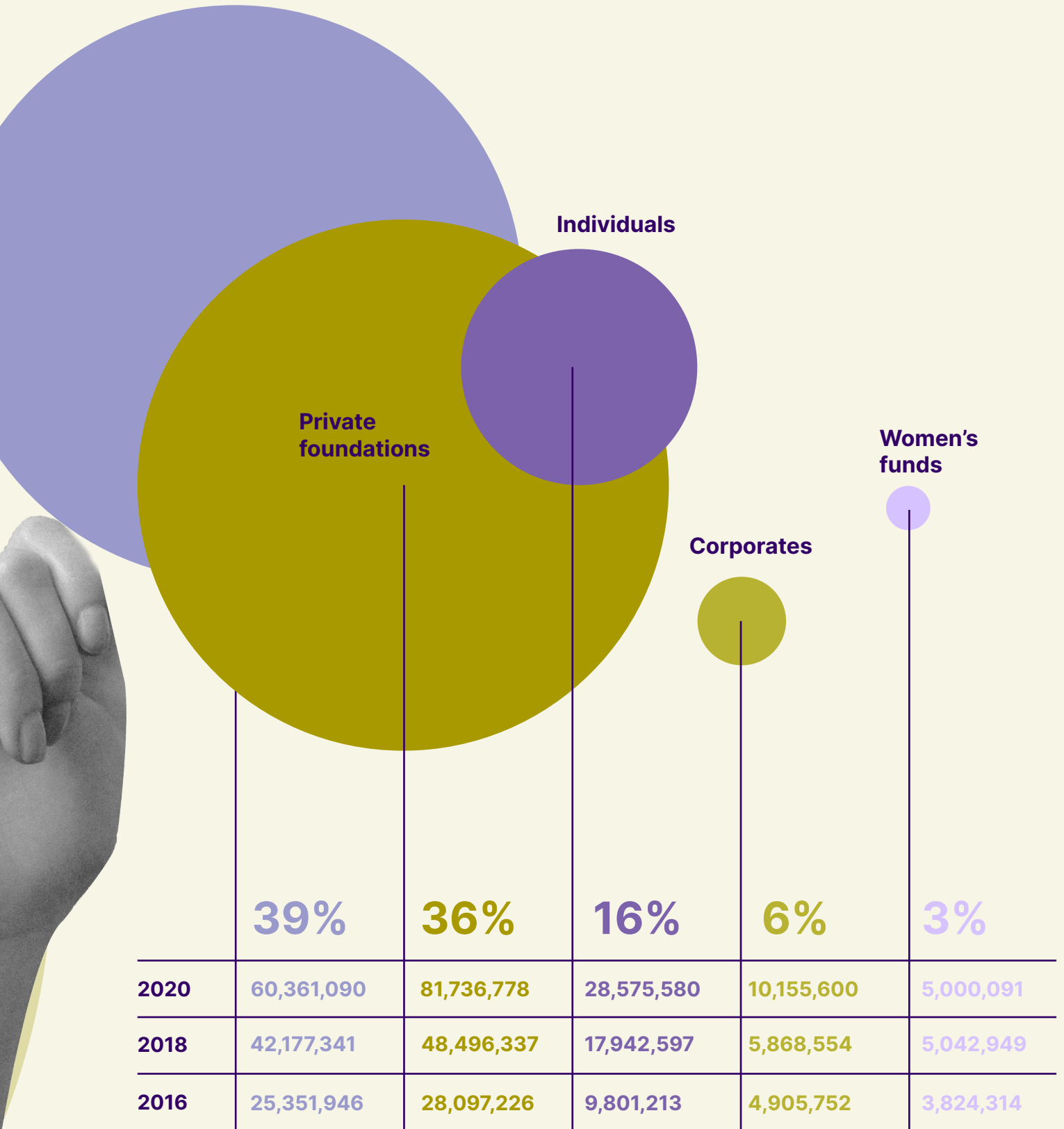


Where does Prospera *INWF's* *money* *come* *from?*

A black and white photograph of two hands clasped together, one larger and one smaller, symbolizing support or partnership. The hands are positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the main text area.

Between 2016 and
2020, the network
mobilized a total of
\$621.6M

Bilateral funders



Individuals

Private foundations

Corporates

Women's funds

39%

36%

16%

6%

3%

2020

60,361,090

81,736,778

28,575,580

10,155,600

5,000,091

2018

42,177,341

48,496,337

17,942,597

5,868,554

5,042,949

2016

25,351,946

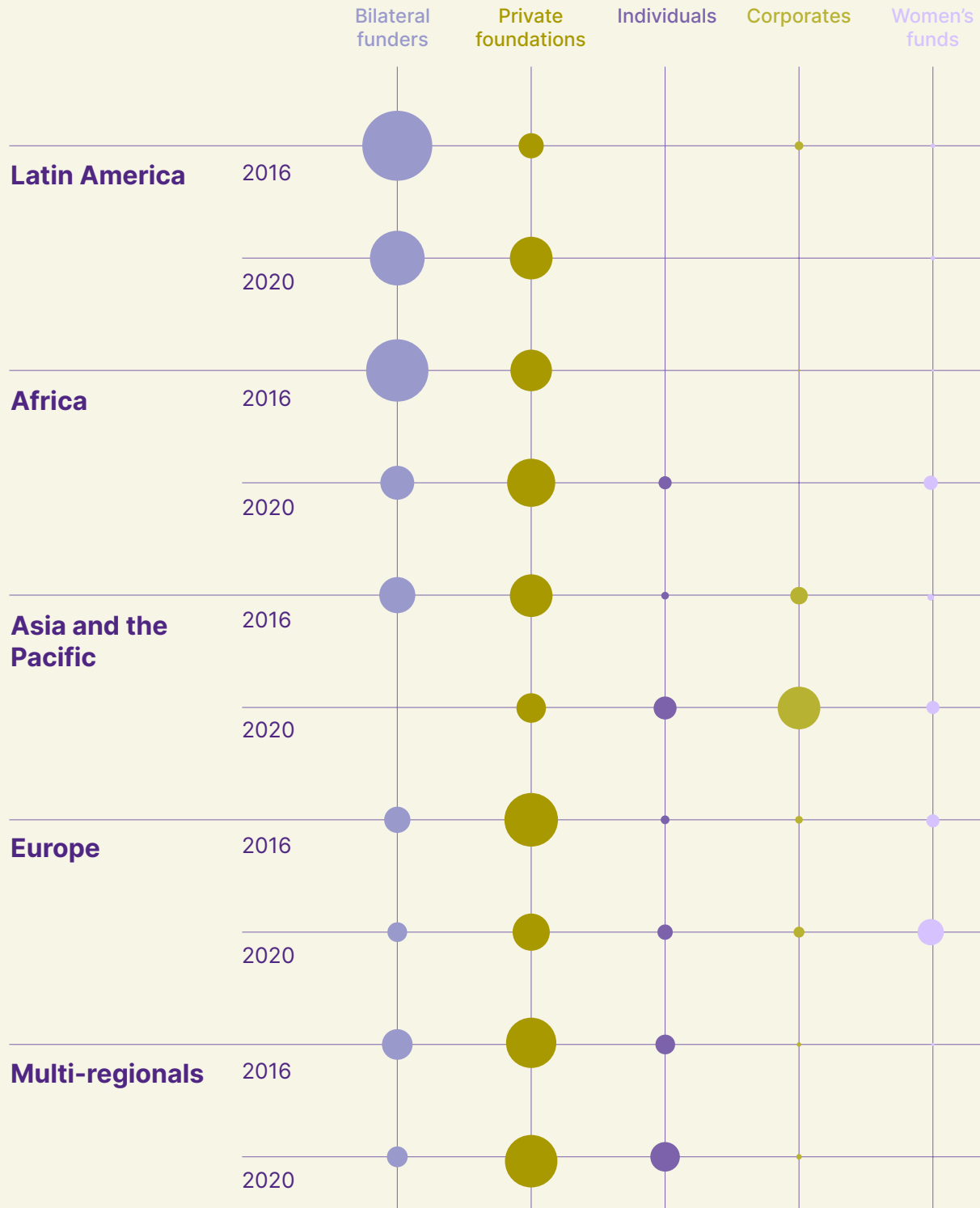
28,097,226

9,801,213

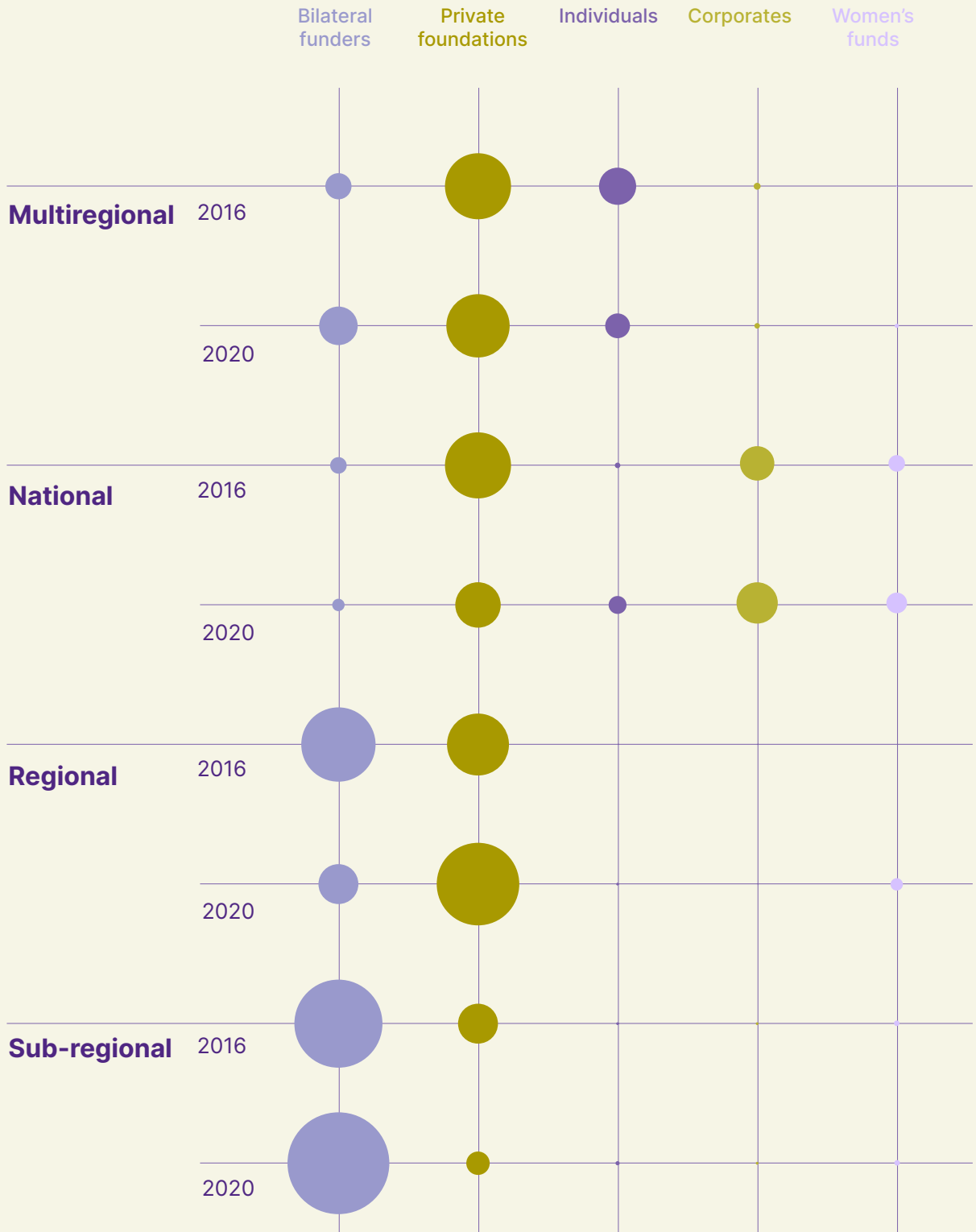
4,905,752

3,824,314

Funding source by *region*



Funding source by Cluster



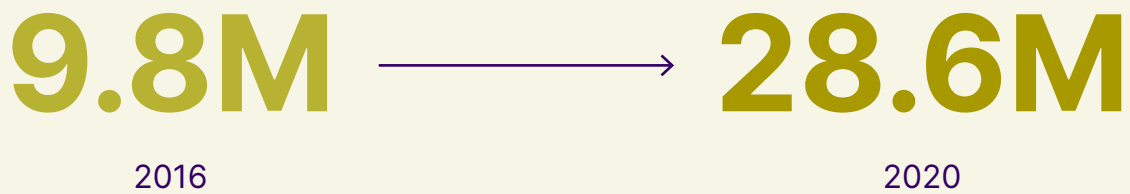
Prospera

Top 10 Funders

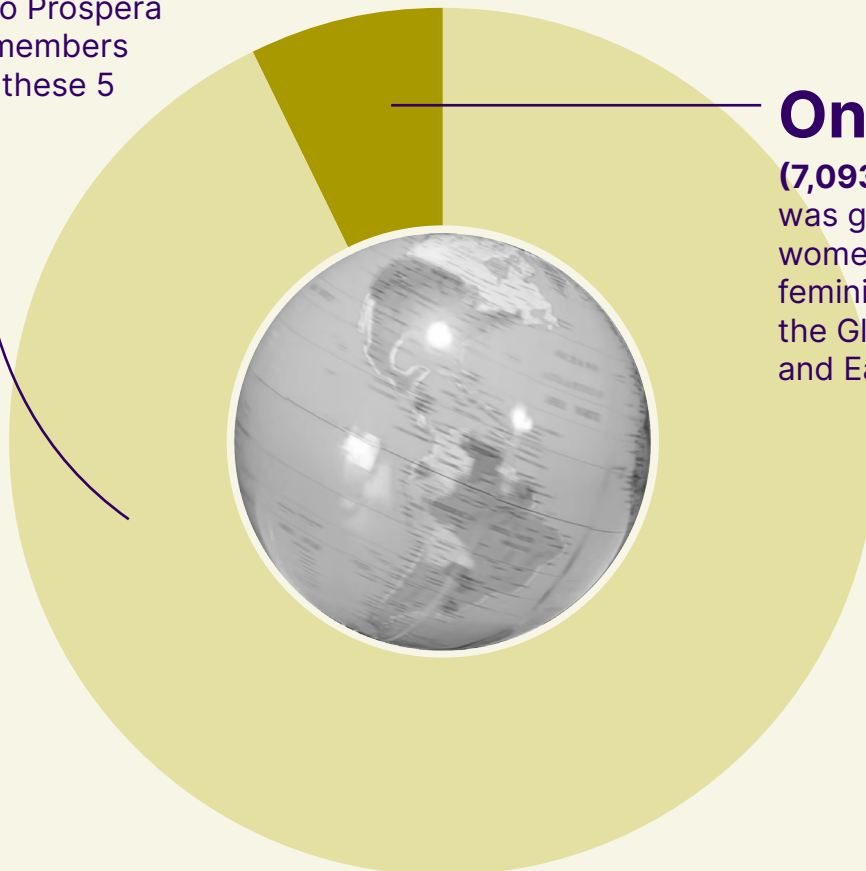


Individual donors

As global wealth is becoming more highly concentrated, inequalities are exacerbating and the philanthropic landscape is rapidly changing. During the period 2016-2020, we witnessed a considerable increase in individual donors giving to women's and feminist funds that reached 28.6M in 2020 in comparison to 9.8M in 2016.

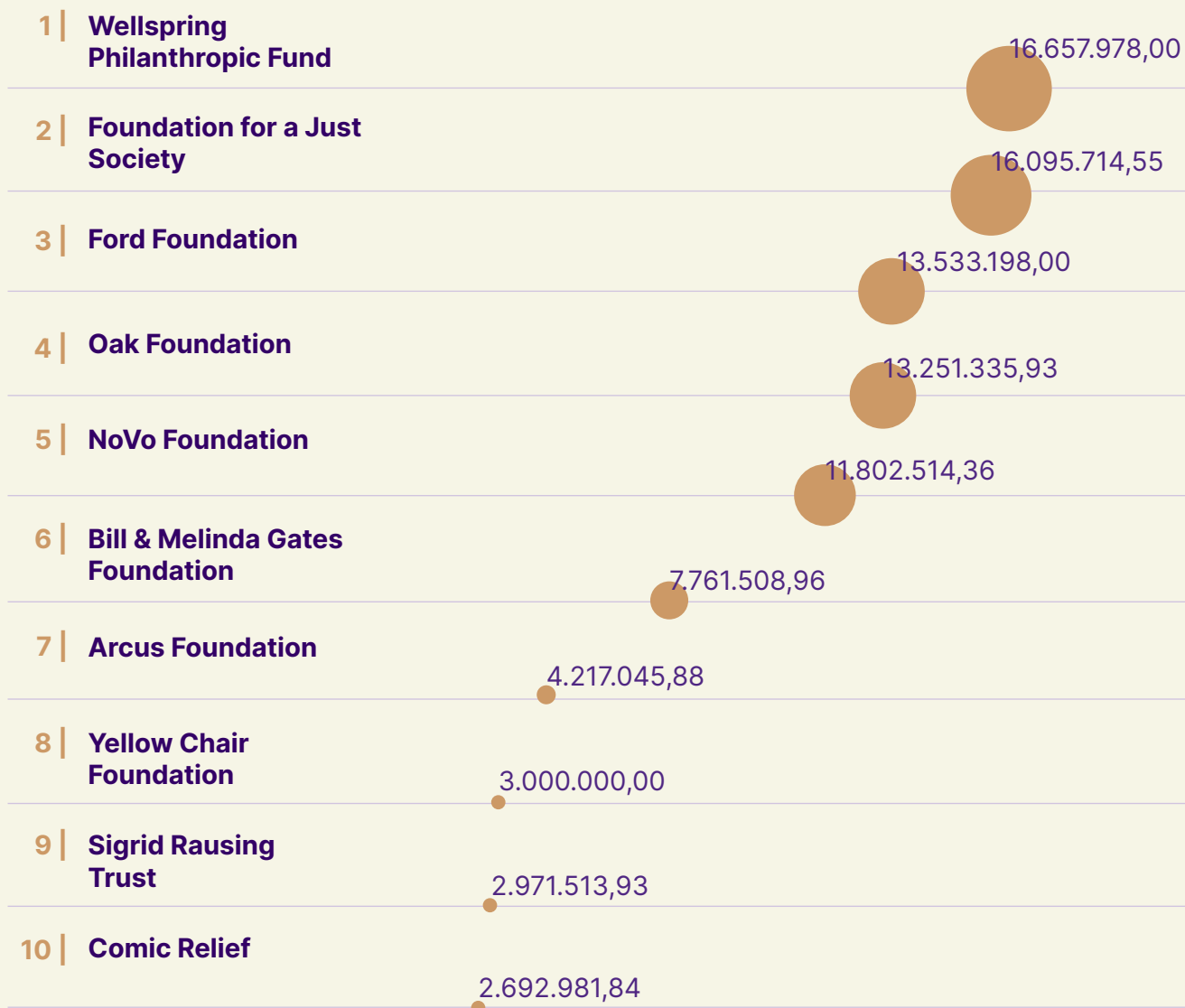


However, of the **91,272,277 USD** given to Prospera INWF members during these 5 years

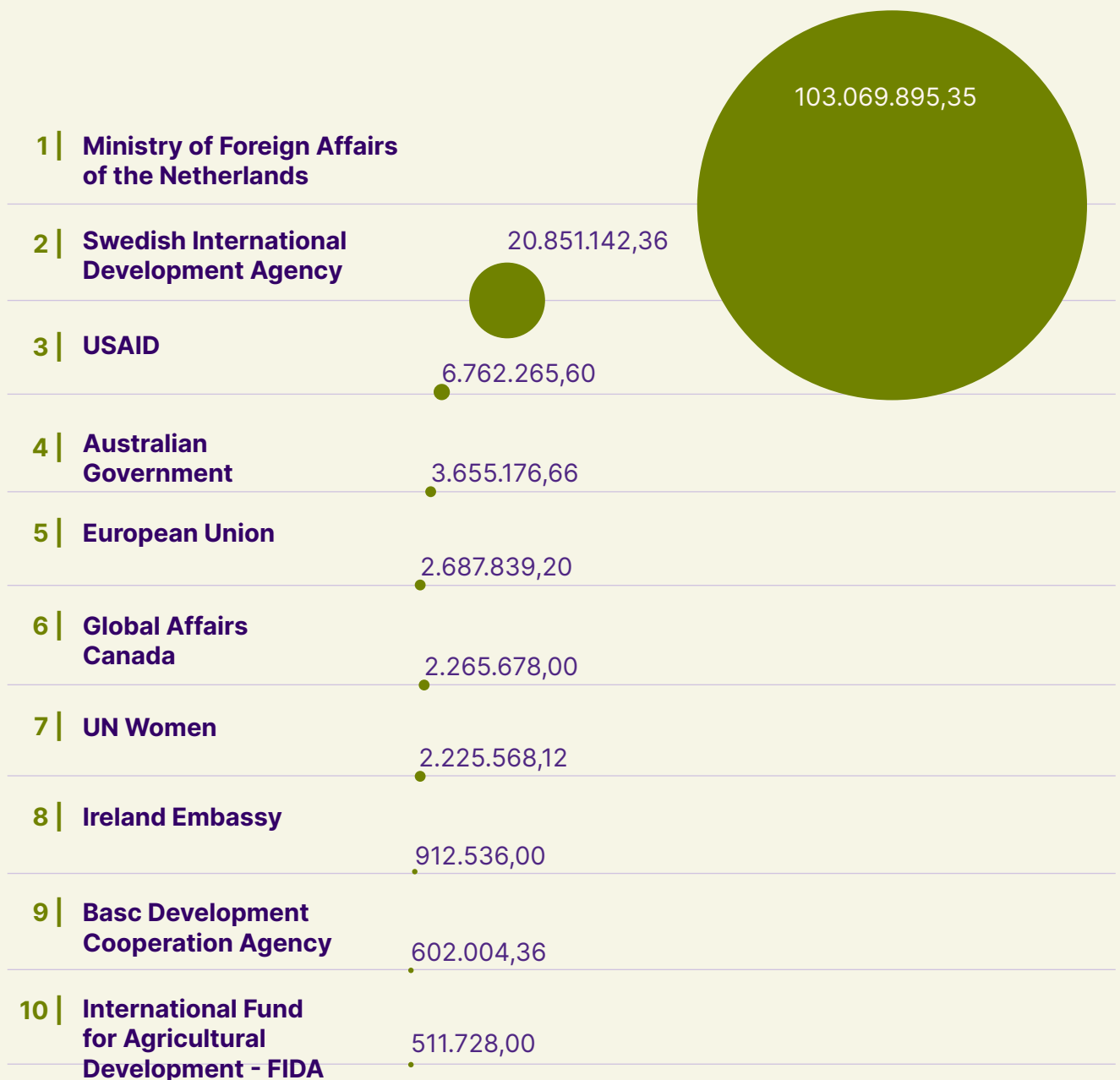


Only 8%
(7,093,501 USD)
was given to women's and feminist funds in the Global South and East

Top 10 Private Foundations



Top 10 Bilateral Governments



Top 10 Corporate Funders





What would be possible if...

Prospera members were fully resourced to support feminist movements?

While Prospera INWF has grown in terms of budget, size, and reach, we are still not able to fulfill our collective dreams. The needs of feminist movements pushing the social justice and gender equality agenda continue to be largely underfunded against a backdrop of an influx of intersectional crises and rights violations playing out simultaneously. This means that needs are morphing and changing in nature day by day. Thus, the response from women's and feminist funds requires flexibility, agility, and shifting strategies founded by the fore-fronting lived experiences of activists, organizations, and movements.

For many traditionally underfunded groups, women's and feminist funds are the only source of funding and possibility for them to sustain their critical social change work at multiple levels, including at the grassroots. In order to achieve gender equality and transform oppressive systems towards liberation and freedom for all, we need well-resourced movements sustained by long term flexible and core support, as well as rapid response and emergency grants.



What feminist transformations would be possible if all eligible applications made by movements to women's and feminist funds were properly resourced?

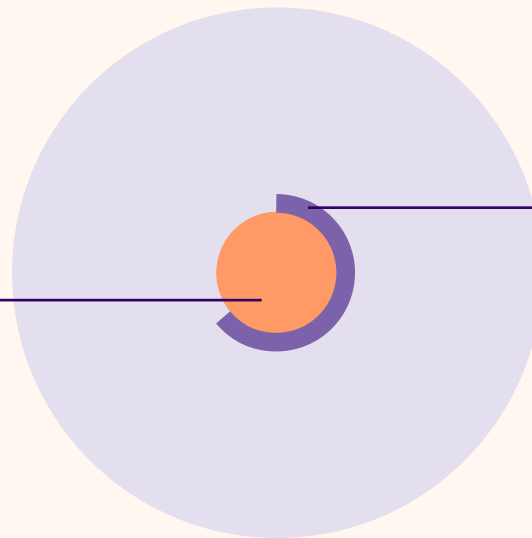


A significant disparity remains between the need for resourcing feminist movements in the Global South and East and funding availability.

In fact, across the network, women's and feminist funds were only able to support an average of

23%

of eligible applications in 2020.



More than half

64%

of eligible applications received by our members **were NOT funded in 2020.**

Region	Applications received	Applications granted	% Applications granted
Africa	6708	705	10.51%
Asia / Pacific	1704	709	41.61%
Europe	2301	846	36.77%
Latin America	2797	924	33.04%
Multi-regional	5206	1188	22.82%
Grand Total	18716	4372	23.36%



Are you ready to transform the world?



Reach out!

info@prospera-inwf.org
www.prospera-inwf.org

Annex

Countries reached by the Prospera network:

Afghanistan	Cambodia	Fiji
Albania	Cameroon	Finland
Algeria	Canada	France
Andorra	Central African Republic	Gabon
Angola	Chad	Gambia
Argentina	Chechnya	Georgia
Armenia	Chile	Germany
Australia	China	Ghana
Austria	Colombia	Greece
Azerbaijan	Costa Rica	Guam
Bahrain	Croatia	Guatemala
Bangladesh	Cuba	Guinea
Barbados	Cyprus	Guinea-Bissau
Belarus	Czech Republic	Guyana
Belgium	Democratic Republic of	Haiti
Belize	the Congo	Honduras
Benin	Denmark	Hong Kong
Bhutan	Djibouti	Hungary
Bolivia	Dominican Republic	Iceland
Bosnia and	Ecuador	India
Herzegovina	Egypt	Indonesia
Botswana	El Salvador	Iran
Brazil	Equatorial Guinea	Iraq
Bulgaria	Eritrea	Ireland
Burkina Faso	Eswatini	Israel
Burundi	Ethiopia	Italy

Ivory Coast	Nicaragua	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Jamaica	Niger	Sudan
Jordan	Nigeria	Suriname
Kazakhstan	North Macedonia	Sweden
Kenya	Pakistan	Switzerland
Kiribati	Palestinian territories	Syria
Kosovo	Panama	Taiwan
Kyrgyzstan	Papua New Guinea	Tajikistan
Latvia	Paraguay	Tanzania
Lebanon	Peru	Thailand
Lesotho	Philippines	Timor-Leste
Liberia	Poland	Togo
Libya	Portugal	Trinidad and Tobago
Lithuania	Puerto Rico	Tunisia
Madagascar	Romania	Turkey
Malawi	Russian Federation	Turkmenistan
Malaysia	Rwanda	Uganda
Mali	Saint Lucia	Ukraine
Malta	Samoa	United Arab Emirates
Mauritania	Sao Tome and Principe	United Kingdom
Mauritius	Saudi Arabia	United States
Mexico	Senegal	Uruguay
Micronesia	Serbia	Uzbekistan
Moldova	Sierra Leone	Vanuatu
Mongolia	Singapore	Venezuela
Montenegro	Slovakia	Vietnam
Morocco	Slovenia	Yemen
Mozambique	Somalia	Zambia
Myanmar	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Namibia	South Korea	
Nepal	South Sudan	
Netherlands	Spain	
New Zealand	Sri Lanka	

Feminist Funding in Practice



PROSPERA INWF's 5 YEAR TRENDS

2016 - 2020

Feminist
Funding
in Practice:



Prospera

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF WOMEN'S FUNDS

5 YEAR
TRENDS

2016 -2020