



Safe Abortion Action Fund

Annual Report 2022

A new round of flexible funding for organisations working on abortion

Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF)

SAAF is the only global fund focused exclusively on the right to safe and accessible abortion. Through our funding and support, we work to destigmatize abortion and to enable organisations in low- and middle-income countries to deliver abortion related initiatives based on their context and expertise. SAAF also creates opportunities for organisations and networks working on abortion to connect with like-minded partners, with the goal of supporting a thriving intersectional movement to advance reproductive rights for all, especially communities which experience marginalization.

In March 2022 Round 4 and Round 5 of our funding came to a close. From the beginning of Round 4 in October 2017 we delivered 90 grants with a total commitment of almost \$17 million USD.

A new round of funding (Round 6) was advertised in January 2022 – attracting 1189 applications from 90 different countries around the world. All applications were reviewed by the SAAF team and

shortlisted organisations were invited to submit full funding proposals. Following in-person and online proposal development workshops, grants were made to a total of 87 organisations – a mix of existing grantee partners and organisations new to SAAF funding. We have committed just over \$13 million USD to this round so far (with grants running until at least 2027).

See page 22 for more information about the changes we've made to our grant-making for this new round of funding.

“SAAF is an organisation that makes its partners feel comfortable, because activities are not hidden, everything is open on the platform. May this continue.”

SAAF grantee partner survey

In 2022 SAAF grantee partners supported:



over 60,000 people in accessing abortion care



nearly 1,000 healthcare workers with training on clinical abortion

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Initiative des Jeunes Filles en Action (IJEFA),
Democratic Republic of Congo

A message from the SAAF Co-Chairs

As the new Co-Chairs of the SAAF board we're excited to share this report with the world, as just a small snapshot of all the amazing things grantee partners have achieved in 2022.

The topic of abortion hit the global headlines in 2022 – in June the US Supreme Court overturned Roe Vs Wade, impacting the abortion rights of millions of people across the US but also the conversation about abortion worldwide. The devastating impact of this decision continues to reverberate around the world, but we have also been cheered to see so much positive news coming from other countries. For example, in February, Colombia decriminalized abortion so it is now available on request up to 24 weeks. And SAAF grantee partner **Tamtang Group** has been a key voice in the ongoing liberalisation of the abortion law in Thailand, where access was extended to 20 weeks. We remain in awe of all the brave and passionate campaigners who refuse to accept the criminalization and side-lining of our reproductive rights and who fight for a better tomorrow.

Last year also saw the launch of the updated World Health Organisation guidelines on safe abortion.

These guidelines are a crucial resource for abortion providers and advocates working to make all abortion options more accessible. They clearly outline the importance of decriminalizing abortion and removing all barriers to safe access. For the first time the guidelines also include recommendations on the use of telemedicine and non-clinical accompaniment for abortion and contraception services, something which a number of SAAF grantee partners are already working towards.

As board members we were honoured to be tasked with the final selection of grantees under the new round of funding launched in 2022. We were impressed by the creativity of proposals, and the passion and drive of organisations working in very restrictive settings. It was great to see evidence that this call for funding was really reaching the small, grassroots organisations SAAF seeks to support, and not just 'the usual suspects'. 93% of applicants had never applied for SAAF funding before, and just under half had an annual budget of less than \$50,000 USD. We love to know that more feminist, youth-led and progressive groups are expanding their work to boldly stand up for the right to safe, legal, abortion wherever they are.

This has been a great time to be involved with SAAF, as the Fund makes more changes to ensure our grant-making is as equitable and transparent as possible. We're excited to see that the new cohort of grantee partners is already making waves, as you'll read in this report!

Génesis Luigi and Mamello Makhele



SAAF board members Génesis Luigi (L) and Mamello Makhele (R)

The areas of work we fund

For our new round of funding, SAAF is capturing the work and progress of grantee partners using the six outcomes from our [Theory of Change](#).



Advances in abortion law and policy

45 organisations are working towards improving policy environments that support gender equity and people's ability to exercise abortion rights.



Access to quality abortion options

69 organisations are funded by SAAF to improve access to and/or the quality of abortion services and support.



Improving understanding of abortion and reducing stigma

67 organisations are working to make positive changes to community norms and attitudes on abortion.



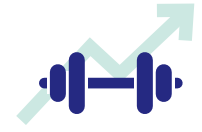
Evidence and knowledge-sharing

16 organisations are carrying out research or other evidence-building on abortion.



More vibrant civil society movements working for safe abortion rights

38 organisations are engaging with abortion rights and reproductive justice movements.



Strengthened organisations with increased capacity

23 organisations are using SAAF funding to strengthen their own organisational capacity.

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners... making advances in policy environments

Women's Global Network For Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)

Philippines

The Philippines Commission on Human Rights urges the decriminalization of abortion



WGNRR youth activists

The Philippines has one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world, with no clear exceptions. Through previous rounds of SAAF funding, **WGNRR** has built the capacity of local activists, young people, healthcare providers, and community leaders to advocate for the decriminalization of abortion in the Philippines.

WGNRR and partners submitted an NGO alternative report on the status of adolescents' reproductive rights, which was considered by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) in its review of the Philippines.

For the first time, the UN CRC urged the government to legalise abortion and ensure access to abortion and post-abortion care services for adolescent girls. Having previously deemed abortion 'immoral', the Philippines Commission on Human Rights (CHR) released a statement in September 2022 committing to supporting the decriminalization of abortion as part of a wider gender empowerment strategy.



Reproductive Health Training Center (RHTC)

Moldova

Implementing abortion by
telemedicine with buy-in
from health authorities



RHTC staff with the Transnistrian Ministry of Health and other public health officials

Funded by SAAF since 2014, **RHTC** has made significant progress in improving access to comprehensive abortion care in Moldova. However, they have noted persistent gaps in provision for those living in the post-conflict breakaway region of Transnistria, particularly coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following their successful implementation of a telemedicine abortion service in mainland Moldova, RHTC is working to introduce high-quality remote abortion care options in Transnistria.

They have trained healthcare providers on provision of medical abortion via telemedicine, and launched a pilot study to make telemedicine available in Transnistria for the first time. They have also imported and distributed the abortion medication ‘Medabon’ which had become unavailable.

All this was possible due to the firm buy-in RHTC received from an on-going positive relationship with the regional Public Health Authority as well

as a range of other clinical, academic and civil society stakeholders. They were asked to support the revision of the regional abortion care protocol to include the updated WHO recommendations on abortion from 2022, with a focus on self-care and abortion via telemedicine. It’s expected that the service will be fully functional by 2024.

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners improving access to abortion options

Centro Internacional Para Saúde Reprodutiva (ICRH-M)

Mozambique

Introducing safe abortion care to new districts in Mozambique



Medical staff with ICRH-M materials

ICRH-M works to improve access to safe, high-quality abortion services in the Tete region of Mozambique. Through SAAF funding they have now trained over 50 healthcare providers in four districts – Angónia, Cahora Bassa, Changara and more recently, Magoé.

Expanding into the Magoé district means legal abortion services are now being provided there for the first time since the law was liberalised in 2014. ICRH-M has witnessed greater acceptance of abortion care as their work progresses, noting that there was not a single healthcare provider in this district who refused to provide services under ‘conscientious objection’, something which has been an issue with previous cohorts.

In just six months, ICHR-M supported 455 women and girls to access abortion and post-abortion care services. This is an increase of 50% compared to the previous six months.



Socorristas En Red public stall

Socorristas En Red

Argentina

Enabling access to safe abortion options via expanded hotline coverage

Socorristas En Red is a feminist organisation which supports people to access safe abortion in Argentina, where abortion was legalised in 2020 but is still not fully accessible to all.

Socorristas has expanded its pregnancy advice hotline to the entire Buenos Aires region in addition to the existing five other regions covered in Argentina. With SAAF funding they have been

able to increase the hours that the toll-free line is available to those who need it, including paying stipends to previously unpaid volunteers.

In 2022 the hotline received over 12,000 calls, an increase of 14% compared to the same period in the previous year. In just six months they have supported 4719 people to access abortion and post-abortion care services in public health facilities.

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners changing norms and attitudes

MABIA-Ghana

Ghana

Educating young people on safe abortion in Ghana



MABIA-Ghana has been working for years to reduce the frequency of unsafe abortion amongst underserved communities in Ghana. As well as supporting the provision of high-quality services, they also work to improve public understanding of safe abortion options and reproductive rights.

In 2022, at a public action organised by MABIA, the Regional Director of Education pledged to work with the organisation to train teachers on safe abortion, and to set up school clubs to educate students on sexual and reproductive health issues. This public declaration marks a key demonstration of increased awareness of and commitment to tackling unsafe abortion amongst young people.



Young people representing MABIA-Ghana at a public demonstration for safe abortion

Nujeen for Family Democratizing Organization (NFDO)

Iraq

**Training healthcare
providers on safe abortion**

Working in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, **NFDO** is aiming to build support for progressive change to increase access to safe abortion options. As well as working in coalition with feminist organisations, and delivering a media campaign titled 'Briyar Briyara te ye' (the decision is yours), NFDO has trained nurses and midwives on safe abortion care and family planning.

Considering the stigma of talking about abortion in the region, NFDO was pleased that participants were willing to not only attend a training on this topic, but were also receptive and engaged:

"The best progress for us was when we saw the health providers saying the words 'safe abortion' so positively without shame or fear, just as if they were saying the word 'maternity' or 'postnatal care'."



NFDO training on reproductive healthcare

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners sharing knowledge on abortion



Manodiversa staff team

Manodiversa

Bolivia

Highlighting barriers to safe abortion for the LGBTQI+ community



An organisation primarily dedicated to the rights of people who are LGBTQI+, **Manodiversa** first applied for SAAF funding in 2019 when they noted that abortion rights campaigners were rejected from a Pride march. They have since used SAAF funding to raise awareness on the specific and unmet needs of gender and sexual minorities when it comes to safe abortion and reproductive health.

In 2022 Manodiversa interviewed 168 lesbian and bisexual women, trans men, and non-binary individuals with the ability to become pregnant. They found that six in 10 of those surveyed had had at least one abortion. The research uncovered specific barriers, for example, for trans men:

“We have heard of cases of trans boys forced to continue pregnancies and locked up to do so, with the excuse that motherhood would ‘correct’ them.”

Manodiversa uses this evidence to advocate for specialised healthcare information and services for queer communities in Bolivia. They have presented a report on abortion for diverse populations to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and to the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and continue to reach wider audiences through their podcast, press coverage and social media outreach.

The YP Foundation

India

Assessing the youth-friendliness of abortion services in India

Although India has a liberal abortion law, there are still many barriers to accessing safe and legal abortion care. **The YP Foundation** knows that young people are especially at risk of unsafe abortion, due to specific factors such as discrimination in healthcare services.

Working across seven states, The YP Foundation's trained fellows identified and assessed gaps in service delivery, providers' attitudes, and accessibility of abortion services through a social audit of abortion facilities in their respective districts.

Posing as 'mystery clients' they were able to gain insight into access issues which young people faced. They found discrepancies when it came to cost, breaches of confidentiality, and judgements and discrimination from service providers relating to age, gender, caste and marital status. They continue to advocate for the recommendations in the report to be implemented across the country.



TYPF staff with their newly launched comic book

Other research published by SAAF funded grantee partners in 2022

Reproductive Health Training Center (RHTC):

[Medical abortion via telemedicine for women and adolescents: Experience from Moldova](#)

Balance AC:

[The influence of feminist abortion accompaniment on emotions related to abortion: A longitudinal observational study in Mexico](#)

PHD Group:

[Factors associated with contraception and induced abortion among young women in Nepal](#)

Fondo Maria:

[Factors influencing abortion decisions, delays, and experiences with abortion accompaniment in Mexico among women living outside Mexico City: results from a cross-sectional study](#)

Ghana National Association of the Deaf (GNAD):

[Achieving universal reproductive health coverage for deaf women in Ghana: an explanatory study of knowledge of contraceptive methods, pregnancy and safe abortion practices](#)

Community Health Rights Network (COHERINET):

[COHERINET report on unsafe abortion in Uganda](#)

Mama Network:

[The impact of COVID-19 on safe abortion access in Africa: An analysis through a framework of reproductive justice and lens of structural violence](#)



Justus from The St Augustine Community Health Centre (SACH) presenting at the ICFP conference

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners building abortion rights movements

Balance AC

Mexico

Linking abortion rights activists across Mexico



Fondo Maria abortion rights activists

Through the MARIA Abortion Fund for Social Justice (Fondo Maria), feminist organisation **Balance** works with activists to provide accompaniment and support to those in need of accessing safe abortion services.

Fondo Maria provides tailored support to its 20 liaisons in different states of the country, strengthening capacities and skills for advocacy, strategic communication and feminist accompaniment for abortion services.

In Michoacán they have advised on the tactics of anti-rights groups and ways to challenge these arguments in advocacy spaces. In Hidalgo, they participated in actions to commemorate the anniversary of the decriminalization of abortion in the state. They facilitated a workshop to discuss the stigma associated with abortion, as well as best practices to ensure implementation of the new law.



Visible Impact

Nepal

Engaging young people in the movement to decriminalize abortion in Nepal

According to the 2018 Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, abortion is legal in Nepal, though with conditional provisions, and it is still not fully decriminalized. Implementation of the Act to increase access to safe abortion services and information has not been fully recognized and prioritized at the provincial and local levels.

Visible Impact is therefore advocating with the government at different levels to accelerate

Visible Impact youth advocates on International Safe Abortion Day

the implementation of the Act and to fully decriminalize abortion.

Together with the Reproductive Health Rights Working Group (RHRWG), Visible Impact is working with experts, activists, and CSOs in this regard. They are providing critical youth engagement within this movement, ensuring trained youth champions are attending lobbying meetings in their provinces.

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners strengthening their organisational capacity

Abortion Support South Africa (ASSA)

South Africa

Registering as a non-profit organisation and hiring staff for the first time



ASSA's first board meeting as a registered organisation

Abortion Support South Africa (ASSA) is improving access to safe abortion, in-part by implementing a low-cost telemedicine abortion service across South Africa.

The funding SAAF provided to ASSA in 2022 was the first grant they have ever received. During the proposal process SAAF staff supported ASSA to register as an NGO. Rather than relying on a fiscal sponsor this meant they could use more of the funds for activities, and be in a better position to apply for and manage additional grants from other donors.

They have been able to pay lawyers to draft founding documents, and accountants to help set-up robust financial practices. For the first time they

have been able to hire paid staff, as well as carry out organisational audits and gain tax exempt status.

“Without this grant and SAAF’s willingness to support grassroots higher-risk organisations like ours, we would not be a registered NGO and would not be in a position to do the work we are doing...For us this is a large grant and we count every penny so that we can change the abortion landscape in South Africa.”

Rural Women Center for Education and Development (RuWCED)

Cameroon

Support for staff members dealing with traumatic events

RuWCED works in the North-Western region of Cameroon, where on-going conflict puts the safety of many at risk. Schools have now been closed for years, and young women are particularly at risk of sexual violence.

Part of RuWCED's SAAF funded work involves setting up specialised clinics for young people to access sexual and reproductive healthcare. In the process of this work, it has become apparent that most of the adolescents visiting the clinics had experienced severe trauma as a result of the socio-political crisis in the region. As a result, RuWCED organised a training on Trauma-Informed Approaches and Psychosocial Interventions in Fragile Conflict-Affected and Vulnerable Settings for healthcare providers, but also their general staff. Since all are in some way affected by the violence, they have ensured access to a psychosocial counsellor for staff and are introducing more self-care measures in their operations moving forward.

“Thank you RuWCED, I have never attended a training like this, it was firstly for my own healing. I will be able to manage adolescent clients going through different traumatic situations. What I cannot manage, I will be able to refer.”

Training participant



RuWCED staff training

Meet some of the new SAAF grantee partners

In 2022, SAAF made new grants to a total of 87 organisations. 49 of these were organisations which had previously received SAAF funding, and 38 had no previous experience with SAAF.

We interviewed individuals working with these new organisations to find out more about the important work they are doing.



Anindya Nastiti Restuviani

**Programme Director,
Jakarta Feminist in Indonesia**

Why do you work on abortion?

"I believe abortion is our right. It's beyond family planning, it's healthcare. At Jakarta Feminist we believe that criminalizing abortion is a systemic tool to control our bodies, stripping us of the right to choose our life and wellbeing."

What do you hope to achieve through your SAAF funded work?

"Currently in Indonesia we face many restrictions, not only on abortion but generally on sexual and reproductive rights. The new Criminal Code limits access to reproductive healthcare by criminalizing people that share information on contraception and abortion. This makes it hard for civil society organisations just to provide information about

abortion, let alone support access to safe abortion itself. Through SAAF funding, we are working to build support for abortion rights, to raise awareness on the importance of decriminalizing abortion, and ensure that accurate information on abortion is accessible to those who need it."



Phylis Mbeke

**Executive Director,
Women Spaces Africa
in Kenya**

Why do you work on safe abortion?

“Compared to women without disabilities, girls and women with disabilities face more obstacles when trying to access sexual and reproductive healthcare. However, advocates for safe abortion tend to focus on the general population, and girls and women with disabilities are ignored or serve as passive recipients. Access to abortion services is essential for protecting the human rights of girls and women with disabilities who exercise their sexuality and get pregnant. Women Spaces Africa bridges the gap by ensuring people with disabilities get the right information, services, referrals, and accompaniment on abortion.”

What do you hope to achieve through your SAAF funded work?

“Increased reproductive autonomy for girls and women with disabilities by improving access to safe, quality abortion services free of stigma, judgment, and physical barriers.”

Verónica Cruz Sánchez

**Executive Director,
Las Libres
in Mexico**



Verónica Cruz Sánchez (R)

Why do you work on safe abortion?

“Because I am a feminist, and abortion is a cross-cutting issue of feminism. I have been a feminist activist for safe abortion for three decades, and an abortion escort and trainer of support networks for safe medical abortion for two decades. So, a large part of my life is linked to guaranteeing access to safe abortions, with social accompaniment, without stigma, and so that every person who decides to terminate an unwanted pregnancy experiences it as a right.”

What do you hope to achieve through your SAAF funded work?

“To build a very broad base of social accompaniment to guarantee safe self-managed abortions, especially for migrant women and girls in Mexico. With the wider aim of integrating a large network along the entire migration route from Central America to the USA for the most vulnerable and marginalised people.”



Emina Bosnjak

**Executive Director,
Sarajevo Open Centre
in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Why do you work on safe abortion?

"The right and access to safe abortion in Bosnia and Herzegovina has steadily and significantly deteriorated in the last decade, alongside other sexual and reproductive rights and services. Recently, we've seen stronger pushback from a myriad of anti-gender actors focused on stripping women of their autonomy and access to basic health services. This poses a significant threat with the possibility to sway the public and political debate in an even more regressive direction."

What do you hope to achieve through your SAAF funded work?

"We hope to bring together a wider feminist movement to stand against the deterioration and limitation of abortion rights and access. We hope that we can clearly establish what needs to be done to improve access to abortion in Bosnia and Herzegovina, paving the way for advancing the view of abortion as an issue of health and a human right."



New grantee partners at a SAAF inception workshop in Nairobi

Changes to SAAF's grantmaking



RHAC carries out evaluation interviews in Cambodia

Following an independent review of our grant-making processes in 2021, SAAF set about making updates and improvements to the way we work based on recommendations from grantee partners and others working within the sector.

We were pleased to see that overall, organisations receiving funding from SAAF were satisfied with our processes, but we nevertheless took the opportunity to improve our work further and ensure that the support we provide is fair, flexible, and impactful.

A concerted effort was made to ensure our latest funding call reached a wider and more diverse set of applicants than ever before. Social media adverts were created in all three working languages and targeted audiences in countries and regions previously under-represented in SAAF's portfolio. A special effort was made to attract applications from organisations in Francophone Africa, and in the Caribbean, as well as groups not yet working directly on SRHR such as

feminist-led networks, and organisations focused on supporting people living with disabilities and LGBTQI+ individuals. This targeted outreach was a success and led to the highest number of applications SAAF has ever received, from a total of 90 different countries around the world.

93% of applicants had never applied for SAAF funding before

25% of applicants had never received international grants before

46% of applicants had an annual organisational budget of less than US\$ 50,000

New applicant questions to assess organisational values

We revised our funding application form to find out more about applicants' work and values. This including asking questions about their motivation to work on abortion, their approach to gender, whether they are women-led, and diversity and representation within their organisational structures. All applications were scored against these criteria alongside the proposed results. Organisations which did not address abortion as a rights-based issue were not shortlisted.

89% of the organisations approved for funding are women-led.

Simplified application process and reporting forms

The SAAF website was redesigned at the end of 2021 to share more accessible information about applying for funding in English, French and Spanish.

For Round 6, all application forms and reporting processes are now online. Grantee partners no longer need to download and attach files but can work with simple online links to personalised information in their working language. Online systems also allow the SAAF team to track and systematize data more easily.

When reporting on their funded work, grantee partners no longer need to report on set indicators based on numerical targets, but rather a more flexible measurement of progress, based on their own definitions of success. These processes were developed with feedback from grantee partners, who have since shared positive responses about the new approach:

"Reporting has become a lot more grantee partner friendly".

"A new approach to writing reports gives us a deeper understanding of achievements and analysis of our own interventions!"

Simplified budgeting requirements

SAAF has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to fraud, and works with robust financial systems. However, within this we also try to make sure our processes are accessible to a wide range of organisations with different capacity and experience levels.

Financial templates for grantee partner budgets have been made simpler to complete, with grantee partners able to provide high-level budget lines for their activities rather than detailed breakdowns of each cost. While SAAF funding is not fully unrestricted, we have moved away from offering fully restricted project-based funding and introduced the option to spend on 'organisational strengthening'. We now offer flexible grants that support the organisation's overall work on abortion.

Increased support to grantee partners

As part of our commitment to support a growing movement on abortion, we have refined two additional components of our grantmaking –

Technical Allyship and Networking and Coordination. These components aim to foster a strong and connected global movement towards gender equality, bodily autonomy and reproductive rights.

Through the newly developed SAAF Technical Allyship strategy we seek to act as a convener for technical support and to facilitate access to capacity building opportunities, while having grantee partners' needs, challenges, and context at the forefront of what capacity strengthening should look like. We carry out a continuous needs assessment, taking into account the diversity of grantee partner organisations and then link them to support opportunities, including training, coaching or mentorship, resources and more.

Our Networking and Coordination work brings together organisations within and across regions, providing a platform for collaboration, shared learning, and collective action. SAAF provides grantee partners with secure online and physical networking opportunities at local, national, regional, and global levels. These events bring organisations working on abortion together for mutual support, learning and peer-to-peer sharing of ideas, resources, and lessons.

Updated approach to Monitoring and Evaluation

Our new approach to MEL is informed by consultation with grantee partners on what accountability, diversity and inclusion mean to them. We also drew inspiration from wider discussions in the sector such as those on decolonizing aid, resourcing of feminist movements and trust-based philanthropy.

A core aspect of SAAF's updated MEL approach is a focus on flexibility, adaptive management and long-term change. We aim to support organisations holistically and understand the 'big picture' of their progress, along non-linear and uncertain pathways to change. This represents a shift away from assessing progress against workplans and pre-defined targets, and a step towards more meaningful understanding of what progress and its determinants look like in complex realities.

Supporting and connecting SAAF grantee partners

Beyond funding, SAAF seeks to strengthen grantee partners' capacity by providing technical allyship and networking opportunities. We carry out a continuous needs assessment, taking into account the diversity of grantee partner organisations, as well as their individual contexts and challenges. Organisations are then linked to support opportunities, including training, access to events and resources and more.

SAAF also provides grantee partners with secure online and physical networking opportunities at local, national, regional and global levels. These events bring organisations working on abortion together for mutual support, training and peer-to-peer sharing of ideas, resources and lessons. Some examples of support SAAF provided to grantee partners in 2022:

Proposal development workshops

In July and August four workshops were held to introduce 35 new grantee partner organisations not only to SAAF's processes and the support available, but also to other global organisations working on abortion. SAAF programme and finance staff met with each participant

individually to discuss their proposal in more detail and provide support where needed. These workshops gave new organisations more background on SAAF, including reporting requirements and financial processes. There was also technical discussion on the topic of abortion and opportunities to better understand the work of colleagues working in different countries and regions.

“Attending the SAAF workshop was an incredible experience for me. It really reinforced the purpose of my work and provided a sense of solidarity for all of us, who otherwise often have to work in our own bubbles. I also learned a lot of technical skills in terms of more precise and effective ways of framing our ideas, problems, results, and signs of progress that will help me even beyond this SAAF proposal.”

Nairobi workshop participant



SAAF inception workshop in São Paulo

All organisations which had already received SAAF funding were also invited to online proposal development sessions in English, French and Spanish where they had an opportunity to learn about changes made to SAAF processes and ask any questions they had to further develop their proposals.

Visits to grantee partners

As international travel opened up, SAAF staff resumed visits to grantee partner organisations, of course making efforts to safeguard the health and safety of all parties. Four visits were carried out in total – three to existing grantee partners, and one to a new organisation which had not previously undertaken work on abortion.

“We really appreciated the visit because it was an opportunity to further learn and exchange. We liked the technical advice that was given to us on issues we were struggling with, but also that the staff from the SAAF secretariat had the opportunity to see and meet with the health personnel and some women we work with. Most importantly, we learned about the bravery and courage of SAAF staff visiting grantees in a very complex security setting. To us this showed how devoted SAAF is to the work they fund and how supportive they are to their grantees.”

SAAF grantee partner survey





SAAF grantee partners gather at ICFP

Events and conferences

SAAF provides financial and practical support for grantee partners to attend relevant events in which they can share their work and have a voice in national, regional and global spaces. These events can be useful networking opportunities, open up funding connections and well as global partnerships, and be key venues for sharing new evidence and information about abortion. SAAF has funded participation at a number of key events, and also offers grantee partners support with writing abstracts and connecting with other organisations attending.

In September, SAAF grantees were able to meet up at the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in Thailand to share experiences and advocate for abortion-related issues within the space. For example, SAAF grantee partner Tamtang, which is based in Thailand, carried out public action on the current situation on abortion access in the country, which other grantee partners joined.

In October, SAAF Programme Advisor Phonsina joined grantee partners at the Regional Dialogue on Safe Abortion in Francophone Africa in Côte d'Ivoire. Phonsina represented SAAF on a panel



SAAF grantee partners at DASAF in Abidjan

discussing 'Adaptable and responsive financing: rethinking accountability for SRHR'. SAAF grantee partners were also engaged in key discussions at the Dialogue – for example, Lilian from Women Spaces Africa spoke about disability and inclusion in fragile settings, and Daniela from Socorristas En Red shared more about the recent legalisation of abortion in Argentina as an example of successful legislative reform.

SAAF online community

In 2022 all new grantee partner organisations were added to an existing online group on the Workplace platform. This provides a closed and safe space for discussion on abortion-related topics and grantee partners regularly share updates and photos on their work.

“We would like to express our appreciation for the Workplace group. This digital platform of exchange of information, sharing activities and announcements is very useful for us. A good opportunity to explore innovative, creative and inspiring project activities.”

SAAF grantee partner survey

The site has also led to new connections between grantee partners. The YP Foundation in India posted in the group as they wanted to submit a proposal to host a virtual panel event for the CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) forum on digital technologies for safe abortion. They ended up garnering much interest and were successful with their submission. They hosted the online event with panellists from SAAF grantee partners Di Ramona from Mexico, WAG from Zimbabwe and WGNRR from the Philippines.



SAAF grantee partners from Latin America, Asia and Africa take part in The YP Foundation's virtual event



73%

of respondents to the SAAF grantee partner survey said that SAAF had shared information about their work in external communications that was helpful for their public profile.

ABORTION, SEX AND PLEASURE

30 November 2022



TRANS VISIBILITY AND ACCESS TO ABORTION

31 March 2022



SAAF grantee partner blogposts

External communications

Through our external communications work SAAF aims not only to raise the public profile of the Fund itself, but also to share the important work of our grantee partners with a global audience. We provide tailored support to grantee partners depending on their needs, including providing links to journalists and training and support on communications, media and branding.

SAAF provides editing, translation and a platform for grantee partners to share blogposts about their work. These posts are shared [on the SAAF website](#) in our three working languages and also disseminated via our [newsletter](#) and social media. In 2022, we published a total of 12 blogposts including nine from grantees in Kenya, Colombia, India, Bolivia, Uganda, The DRC and Indonesia.

The SAAF Board

2022 was a transition year for the renewed seven members of the SAAF Board representing different constituencies, movements, and geographic locations in the sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice arena.

The board approved the selection of organisations to be funded by SAAF and also formally inducted new board members Eugenia López Uribe, Rawan Raad and Mamello Makhele. Along with Mamello, existing board member Génesis Luigi now co-chairs the board.

In November 2022 Marevic (Bing) Parcon, Director of SAAF grantee partner organisation WGNRR also joined the board as a representative of an international organisation working on abortion. There is more information about our board on the [SAAF website](#).

“I am deeply honored and very excited to start working as a Board member of SAAF and bringing the perspectives of the grantees, grassroots communities, activists, and collectives to the SAAF Board.”

Marevic Parcon, WGNRR



Board members

Génesis Luigi (Co-Chair)

Position on the board: Activist

Mamello Makhele (Co-Chair)

Position on the board: Medical professional

Kelly Blanchard

Position on the board: Representative of an international organisation working on abortion

Marevic Parcon

Position on the board: Representative of an international organisation working on abortion

Camilla Holst Salvesen

Position on the board: Donor representative

Eugenia López Uribe

Position on the board: Representative of the host organisation (IPPF)

Rawan Raad

Position on the board: Youth advocate

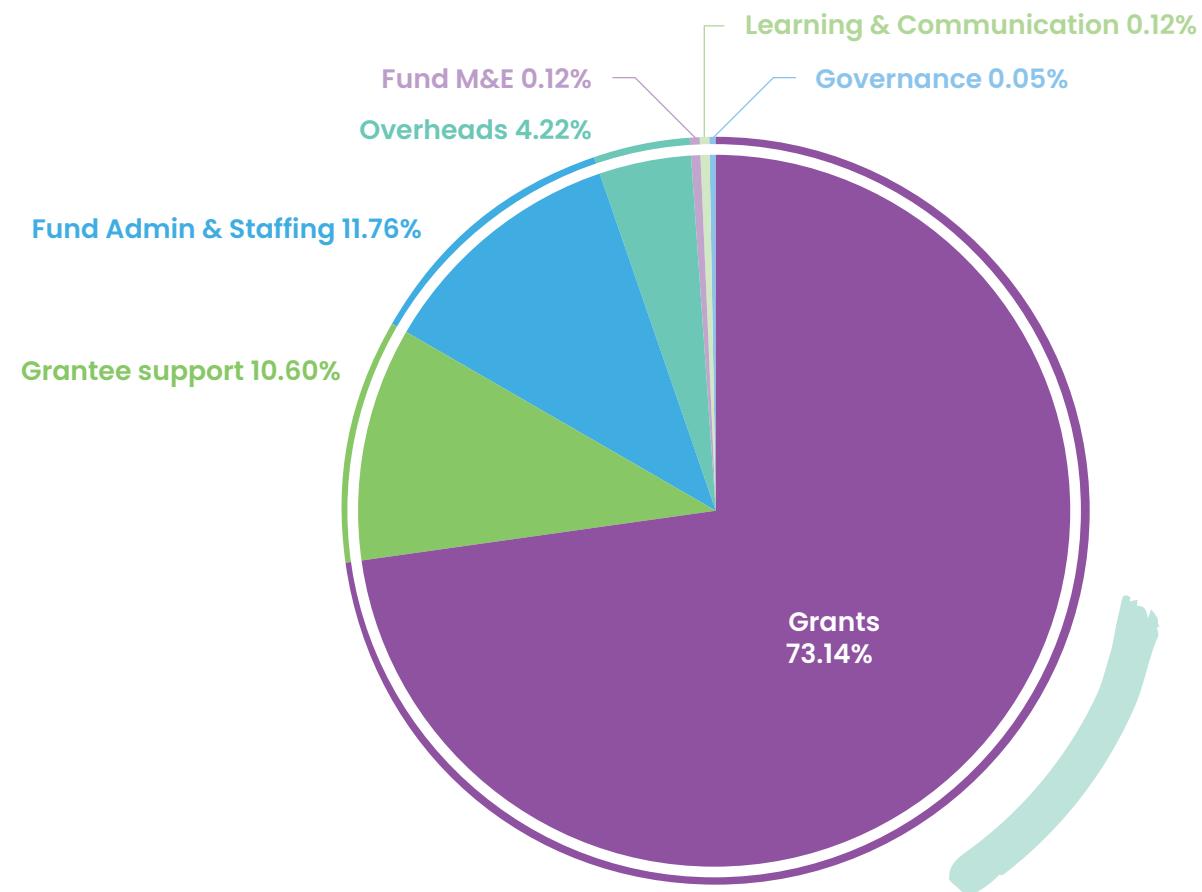
SAAF financial information

SAAF's total expenditure in 2022 was \$4,599,127 USD. Most of this expenditure (\$3,363,704 USD) was direct funding to grantee partner organisations.

In 2022 the fund was supported by the governments of the Netherlands, Norway, the UK and Canada, , as well as an anonymous donor (until June 2022).

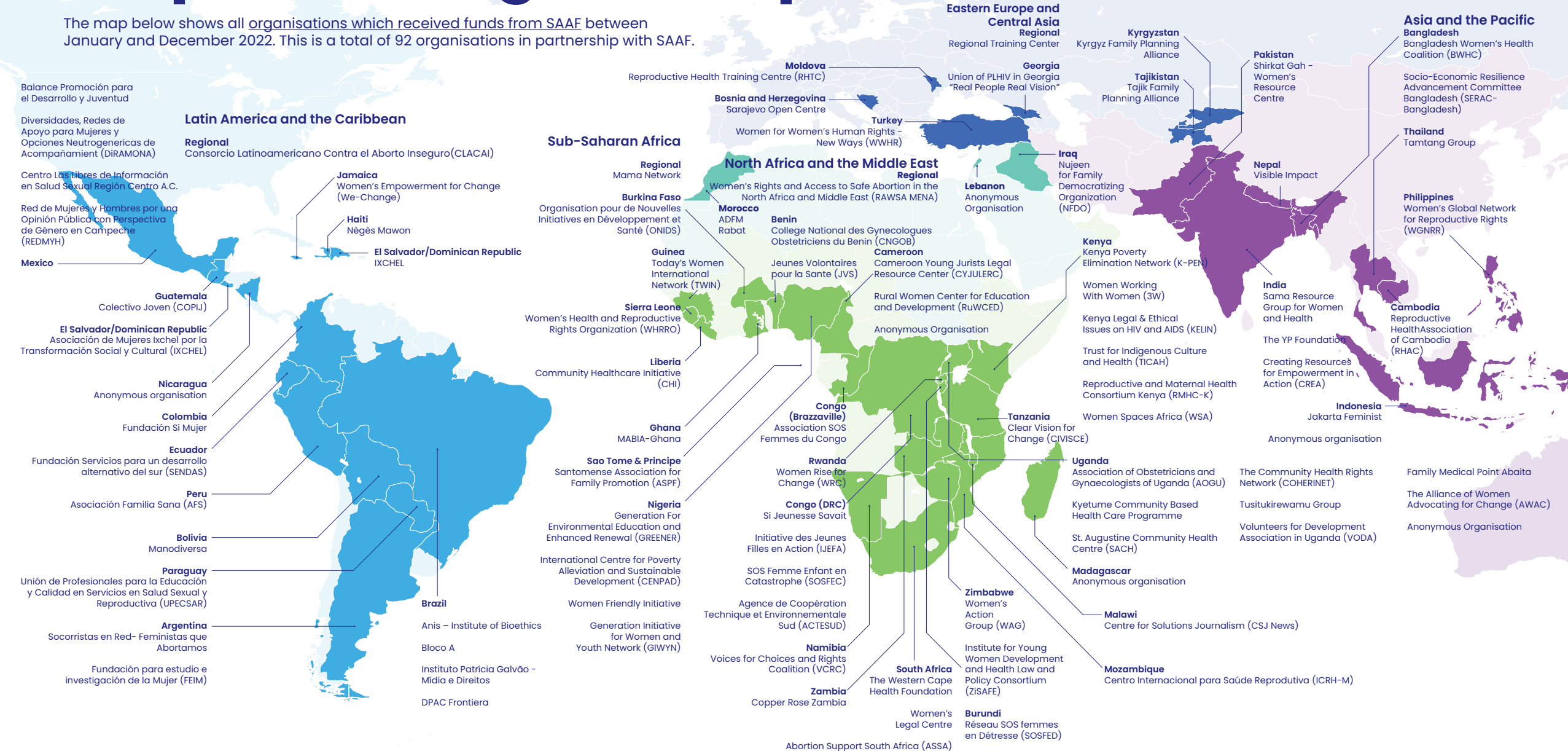
SAAF has established partnerships with 87 organisations in Round 6 and is expected to distribute more than \$13 million in grants between 2022 and 2026.

Total Expenditure	\$4,599,127	%
Grants	\$3,363,704	73.14%
Grantee Support	\$487,286	10.60%
Fund Admin & Staffing	\$540,955	11.76%
Overheads	\$194,026	4.22%
Fund M&E	\$5,595	0.12%
Learning & Communication	\$5,461	0.12%
Governance	\$2,100	0.05%



Map of SAAF grantee partners

The map below shows all organisations which received funds from SAAF between January and December 2022. This is a total of 92 organisations in partnership with SAAF.



“The grant allowed us to improve our financial and programatic reporting which put us in a better position to apply for and get other grants. It also raised our profile in doing advocacy around access to safe abortion which enabled us to get other grants.”

SAAF grantee partner survey

SAAF is hosted by the
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

IPPF, 4 Newhams Row London SE1 3UZ
United Kingdom

For updates on SAAF’s work please join our [newsletter](#) mailing list and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

You can reach SAAF by email at info@saafund.org



Fundación para estudio e
investigación de la Mujer, Argentina