



Safe Abortion Action Fund

Annual Report 2023

More than just financial support.

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 destigmatise 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 marginalisation.

This Annual Report provides an overview of SAAF's work in 2023 and showcases the incredible achievements of the organisations we provide funding and support to.

Our sixth round of funding was launched in 2022, with a total of 48 existing SAAF grantee partners receiving grants in July, and 39 new partners starting in October - making a total of 87 organisations being supported by SAAF.

**Over
\$69m**

**provided to 245
organisations in
86 countries since
our launch in 2007.**

89%

**of grantee partners
surveyed said that
SAAF provided them
with more than just
financial support.**

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Celebrating Isaan Pride –
THAILAND/Tamtang Group

A message from the SAAF co-chairs

2023 was another year when abortion rights were prominent in the news. Of course, the deteriorating situation in the USA continues to dominate the global conversation, but we saw many victories for reproductive rights activists in other parts of the world.

Mexico had an amazing win for human rights. Following the removal of criminal sanctions for abortion in several States, in September the Supreme Court expanded this to the federal level. The court ruled that criminalising abortion is unconstitutional. This is a major victory for us all to take inspiration from, and we're proud that SAAF grantee partners like Las Libres and Balance have been a part of the Green Wave movement making change in Mexico. We feel the ripples of hope and possibility around the rest of the world.

SAAF grantee partner Si Mujer has written about the further progressive changes made to the abortion law in Colombia, and we're pleased to see that the Kenyan government moved to adopt the World Health Organisation's guidance on self-care for reproductive health.

Early in 2024 it was also heartening to see France include abortion in its national constitution. This reminds us to be proactive in protecting existing rights to abortion, as we see how easily they can be threatened in politically tumultuous times.

It's been exciting to find out more about the new cohort of SAAF grantee partners. The new round of funding started in 2022 and we're already seeing the changes that are being made. Some of these new partners have not worked on abortion before and it's been amazing to see this work spread beyond 'the usual suspects' to embrace more partners in our movement. We're so pleased that all SAAF grantees were able to gather at the end of 2023 for a gathering of hearts and minds – read more about this on page 22.

We're proud to serve as board members for SAAF – a small fund that packs a big punch. We know that grantee partners don't just see SAAF as a 'funder' but as a wider, connected network of abortion activists, offering support and advice. As a board we remain focused on keeping up this momentum

so that abortion rights and access stay on the global agenda.

Génesis Luigi and Mamello Makhele



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

Supporting global abortion access



173,476

Total number of people supported by SAAF grantee partners to access abortion options

SAAF's updated indicator asks grantee partners to report the number of people they have supported to access 'abortion options'. This includes the direct provision of clinical services (provided to almost 50,000 individuals in 2023) but also one-to-one support through hotlines, in-person counselling, referrals to trusted providers and self-managed abortion options. From this total, almost a thousand people were supported to access abortion care via telemedicine, a growing area of service provision.

Above: Taking calls on the hotline – MEXICO/Di Ramona



5,869

Total number of health workers trained on abortion options by SAAF grantee partners

Grantee partners report the training of healthcare providers under three categories: clinical skills, non-stigmatising counselling, and abortion care via telemedicine. This includes nurses, doctors, midwives, pharmacists, and licensed community healthcare workers.

Above: Training service providers on abortion – CAMBODIA/Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia

“The strong performance of SAAF...”

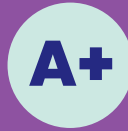
In 2023 SAAF’s work was awarded an A+ under the ‘Grassroots Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Programme’ Annual Review from our donor, the UK Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO).

We’re delighted to have received an A+ rating for the past three years and to have exceeded all our milestones in the review.



“Performance has been strong across all outputs, demonstrating partners’ strengths in improving the enabling environment for safe abortion and SRHR, and in improving access to services. The final output monitors SAAF’s performance in terms of managing grants and supporting grantees, which has also continued to see improvements, especially in implementing measures towards greater localisation, for which they deserve particular credit.”

“The work of the SAAF Secretariat is robust and efficient, providing good value for money. SAAF has a lean secretariat with improved and strong processes and systems...This review demonstrates the effectiveness of SAAF and its grantees.”



2021 / 2022 / 2023

Thank you to all SAAF grantee partners who enable us to achieve this consistently high performance rating.

Achievements of SAAF grantee partners in 2023



For the current 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

51 organisations have improved policy environments that support gender equity and people's ability to exercise abortion rights.



Access to quality abortion options

78 organisations have improved access to and/or the quality of abortion services and support.



Improving understanding of abortion and reducing stigma

77 organisations have made positive changes to community norms and attitudes on abortion.



Evidence and knowledge-sharing

22 organisations have produced evidence and research on abortion.



More vibrant civil society movements working for safe abortion rights

49 organisations have strengthened abortion rights and reproductive justice movements.



Strengthened organisations with increased capacity

46 organisations have used SAAF funding to strengthen their own organisational capacity.

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

Anis – Instituto de Bioética Brazil

Chief of Supreme Court supports abortion decriminalisation.



Public action for abortion decriminalisation – BRAZIL/Andressa Anholete

In Brazil, 200 women die each year as a result of unsafe abortions. SAAF has funded **Anis** since 2018 to support their work to change this situation and ensure that abortion is safe, legal and accessible to all.

In 2023, Anis, along with other feminist partners, made great strides in their advocacy to expand legal abortion. In September, Chief Justice Rosa Weber included (and spoke strongly in support of) a case to decriminalise abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy in the schedule of the Brazilian Supreme Court. The case was first drafted by Anis in 2017 to argue that the criminalisation of abortion violates various human rights provided for by the Brazilian Constitution.

Unfortunately, the decision was postponed by Weber's replacement, but remains a major win in terms of progressing the public debate and making the case for removing criminal penalties for those who have abortions.

“Criminalizing (abortion) without restrictions hits the core of women’s rights to freedom, self-determination, intimacy, reproductive liberty and their dignity.”

Former Supreme Court President Rosa Weber



Community Healthcare Initiative

Liberia

Campaigning for safe abortion in the new public health law.



SRHR Jamboree for young people – LIBERIA/Community Healthcare Initiative

Liberia has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world, caused, in part, by unsafe abortions. New SAAF grantee partner **Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI)** is lobbying for change, to expand the circumstances in which abortion is legally accessible.

They have had success with the inclusion of safe abortion in an ambitious new public health law, already passed by the House of Representatives

and awaiting approval by the Senate. The bill as it currently stands would allow for legal abortion up to 18 weeks of pregnancy.

Activities carried out by CHI have been vital to the galvanization of support for the bill. For example, in May 2023, CHI organised the first ever SRHR conference in Liberia, bringing together a diverse group of experts and activists. They have also been active in public hearings, sharing compelling

personal stories from those affected by unsafe abortions, to humanise the issue and challenge stigma and misinformation put forward by anti-abortion religious leaders.

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners improving access to abortion options

Women Rise for Change

Rwanda

Introducing safe abortion care in the largest refugee camp in Rwanda.



Project Officer Rehema leads a training session – RWANDA/Women Rise for Change

Although sexual and reproductive health services have become more available in humanitarian settings over the last decade, safe abortion services are still rarely provided. Noting high rates of unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion in the Mahama refugee camp in Rwanda, **Women Rise for Change (WRC)** sought to make a difference with their first SAAF grant starting in 2022.

In the first year of implementation, the provision of legal abortion and post-abortion care in the camp went from zero to a total of 440 services.

WRC has successfully trained peer educators to bridge the gap between formal health services and those living in the camp by fostering trust and ensuring that cultural nuances are respected and understood.

“Being trained to help my fellow women has been an honour. Now, when someone approaches me with concerns or questions about abortion, I can provide informed advice and guide them to the right services. This role has empowered me and those I help”

WRC peer educator

Women Spaces Africa

Kenya

Ensuring women and girls with disabilities have access to safe abortion.

Girls and women with disabilities face multiple barriers to safe abortion access. Services may not be physically accessible and sometimes people with disabilities are not even provided with information due to assumptions that they are not sexually active. Women-led disability organisation **Women Spaces Africa (WSA)** works with communities to improve knowledge on self-managed abortion and access to reproductive healthcare.

They have identified and trained 'doulas' who are available to provide support to other girls and women with disabilities and to advocate for their right to information. These champions lead monthly abortion dialogues and can also refer to trusted health providers.

Over 90% of the girls and women with disabilities who attended the dialogues say they now know what to do if they need to access a safe abortion service.



Participants at a WSA workshop – KENYA/Women Spaces Africa

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners changing norms and attitudes

Family Medical Point Abaita

Uganda

Educating journalists to improve media coverage of abortion



An FMP representative being interviewed – UGANDA/Family Medical Point Abaita

Family Medical Point Abaita (FMP) is working to increase access to safe abortion options in underserved fishing communities around Lake Victoria in Uganda. Part of their SAAF-funded work aims to improve media coverage of abortion, particularly in relation to these communities.

They work alongside journalists to show them the impact of unsafe abortion and the realities of girls

and women living in the fishing sites. They provide values clarification training, and host 'social sessions' which build rapport with journalists and allow them to meet those affected by FMP's work. Before the training, 65% of journalists said they believed abortion to be murder, this dropped to just 5% after the session.

The result has been a marked increase in positive media coverage of their work on safe abortion, with some media organisations now proactively investigating problems with access. A knock-on effect of this positive coverage has been an increase in people seeking reproductive health care services at FMP's partner health care facilities.

International Center for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development

Nigeria

Increasing awareness of safe abortion in IDP camps



Peer education training – NIGERIA/CENPAD

The International Center for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development (CENPAD) has worked with women and girls in Internally Displaced People's camps in Maiduguri in North-Eastern Nigeria for many years.

Across two camps they have trained 270 peer educators to increase knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights and bodily autonomy. These peer educators work to share awareness of safe

abortion care and to let people know that they have a right to access it within the camps. As abortion is highly stigmatised, story-telling techniques are used to encourage people to relate to real life situations where unsafe abortions are a risk to women and girls' health.

As a result of CENPAD's outreach, just under 15,000 people received support to access safe abortion options and contraception in 2023.

"When I first began as a Peer Educator I met Amina, a 19-year-old girl with so much hope in her eyes despite the pain of displacement. She confided in me that she was pregnant from her relationship with an older man who works in the camp and who helps her and her family with food and money.

She confessed her fear of using local herbs as advised by her friends. Giving her information on safe abortion and guiding her to the service delivery point for medical abortion, I witnessed her transition from fear to relief. Today, Amina stands beside me, educating others."

CENPAD peer educator

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners sharing knowledge on abortion

Jakarta Feminist Indonesia

Researching attitudes towards abortion in Indonesia



Naila from Jakarta Feminist presenting their research at the ARJC conference – INDONESIA/Jakarta Feminist

In 2023, SAAF grantee partner **Jakarta Feminist** completed two pieces of research to aid their work improving attitudes towards abortion in Indonesia, where the legal framework is restrictive, and stigma is high.

Firstly, Jakarta Feminist surveyed 87 health care workers, lawyers and aid workers in Bali, Jakarta and East Java. They found that although the majority were aware of the legality of abortion, 10% stated incorrectly that it was completely illegal. Despite some respondents stating that abortion is a 'sin', 14% said they had supported someone to access abortion.

The second piece of research also highlights the realities of the need for abortion in Indonesia.

Jakarta Feminist analysed key search terms used to seek care and/or information online. They found that traditional terms for abortion were often used in place of more western-influenced words like 'aborsi', and that searches peaked during discussion of the new health law in May, and the raid of an illegal abortion clinic in June.

The results of both pieces of research showed differing attitudes and experiences in different parts of the country and are being used to inform Jakarta Feminist's training for those who support people with unplanned pregnancies, as well as their media messaging on abortion.

Sarajevo Open Centre

Bosnia and Herzegovina

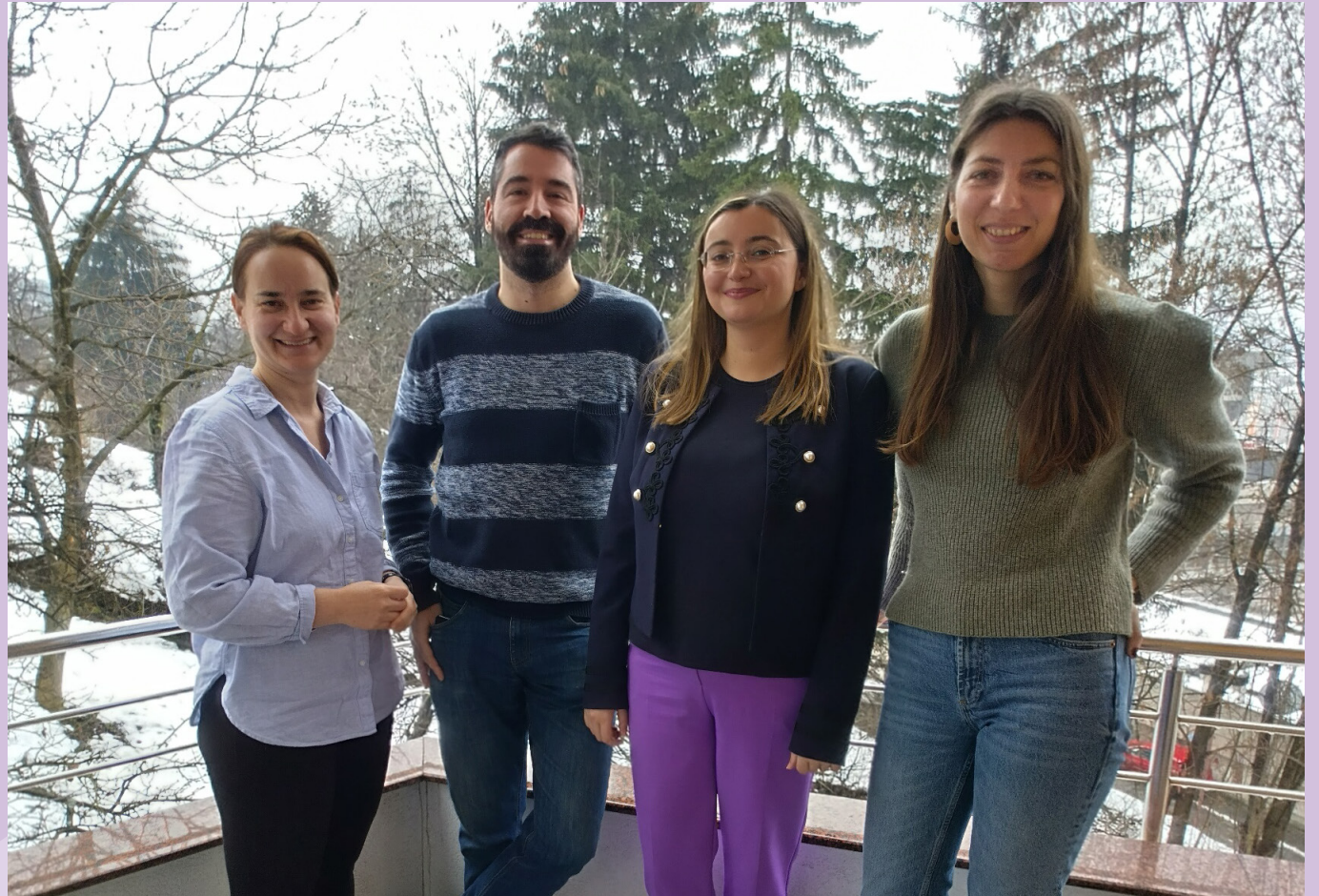
Uncovering barriers to abortion care in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Although the law in Bosnia and Herzegovina allows for abortion on request up to 10 weeks of pregnancy, research carried out by **Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC)** has found that access is lacking, and provision of services is inconsistent.

In 2023, SOC surveyed staff at health institutions and health care facilities, as well as 163 people who have had abortions. They found a number of issues when it came to abortion access, including provider refusal; differing and often unaffordable prices for abortion care; and a lack of resources and counselling options.

Interviewees also shared instances of discrimination they had experienced at clinics, and one ministry simply refused to answer SOC's questions, sending a one sentence reply: "Abortion is a murder of a living unborn child".

SOC is now using the findings from the research to advocate for more equal access to comprehensive abortion care, including the registration of abortion medication in the country.



The SOC team at their office – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA/Sarajevo Open Centre

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners building abortion rights movements

Nègès Mawon

Haiti



Building a feminist movement for the decriminalisation of abortion in Haiti

Feminist organisation Nègès Mawon is working to raise awareness about the need for safe abortion in Haiti. Part of their work is engaging a network of feminist and LGBTQ organisations to strengthen advocacy in favour of a new penal code which would expand access to abortion.

Nègès Mawon has held workshops and activities to engage a diverse range of organisations and raise awareness of the need for safe abortion. This included organising a performance of the play 'Danta' which highlights the realities of a lack of access to abortion care in the country.



Activists take part in a march for abortion rights – HAITI/Nègès Mawon

The organisations have joined together for various actions in support of abortion rights, including a public march for International Safe Abortion Day.



Las Libres

Mexico

Strengthening a regional support network for migrant women seeking abortion

Feminist organisation Las Libres has been supporting people in Mexico to access safe abortion care for over 20 years. Since the reversal of Roe vs Wade in the USA they have also been providing support across the border.

Their SAAF funded work is focused on improving safe abortion access for migrants. To ensure consistent and joined-up access they have strengthened the national network of

abortion companions, but also expanded to organisations outside of Mexico.

In 2023 **Las Libres** held meetings with abortion networks in Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras. Since the law in Mexico has been liberalised, Las Libres wants to form connections in these more restrictive countries where women may be migrating from.



Women on the migration route – MEXICO/Las Libres

“For migrant women it is of utmost importance that they know that they have rights, that in Mexico they have options, and we are bringing all the options to all the people who request them.”

Las Libres’ SAAF report

Spotlight on SAAF grantee partners strengthening their organisational capacity

Las Comadres

Ecuador

Strengthening a national abortion accompaniment network



An altar for volunteer meetings – ECUADOR/Las Comadres

Las Comadres began as a volunteer-led initiative to help support people to access self-managed abortion care in Ecuador. Their hotline has been open every single day since it was first launched in 2014, thanks to the commitment of the ‘telefonistas’ who manage the calls.

Las Comadres has undertaken a number of activities to strengthen their network of accompaniers and ensure geographical reach for those needing support. Alongside training and increasing the number of volunteers from 45 to 60,

for the first time they are systematising all the data collected from the support they have provided over the past decade.

Having reliable data allows the network to advance their knowledge of medical abortion use on the ground. It also means they can contribute evidence in academic, advocacy and media spaces to strengthen the current campaign for the legalisation of abortion in Ecuador.

Jeunes Volontaires pour la Santé

Benin

Developing a reproductive health helpline for young people

The abortion law in Benin was liberalised in 2021 and is now one of the most permissive in the region. However, many young people are still not aware of their rights and are lacking reliable information about safe abortion.

In May 2023 youth-led organisation **Jeunes Volontaires pour la Santé (JVS)** set up a helpline for those seeking information and support on sexual and reproductive health. As a member of MAMA Network, they were able to take part in a capacity-building session on hotline management. This helped with the development of strategies to ensure confidentiality and security, but also the promotion of the helpline. Following the training and support provided by MAMA Network, JVS updated their helpline strategy and eventually saw a 40% increase in callers who they were able to support to access safe abortion care



Promotion of the 'OREMI' helpline on the beach – BENIN/Jeunes Volontaires pour la Santé

Supporting and connecting SAAF grantee partners



SAAF visit to Tusitukirewamu Group –
UGANDA/SAAF

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

In the 2023 survey of grantee partners, the vast majority of respondents told us that being funded by SAAF has strengthened their organisation beyond financial support. A majority also said that they had started new collaborations due to being part of the SAAF network.

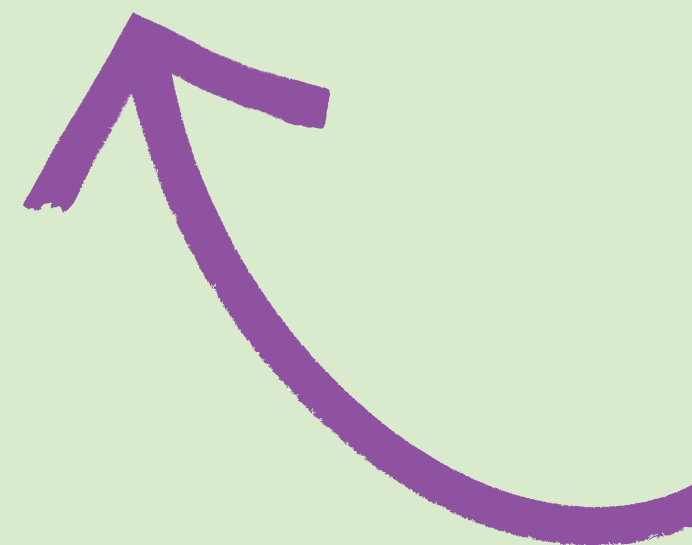
Visits to grantee partners

SAAF carries out in-person visits to get to know new partners and see their work in action, but also, to assess achievements and challenges, and offer support where required. SAAF staff members visited a total of 33 grantee partner organisations

in 18 countries in 2023. Since implementation of the new round of funding began in 2022, this was a crucial year to connect with organisations new to SAAF.

"The SAAF team visit has helped us to understand more to overcome challenges and questions on managerial things, also program implementation."

Grantee partner survey



Grantee partner meet-ups

In 2023 SAAF facilitated and funded three in-person meetings in countries where multiple grantee partners are based: Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria. All three meetings were well evaluated by the participants and have led to fruitful and ongoing relationships and connections. For example, organisations gathered in Nigeria and Uganda both went on to establish active WhatsApp groups to remain in regular contact about their work.

In Uganda, sensitive issues such as the increasing threat to LGBT+ rights could be discussed in person and given time and space for thinking strategically as a group. And following the initial SAAF-organised gathering, organisations have continued to invite each other to events. For example, fellow grantee partners attended a training on 'self-managed abortion feasibility and effectiveness' hosted by the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda.

“We connected with other SAAF grantee partners during the last SAAF visit to Nigeria. Our interactions with these colleagues have helped us gain new insights on developing strategies and ways to overcome the challenges we meet in the implementation of our own project.”

SAAF grantee partner survey



SAAF grantee partners gather in Uganda – UGANDA/SAAF

Virtual meetings and online discussion group

SAAF organised two online gatherings in 2023 –one for organisations that run hotlines, and one for those in countries which have recently experienced legal changes to abortion. Attendees have already reported positive outcomes from the meetings, including further connection with aligned organisations on government advocacy, and finding solutions to technical issues with running a toll-free abortion hotline.

“This was really valuable because it gives us new ideas. We listen to the situation in other countries, and we see that there are people in other regions or countries in the same situation as us. We that defend human rights have to meet with others who also defend human rights and that gives us more energy to continue.”

Online meeting participant

SAAF's private online 'Workplace' discussion group continues to grow – with over 300 members viewing posts from around the world as well as a knowledge library with key resources in English, French and Spanish. With an automatic translation feature and the ability to share photos and videos as well as text, this has been a vital way to stay connected and share good practices.

“The Workplace created by SAAF is definitely a stellar idea that allows for connection. We get new ideas, strategies and ways of thinking about abortion.”

SAAF grantee partner survey

SAAF global gathering

Organised once every three years, global gatherings are the pinnacle of SAAF's networking activities. Individuals from 82 organisations representing 50 countries convened for three days at the end of November, with two main objectives: to form connections and community with other organisations working on the topic of safe abortion, and to learn more about effective strategies and tools.

The three-day meeting, hosted in Nairobi, was carried out in English, French and Spanish. SAAF grantee partners led sessions on a range of topics including self-managed abortion, disability inclusion, and engaging with the media.

“I have connected with an organisation that is doing similar things to mine: working with adolescents. And we are happy to develop further connection. We were both excited to share contacts and continue even after the gathering.”

“This was my first SAAF meeting. I'm from a really small country I don't get the chance to talk to people from other contexts and this was a really great space for that.”

“I am so proud of being part of a network of people who are so brave.”



SAAF Global Gathering 2023



SAAF grantee partners and staff gather at the Inroads meeting – COLOMBIA/SAAF

87% of SAAF

grantee partners told us they connected with other SAAF grantee partners at a meeting, conference or event in 2023.

Conferences

Where multiple grantee partners are attending an event, SAAF organises a meet-up to build regional and global connections. For example, SAAF Programme Advisor Laura G attended regional meetings organised by Inroads and SAAF grantee partner CLACAI for activists in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2023, SAAF financially supported grantee partners to attend several conferences, including [the CLACAI conference](#), Women Deliver, the FIGO World Congress, and the International Conference on FGM.

“The CLACAI conference allowed us to learn more about the work of several of the organisations funded by SAAF on the issue of abortion and accompaniment specifically.”

SAAF grantee partner survey

Technical Allyship

SAAF’s ‘Technical Allyship’ work is designed to ensure that the fund can act as a convener of expertise for organisations working on abortion rights and access. Through our reporting system and direct engagement, we are able to ascertain the needs of grantee partners and provide trainings and interventions to support their work.

In 2023 the following activities were carried out according to identified needs:

- **Digital communication training:** 12 Francophone organisations benefited from an online training led by an organisation based in Burkina Faso. It focused on the development of a digital communication strategy, online branding and how to create visuals for social media using Canva.
- **Values clarification workshops:** Two separate, tailored, values-based training sessions were delivered to organisations new to working on abortion.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Bootcamp:** A total of 71 organisations benefited from online training offered by an organisation based in South Africa, presented in SAAF’s three working languages.

“When I first started the MEL bootcamp, I was like a deer in the headlights. I did not understand what this was about. But now with some time, and seeing the MEL presentation at the Global Gathering, all the information is suddenly coming together, and the big picture is starting to make sense.”

SAAF grantee partner survey



Community outreach – UGANDA/COHERINET

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 disseminated via our newsletter and social media. In 2023, we published 11 blogposts written by SAAF grantee partners and all are available to view on our website in English, French and Spanish.

“Through SAAF’s support, we are not only reaching wider audiences but also advancing our mission on a global scale, showcasing our work to a broader and more diverse community.”

Grantee partner survey

 **72%**

of grantees said that SAAF
had shared information
about their organisation in its
external communications.

Voices of SAAF grantee partners



KENYA/Women Spaces Africa

Phylis Mbeke Ndolo

Women Spaces Africa, Kenya

“As a social worker and abortion doula in the Kibera slums in Nairobi, I have encountered many people with disabilities in need of reproductive healthcare. I help them to access abortion services either through supporting them with self-managed abortion or walking them through the process of surgical abortion at a clinic.”

<https://saafund.org/the-musings-of-a-disability-abortion-doula-in-kenya>



MEXICO/Balance AC

Stephanie Lomelí Guerrero

Balance, Mexico

“Reproductive justice is a framework that goes beyond just the right to have a safe abortion, or to not have children if we don’t want them. It is also the right to have the children we want, and to be able to parent them safely. Abortion counsellors empower people to live free and joyful lives.”

<https://saafund.org/feminist-reproductive-justice-and-the-fight-against-gendered-violence>



KENYA/3W

Brenda

Women Working with Women (3W), Kenya

“People often assume that lesbian, bisexual, queer and trans persons don’t need safe abortion services and information. However, the truth is that LBQT persons and gender non-conforming people do need and deserve safe abortion access, and society’s assumptions about gender are making that really difficult.”

<https://saafund.org/when-abortion-stigma-intersects-with-lgbtq-stigma>

New ways of working

SAAF continually updates our processes based on regular feedback from our grantee partners, and in accordance with our own mission and values. We know that there is always room to adapt and improve what we can offer to the organisations we work with.

For the latest round of funding which began in 2022 we developed a number of new processes to ensure that application and reporting processes were simplified for grantee partners. Improvements made to our monitoring, evaluation and learning processes were recognised by our donor FDCO:

“SAAF’s new systems and approach to monitoring better capture the nuance and breadth of grantees’ activities and successes, particularly building foundations for and achieving important steps towards positive reforms.”

FCDO Annual Review

Crucially, our grantee partners have provided positive feedback on our new, online reporting system:

“A new approach to writing reports gives us a deeper understanding of achievements and analysis of our own interventions! Every year we become stronger and grow and develop!”

SAAF grantee partner survey

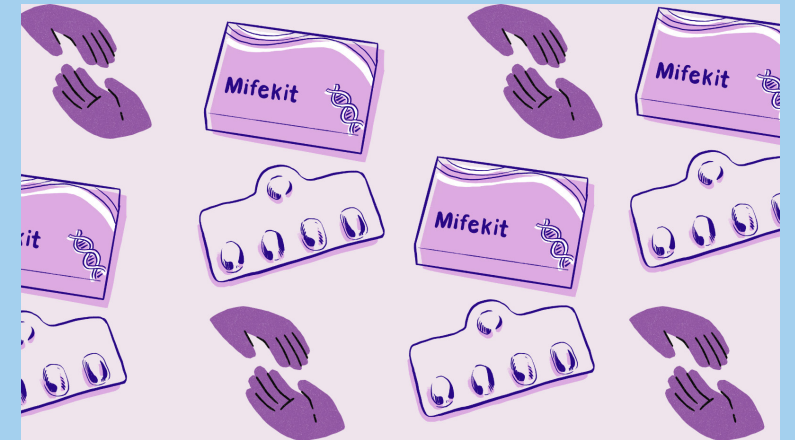
One key area of improvement has been the collection of data related to service provision. Rather than asking grantee partners to report only ‘abortion services’ we have expanded this indicator to capture access to abortion options. This allows us to better track the reality of the work of a diverse group of organisations around the world.

For example, many grantees are leading innovative work to support access to safe abortion via telemedicine, accompaniment models, and self-care options. In addition, this update reinforces our rights-based approach, to ensure it is the right and ability to access safe abortion which is important, not whether this option is acted upon or not.

“SAAF now asks grantee partners to report on access to abortion options. This is a broad category which captures the complexity of the work of the global organisations we fund. What we are interested in is how many people were supported to be given this option they otherwise would not have had access to.

Only asking about ‘abortions provided’ would mean we miss some of the reality of the work.”

[SAAF blogpost on abortion data](#)



‘Why we no longer ask grantee partners to ‘count’ abortions’ blog

The SAAF board

In 2023 SAAF board members brought their varied expertise to support the stewardship of the fund. They benefited from a new document management system to facilitate their work.

They also deepened their understanding of the grantee partners' work during networking events arranged by SAAF at regional or global conferences. For example, Eugenia López Uribe got to meet many SAAF grantee partners from Latin America and the Caribbean during the CLACAI regional conference in Panama. These exchanges are important to ensure that SAAF's vision remains relevant and responsive to the needs of the organisations it serves.

There is more information about the board on the [SAAF website](#).



Six members of the SAAF board meeting in 2023



"I am so proud to be part of the SAAF family and to support the amazing work of the SAAF grantees. I recently got to connect with grantees at a global conference, and the shared experience and solidarity across regions and focus of work was inspiring. The community SAAF is building is helping to identify key innovations to ensure we all can access the high-quality abortion care we need."

SAAF is supporting solutions that are sourced from communities themselves and these groups play a critical role in the movement to advance sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice."

Kelly Blanchard, SAAF board member

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)

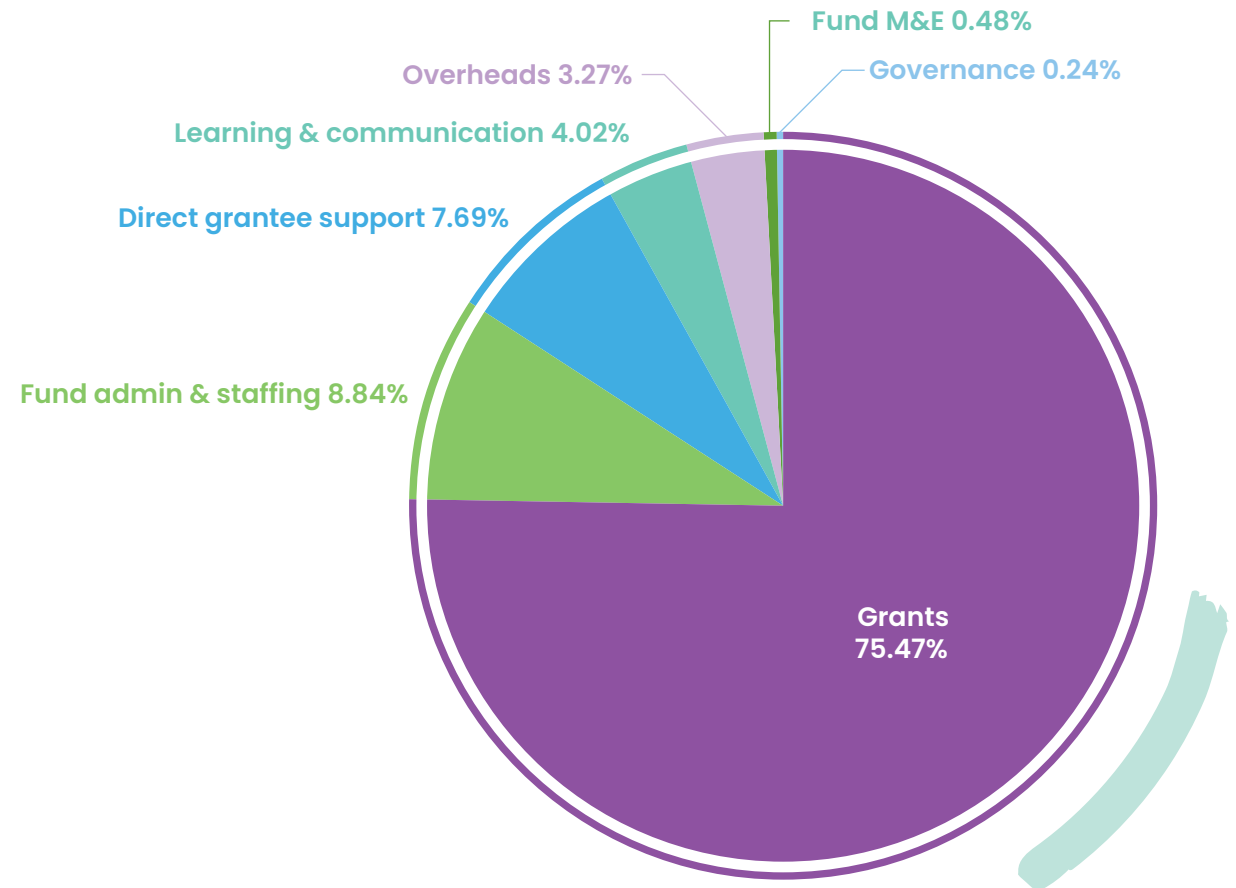
Rawan Raad

Position on the board: Youth advocate

SAAF financial information

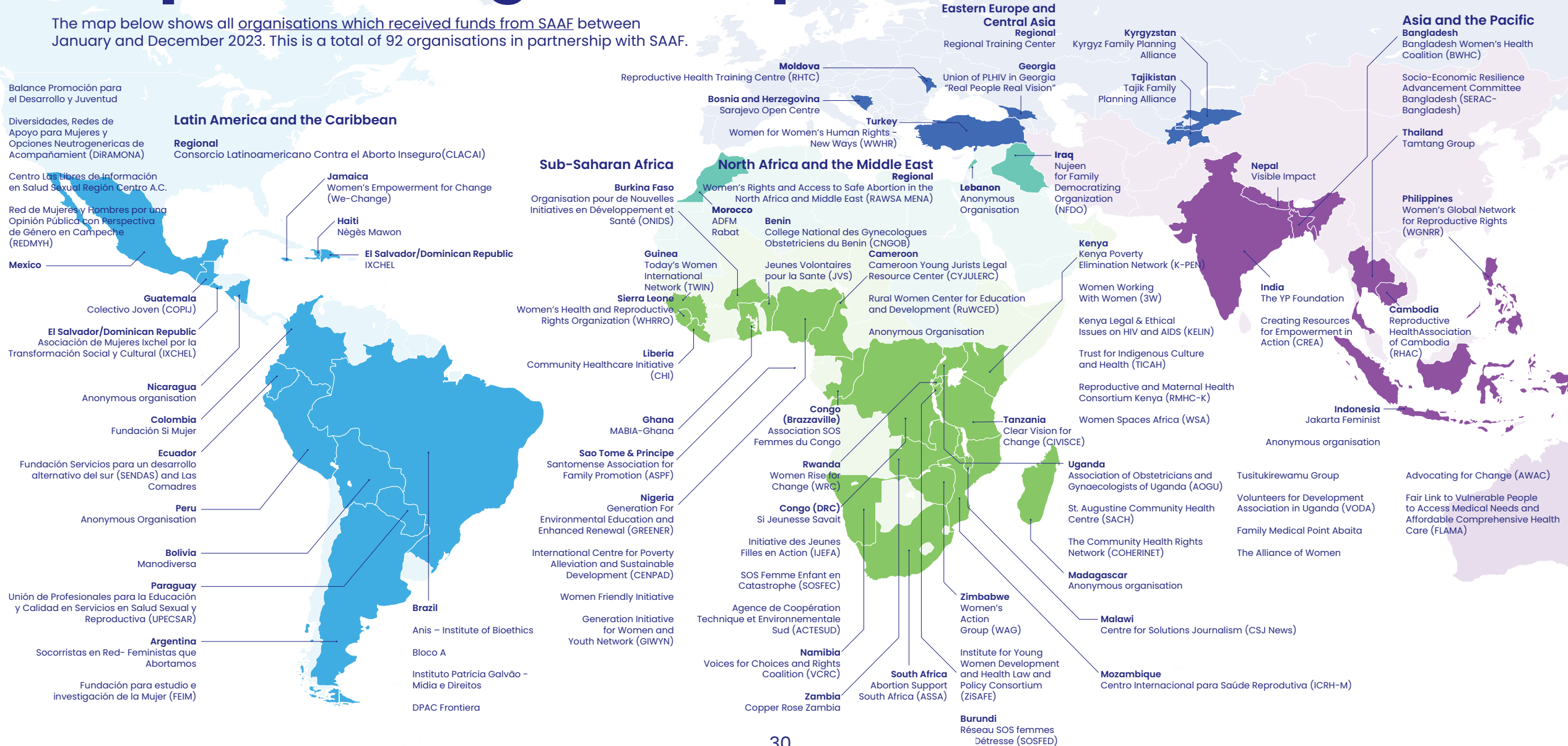
SAAF's total expenditure in 2023 was \$6,113,949 USD. Most of this expenditure (75%) was direct funding to grantee partner organisations. In 2023 the fund was supported by the governments of the Netherlands, Norway, the UK and Canada.

Total Expenditure	\$6,113,949	%
Grants	\$4,614,082	75.47%
Fund admin and staffing	\$540,579	8.84%
Direct grantee support	\$470,008	7.69%
Learning & communication	\$245,504	4.02%
Overheads	\$200,039	3.27%
Fund M&E	\$29,271	0.48%
Governance	\$14,467	0.24%



Map of SAAF grantee partners

The map below shows all organisations which received funds from SAAF between January and December 2023. This is a total of 92 organisations in partnership with SAAF.



“Over the last year SAAF made a great evolution in terms of how SAAF works with grantees, it was greatly appreciated, we do not feel just like grantees, we feel like equal partners!”

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 [X](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

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

