

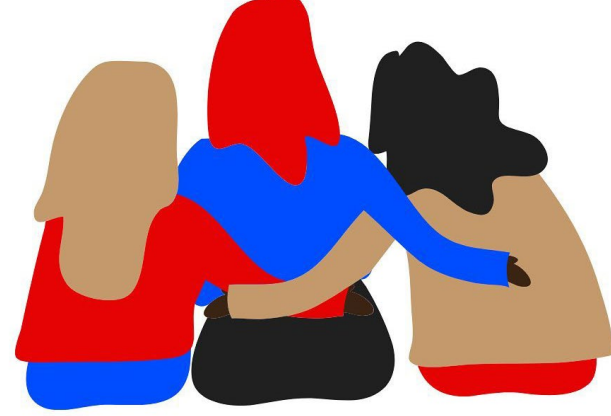


FEMINIST HUMANITARIAN NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



CONTENTS



- 3 Learning, growing, strengthening
- 4 Our shared vision, goal, & objectives
- 5 Who we are: Our membership at a glance
- 6 Working together: Collective, feminist leadership to achieve a transformed humanitarian system
- 8 Women's humanitarian voices: Covid-19 through a feminist lens
- 9 Claiming space & contributing to decision-making
- 10 Raising our voices & being heard
- 12 Learning from and supporting each other
- 13 Resourcing our action: Feminist funding for a feminist future



Cover photo credits (line by line, left to right):

FHN members in Liberia; Badabon Sangho, Bangladesh; Sawa Organisation, Palestine

Pastoralist Girls' Initiative, Kenya; Community Healthcare Initiative, Liberia; Network of Disabled Women, Nigeria

Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Network Initiative; FHN members in Liberia;

Pastoralist Girls' Initiative, Kenya; FHN members in Liberia

Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Network Initiative; Culture and Free Thought Association, Gaza - Palestine; Network of Disabled Women,

Nigeria; The Living University, South Africa; Women for Human Rights - single women's group, Nepal

Graphics on front cover, contents page, page 3, page 8, and top right graphic on page 10 by Clare Douglas

LEARNING, GROWING, BUILDING, STRENGTHENING

Since its very first meeting in November 2017, members of the Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN) have been working collectively to lay the foundations of the network, and to build a movement to achieve feminist transformation in the humanitarian system.

We have co-created ways of working that embody our feminist principles, established structures and decision-making processes that ensure our collective leadership, and crafted and implemented strategies to achieve the change we envision.

This is the first annual report of the Feminist Humanitarian Network. It presents a snapshot of our collective growth and achievements in 2021 - achievements which are, of course, the result of learning, reflecting, building, and reshaping over the years since our first meeting. Much of this learning and growing has happened while our members responded to the pandemic, and to many additional crises, both sudden onset and protracted.



The past year saw us launch our first publications: a series of reports led by FHN members in eight countries analysing the humanitarian system during Covid-19. We welcomed 25 new members in 11 new countries. We continued our roles on and were appointed to new Boards and decision-making committees, ensuring that women's rights organisations on the frontlines of humanitarian crises hold their rightful place in humanitarian decision-making. Details on these success and opportunities are shared throughout this report.

Throughout the year, members came together to reflect, make decisions, plan, share knowledge and work, build community, and grow relationships. In 2021, the achievements of network members under the banner of the FHN were seeds that sprouted into new partnerships between organisations. They were building blocks in member organisations' new research projects. They opened doors to decision-making spaces that women's rights organisations now contribute to leading. They were steps towards a feminist humanitarian system.



OUR SHARED VISION, GOAL & OBJECTIVES

VISION

A global humanitarian system that is responsive, accountable and accessible to women and their organisations, in all their diversity; that challenges rather than perpetuates structural inequalities

GOAL

To strengthen the agency and amplify the voices of women and their organisations in crises.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1

To support women's rights actors and movements leading humanitarian action in the Global South, to ensure their expertise and efforts are recognised and resourced by the humanitarian system

2

To convene women and their organisations to collectively build feminist leadership, and share evidence and learning to transform the roles of women in humanitarian spaces

3

To offer governments and other stakeholders alternative, feminist ways of working, that would achieve our vision of a feminist humanitarian system

4

To identify and challenge patriarchal practises that are barriers to women's leadership, decision making, and meaningful engagement in humanitarian action and in the humanitarian system

5

To mobilise collective action at critical moments, to demand that women's leadership is recognised, and to ensure that women's rights organisations are included in decision making spaces that influence the humanitarian system

"Our mandate is to build solidarity and shift power. We are made up of diverse members working together with one voice. Together, we are powerful. Amongst us there is not an individual standing tall - we are a collective, strengthening each other through collective power and action."

- FHN 2020 - 2025 Strategy

"It is to transform the humanitarian system so that we have a place at the decision-making tables where the voices of women working on the frontlines currently go unheard."

- FHN 2020 - 2025 Strategy

"As the Feminist Humanitarian Network, our role is to facilitate space to exchange experiences, to learn from and support each other."

- FHN 2020 - 2025 Strategy

"It is to dismantle patriarchal practices in humanitarian action, and to critique and challenge the tools that are used by the sector that reinforce patriarchal principles through sharing experiences and learning, and collective advocacy."

- FHN 2020 - 2025 Strategy

WHO WE ARE: OUR MEMBERSHIP AT A GLANCE

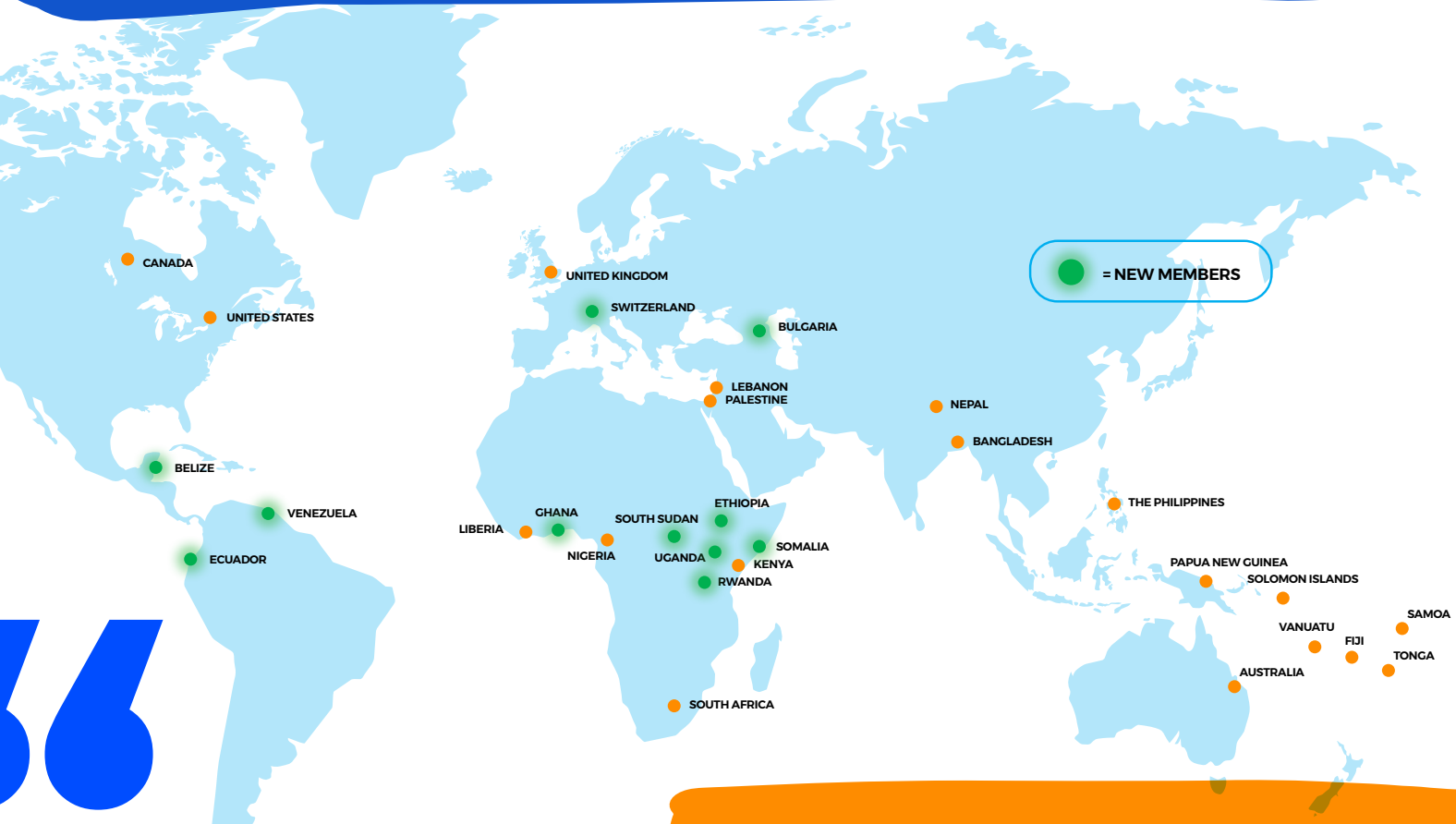
Our membership grew considerably in 2021. We welcomed 25 new members, including organisations representing women with disabilities, young women, and LGBTQI+ communities.

This brought our membership to 72 members, comprised of:

- **43 women's rights organisations in the Global South (79.6% of organizational members)**
- **11 INGOs/global federations/organisations headquartered in the Global North (20.4% of organizational members)**
- **1 regional coalition**
- **1 for-profit research organisation**
- **18 individuals**

Our full membership comes together once a quarter, for meetings at which progress updates are shared by committees and project groups; strategic, collective decisions are made; and how we use power and our feminist practise as a network is reflected on.

(For a full list of FHN's members in 2021, see page 14.)



"That FHN creates such a welcoming, warm and conscious space is one of the reasons the Living University is so proud to be a member."

- The Living University, South Africa

"In our transformation to become a more feminist, inclusive organization, working closer to the women and girls we work with, being members of the FHN has helped us to learn from other organisations, has helped us build connections, and reflect our values."

- Fòs Feminista

"[Being a member of the FHN in 2021] meant that a feminist approach and principles were not seen as an individual preference, but as a wider, collective movement."

- Anusanthee Pillay, individual member

"Being part of the Network has helped me to build my confidence and be proud of my opinions."

- Mmonbeydo Joah, Organisation for Women and Children, Liberia

WORKING TOGETHER: COLLECTIVE, FEMINIST LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE A TRANSFORMED HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

Our feminist approach includes a commitment to collective leadership. We strive to uphold this principle in all of the ways that we work, and have embedded it in the structure of our membership. Our work in four strategic areas (Membership, Communications, Fundraising, and Advocacy) is driven by committees comprised of women's rights organisation, international non-government organisations, and individual members.

Membership Committee:

The Membership Committee leads membership recruitment processes and the development and implementation of feminist policies on FHN membership and member accountability. In 2021 the Membership Committee led a collective process to co-create a membership fees model based on feminist principles; welcomed in 25 new members to the network, including members from Latin America and members representing diverse women, including young women, women with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ communities. The Committee also revised the FHN Membership Policy and processes in response to member reflections and feedback.

Carolina Posada
Fòs Feminista



Mmonbeydo Joah
Organisation for Women and Children, Liberia



Bridget Rhinehart
Individual member



Grace Ileri
ActionAid

Advocacy Committee:

The Advocacy Committee leads the development and implementation of the FHN's Advocacy Strategy, and leadership of advocacy work under the guidance of the wider membership, particularly women's rights organisation members. In 2021, the Advocacy Committee finalised the FHN's 2021 - 2025 Advocacy Strategy, guided the strategy for the launch of *Women's Humanitarian Voices: Covid-19 through a feminist lens*, advised on the network's collective advocacy based on the findings at a global level, supported the FHN's engagement in and access to global humanitarian forums such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Reference Group, and input to the advocacy work and research projects of various FHN members, ensuring that the FHN's collective work builds on the work of its members, and vice versa.

Helena Minchew
International Rescue Committee

Mimidoo Achakpa
Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Network Initiative



Marcy Hersh
Individual member



Jacqueline Hart
Women's Refugee Commission



Naomi Tulay-Solanke
Community Healthcare Initiative, Liberia



Ohaila Shomar
Sawa Organisation, Palestine



Sumeera Shrestha
Women for Human Rights + Gyanbodh, Nepal

Fundraising Committee:

The Fundraising Committee leads FHN fundraising, including the development and implementation of our fundraising strategy; working with members to produce fundraising tools, policies, and processes that ensure we are upholding our feminist principles; and the identification of fundraising opportunities. In 2021, in addition to overseeing fund mobilisation for the FHN, the Fundraising Committee led the production of an agreed feminist fundraising approach for the FHN, finalised a funding policy, and produced a suite of fundraising tools to ensure our fundraising systematically ensures our policy and approach are core in the ways that we work.

Sara Almer
ActionAid



Clare Nubel
Individual member



Ammarah Maqsood
Global Fund for Women



Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls

Shifting the Power Coalition, the Pacific



Jacqueline Acres
Living University,
South Africa



Facia Harris
Individual member



Niki Ignatiou
ActionAid



Kasey Ochiltree
Individual member

Communications Committee:

The Communications Committee is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of the FHN's Communications Strategy. In 2021, the Committee guided the communications and digital engagement for the launch of our inaugural research, the redesign of our website and migration to a new platform, the establishment of additional social platforms and the production of graphics and content to highlight our members work and our advocacy messages.

Anusanthee Pillay
Individual member



Naomi Tulay-Solanke
Community Healthcare Initiative, Liberia



Sara Almer
ActionAid



Urmila Shrestha
Tewa, Nepal



Mimidoo Achakpa
Women in
Humanitarian
Response in Nigeria
Network Initiative



Sandra Macías del Villar
Global Fund for Women

Olfat Mahmoud
Palestinian Women's Humanitarian
Organisation, Lebanon



Steering Committee:

We are governed by a Steering Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the network. Our Steering Committee reflects the 70/30 ratio of organisational members that we are committed to (maintaining an organisational membership of at least 70% women's rights organisations in the Global South to 30% international organisations and organisations headquartered in the Global North). Members are nominated and agreed to by the wider membership.

WOMEN'S HUMANITARIAN VOICES: COVID-19 THROUGH A FEMINIST LENS

In May 2021, we launched our first suite of publications, research titled **Women's Humanitarian Voices: Covid-19 through a feminist lens**, at an online event attended by over 100 women's rights organisations around the world, international non-government organisations, and donor governments.

We aimed to use the pandemic to capture a snapshot of the humanitarian system, the barriers it presents for women's rights organisations leading humanitarian efforts on the frontlines, and the feminist solutions women's rights organisations use to respond to crises and to overcome the challenges posed by the system. The research was collectively led by members in eight countries: Liberia, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Palestine, Lebanon, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

THE RESEARCH PRODUCED NINE REPORTS: A NATIONAL REPORT FOR EACH COUNTRY, AND A GLOBAL REPORT COLLATING FINDINGS. THE RESEARCH CONFIRMED THAT:



- During Covid-19, women-led and women's rights organisations have run awareness campaigns, distributed personal protective equipment, food, shelter, cash. They have led responses to gender-based violence, and ensured women's access to critical services such as maternal and newborn health and sexual and reproductive services.

- Despite the critical role women's rights organisations have played in Covid-19 response, they have had limited access to funding, and in a crisis, are forced to choose between long-term change efforts and emergency response, which threatens their sustainability. To access funding, WROs must undergo excessive 'due diligence' processes to prove themselves to INGOs and UN agencies.

- Women's rights organisations have used feminist humanitarian strategies throughout the pandemic: worked hand in hand with other women's rights and women-led organisations to share human and financial resources, and coordinated efforts to ensure that women receive the support they need.

- Women's rights organisations are rarely included in decision-making about emergency programs, and are often relegated to the role of 'implementing partner'. Their work and leadership is not recognised.



- Despite challenges, it is women's rights organisations that are on the frontlines, driving humanitarian efforts that ensure women are not left behind and women's rights are protected in crises.

Once launched, members from each of the eight countries where the research was conducted used it to undertake advocacy at national and community levels, and came together regularly to share progress and results. Globally, the research informed out advocacy and our interventions at global events. Our members used the research to inform their own research, and to contribute to their own organisations' feminist strategies.

CLAIMING SPACE & CONTRIBUTING TO DECISION-MAKING

Key in our objectives is ensuring that women's rights organisations in the Global South are included in decision-making spaces that influence the humanitarian system.

- In 2021, we continued our role as a Board member of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Action Compact, represented largely by our women's rights organisation members. We contributed to the development of the Compact framework, promoting a strong focus on women's leadership of decision-making and resourcing for women's rights organisations working on the frontlines of humanitarian action.



- We signed the Compact, and made commitments to continue to build our membership and in so doing, strengthen partnerships between national and local women's rights organisations, and international civil society organisations. We committed to continue to advocate and campaign for a transformed humanitarian system that is guided by feminist principles.



- We also joined the Women Deliver 2023 Advisory Group, to contribute to planning for the 2023 Conference, to be held in Kigali, Rwanda.

- We were appointed to the Board of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, where we are represented by two of our women's rights organisation members. These members convene a committee of women's rights organisations members across the network to ensure we are engaging in decision-making on the WPHF Board as a collective, and that the voices of diverse women and their organisations are heard in this space.

We are excited to be working alongside other feminists in the humanitarian sector and beyond, to continue demanding gender justice and transformation.

For more information on the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact, visit: <https://wpsahcompact.org/>

For more information on the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, visit: <https://wphfund.org/>

For more information on the Women Deliver 2023 Conference, visit: <https://www.wd2023.org/>

RAISING OUR VOICES + BEING HEARD

EVENTS AND REPRESENTATION:

- Throughout 2021, our members joined a number of global panels and spoke at a number of international events to push for a feminist humanitarian system that resources the work of women and their organisations in the Global South, and recognises, supports and follows their leadership. These events included (but weren't limited to):

- Panels on the Women Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPSHA) Compact at both Generation Equality Mexico and Generation Equality France, where the Compact was launched

- We co-hosted a briefing on the WPSHA Compact with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and UN Women

- A High-Level Event on *Gender Equality: Leadership, decision-making, and participation of women and girls in humanitarian settings* at the 2021 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Humanitarian Affairs segment

- A High-Level event on the 27th of October on *The Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action: Translating Commitments into Achievements* by the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN, the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the UN, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, and UN Women



- An event hosted by Women's Refugee Commission, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), Oxfam, Inter-Agency Standing Committee and Canada, on 'Humanitarian Organisations and Gender-Transformative Change: Fit for purpose?'

- A Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund event on Covid-19 and women's organisations in crisis

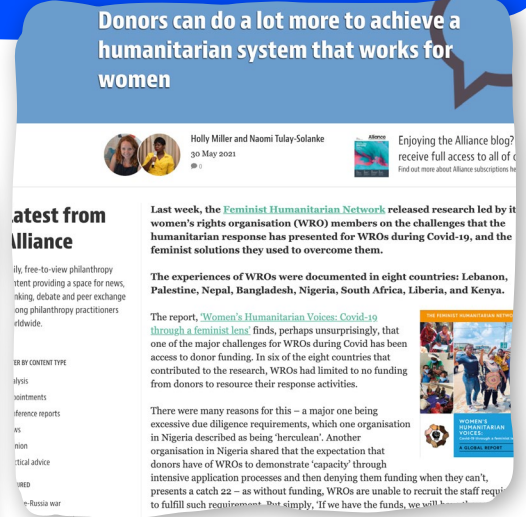
- An Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Reference Group on 'Disrupting Power and Organisational Culture - taking gender equality and women's empowerment beyond protection'



MEDIA

In 2021, achieving media coverage to promote our advocacy messages was a key objective. We had a number of pieces published, all of which highlighted our research findings and the need for a transformed, feminist humanitarian system.

- **Philanthropy News Digest published an opinion piece we wrote to mark the launch of our research titled *What Covid-19 has taught us about the humanitarian system and women's rights organisations***
- **Alliance Magazine published a piece we wrote called *Donors can do a lot more to achieve a humanitarian system that works for women***
- **Philanthropy Women published our press release titled *How has Covid-19 affected women in the Global South?* and promote our research across their social media channels.**



SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media accounts are still growing and in 2021, thanks to content from our members and a number of exciting events, we saw the audience of each of our channels grow. We set up an Instagram account, which continues to gain traction with feminists around the world.

Our Facebook following increased by 100%, and our overall page reach increased by 311% to 3,032



Our Twitter following increased by 40% in impressions (12,493 impressions) and our following increased by 8.8% (51 new followers)



Our Instagram following grew to 382



LEARNING FROM AND SUPPORTING EACH OTHER



In the second half of 2021, under the leadership of two of its women's rights organisation members (Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organisation, Lebanon; and Badabon Sangho, Bangladesh), the Feminist Humanitarian Network launched a series of learning sharing sessions.

The purpose of these sessions is for women's rights organisation members of the FHN working on the frontlines of humanitarian action in the Global South to share their learnings, accomplishments, challenges and approaches with each other, and with the broader FHN membership. The sessions are a space for FHN WRO members to provide support to each other and to learn from each other.

Sessions in which organisational members with different focus areas presented their work and shared their challenges were piloted, and learnings and reflections from each session were documented to contribute to developing an effective approach to shared learning. These sessions are continuing in 2022, building on lessons learnt.

The learning sessions are part of the FHN's focus on learning and reflecting collectively, and facilitating a safe, warm, and welcoming space for members to seek support from each other. This is an approach that is applied to every meeting, meet and greet, and event.

"We support each other professionally and emotionally. We check in with each other. We have built a unique and safe space, enabled by our feminist principles, and consequently, we have trust - in our space and in each other."

- Statement on our role, 2020 strategy review

"We are sharing our experience with others and learning from their experience. We also get links to funding institutions and other support institutions."

- Community Empowerment for Peace and Development, West Nile, Uganda

"We have been very active in the network and it has made us feel closer to other women's rights organisations around the world. We appreciate the support from them."

- Sawa Organisation, Palestine

RESOURCING OUR ACTION: FEMINIST FUNDING FOR A FEMINIST FUTURE

The donors who have supported the Feminist Humanitarian Network in its early stages of establishment have played a critical role in enabling us to lay our foundations, build a movement of feminists with an increasingly loud voice, and achieve recognition within the humanitarian system.

In 2021, we welcomed existing and new partnerships with American Jewish World Service (AJWS), the Packard Foundation and with our host organisation, ActionAid. Their support contributed and contributes significantly to us achieving the milestones outlined in this annual report, and more.

These partnerships followed funding that we received in 2020 from the Centre for Disaster Philanthropy, the FHN's first ever external donor, who supported our members' responses to the Covid-19 pandemic in the Global South.

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE (AJWS)

From January 2021 to October 2021, AJWS supported the FHN with a grant for \$41,850 USD. The grant was for targeted advocacy building on the work of FHN members responding to Covid-19 in the Global South. With this support we launched Women's Humanitarian Voices: Covid-19 through a feminist lens. Women's rights organisation members came together regularly to share their advocacy achievements in the eight countries that the research was undertaken. We produced a suite of communications materials to highlight to work of our members and achieve our advocacy objectives, and invested in a media strategy.

ACTIONAID

Throughout 2021 (from January to December), in its role as the host organisation of the Network, ActionAid contributed £46,600 to the operational costs of the FHN. This funding supported the establishment and maintenance of the FHN's digital platforms and operating systems, communications costs (including design and translations), and staffing.

Since its establishment and prior to the establishment of donor partnerships, ActionAid has funded the FHN's core operating costs and research and advocacy opportunities.

THE PACKARD FOUNDATION

In December 2021, we were excited to receive a grant from Packard Foundation for \$310,000 USD. This support will contribute significantly to our operations for 18 months. With this funding, the FHN will build on momentum that has grown over 2020 and 2021. Support from Packard Foundation will be used towards some of the key core costs of the FHN's, including resourcing its ongoing efforts to strengthen the network's power, capacity and feminist approaches towards achieving change in the humanitarian system. Our investments will be in staffing, translation and interpretation services, communications products, platforms and support, and fundraising – just to name a few.

We applaud our partners for their commitments to feminist funding models, and to supporting feminist leaders to create change in the humanitarian system. We are proud to work with them. We are excited to continue our partnerships with AJWS, Packard, and ActionAid in 2022, and look forward to bringing on board new partners who can support us financially to continue growing in voice, power, and recognition, to achieve our strategic objectives, and ultimately, a feminist humanitarian system.

In 2021, under the leadership of our Membership Committee and on feminist terms, members co-created a membership fees model that would contribute to the sustainability and independence of the Network, and will ensure collective ownership. This model, which includes income-based tiers, will be enacted from 2023 onward.

FEMINIST HUMANITARIAN NETWORK MEMBERSHIP IN 2021

The Feminist Humanitarian Network is currently comprised of 74 members, including grassroots women's rights organisations in the Global South, international NGOs, and individuals. Of the organisational members, 80% (45) are women's rights organisations and 20% (11 organisations) are international. Member organisations have varying areas of focus, but each has a humanitarian role that they play in crises.

Africa (27):

Community Healthcare Initiative (Liberia)
Kids Educational Engagement Program (Liberia)
Organisation for Women and Girls (Liberia)
Sisters 4 Sisters (Liberia)
Women Entrepreneurs and Environmental Links (Liberia)
Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Initiative Network (Nigeria)
Women's Right to Education Program (Nigeria)
Network of Disabled Women (Nigeria)
Life at Best Development Initiative (Nigeria)
Gender and Community Empowerment Initiative (Nigeria)
Crawn Trust (Kenya)
Rural Agency Community Development and Assistance (Kenya)
Refugee Consortium of Kenya (Kenya)
WomanKind Kenya (Kenya)
Pastoralist Girls (Kenya)
Kiaswa Initiative (Kenya)
Hope for Single Mothers Disabled (Rwanda)
The Living University/Sixface Creatives (South Africa)
Humanitarian Relief and Development Council (Somalia)
Hawa Feminist Coalition (Somalia)
Girls and Women Initiative for Self-Empowerment (Uganda)
Girls Rights and Advocacy Parade (Uganda)
Community Empowerment for Peace and Development (Uganda)
Support Organisation of Parents with Disabilities (Uganda)
Network of Ethiopian Women's Associations (Ethiopia)
Ma'Mara Sakit Village (South Sudan)
Crown the Woman (South Sudan)

Asia (7):

Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan - PKKK (the Philippines)
Tewa (Nepal)
Women for Human Rights - single women's group (Nepal)
Gyanbodh Research and Development Services (Nepal)
Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (Bangladesh)
Badabon Sangho (Bangladesh)
PRERONA Nari Unnayan Sanggathan (Bangladesh)

The Pacific (1):

Shifting the Power Coalition (in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Australia)

Middle East (7):

Culture and Free Thought Association (Palestine)
Roles for Social Change Association (Palestine)
Sawa Organisation (Palestine)
Shashat Woman Cinema (Palestine)
Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organisation (Lebanon)
Marsa (Lebanon)
Lebanon Family Planning Association for Development and Family Empowerment (Lebanon)

Latin America + the Caribbean (3)

Belize Family Life Association (Belize)
Ecuadorian Centre for the Promotion of Women (Ecuador)
Civil Association of Family Planning (Venezuela)

International organisations (11):

African Women's Development Fund
ActionAid
CARE International
COFEM
Fòs Feminista
International Rescue Committee
Gender@Work
Global Fund for Women
MADRE
Plan International
Women's Refugee Commission

Individuals (18):

The FHN currently has 18 individual members, all of whom are professional humanitarians, from countries that include South Africa, Liberia, the UK, the US, Nigeria, Nepal, Uganda, Ghana, Bulgaria, and Canada.