

Feminist Humanitarian Network

# Annual Report 2022





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# Introduction

The Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN) is working to connect and amplify the power of feminist and women-led organizations operating across a spectrum of specialist areas, in both traditional and non-traditional humanitarian spaces around the world. Together we are sowing the seeds of change, growing a movement that will transform the humanitarian system into one that lives up to our feminist values. It is this shared vision that has shaped our work in 2022 and serves as the theme of this, our second, annual report.

Our 2022 annual report provides a snapshot of our collective growth and achievements over the past 12 months. We welcomed new members and new staff to the FHN Secretariat, we participated and made our voice heard in key decision-making spaces and on the Boards which we sit on, we published our first ever annual report, and as always members came together to reflect, strategize, make decisions and support each other – building our community and strengthening the relationships key to achieving our vision.

A key area of work in 2022 was the review of our 2020-2025 strategy document. Through a reflective and collaborative process that spanned several months, members outlined their vision for a feminist humanitarian ecosystem, one that encapsulates the essential need to work together beyond thematic areas and country borders, to share knowledge, skills and most importantly resources, so that when emergency strikes, no one is left behind. A feminist humanitarian ecosystem acknowledges and respects the intrinsic role played by feminist organizations, women's rights organizations (WROs), and women-led organizations working on the frontlines of humanitarian emergencies at the grassroots and national levels. A feminist humanitarian ecosystem applies feminist approaches and principles at every decision-making stage, informed by the voices of women, girls and gender-diverse people affected by humanitarian crises to ensure their rights and needs are upheld.

As the number of people around the world requiring humanitarian assistance reaches an all time high, our work is increasingly urgent. To ensure that every humanitarian intervention does good rather than harm, we know we must push forward to lay the roots for transformation; sharing our values and learnings, working collectively to shift power, nurturing feminist leadership, and kinship that has the ability to turn each crisis into a catalyst for positive change and dismantle harmful systems of power. We are grateful to all those who have been allies, and supported our work in 2022. We hope to grow this support as we move forward, amplifying our voice to ensure all women, girls and gender-diverse people's fundamental human needs are fulfilled before, during, and after crises.

In solidarity and feminist kinship,

The FHN Steering Committee



# **2022 Highlights**



FHN represented on the panel at the launch of OCHA's Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2023 - a comprehensive and evidence-based assessment of global humanitarian needs.

#### **Network growth**

We welcomed eight new members to the Network in 2022.

#### **Feminist Foreign Policy Summit**

We co-hosted an event with ActionAid at the inaugural Feminist Foreign Policy Summit, held by the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy. The event highlighted the need for feminist humanitarian action in foreign policies.

#### Women Deliver 2023

Women Deliver conference's Advisory Committee and **Communications Advisory Group** and our application to host two concurrent sessions at the Women Deliver Conference was successful.

We participated as a member of the

## Making our voices heard

We engaged in multiple key decision-making spaces, spoke on high-level panels and actively engaged on the Boards and advisory groups which we sit to share our advocacy positions.

#### Strategic review

We undertook a collective review of our Strategy, and refined our Vision and Goal to reflect the changes we want to advocate for in the humanitarian system.

## CSW66

At CSW66, in New York, US, we co-hosted a side event with the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) on the role played by WROs during the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges presented by the humanitarian system.

# **'Brave Feminist Conversations'**

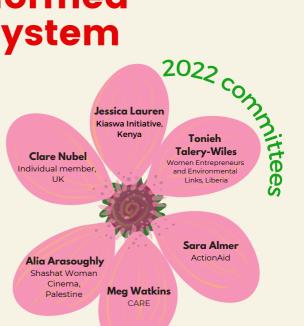
We co-facilitated 'The Regional Workshop on Feminist Local Humanitarian Leadership: Brave Feminist Conversations', in Bangkok, Thailand, alongside Oxfam and the Women's Legal & Human Rights Bureau (WLB) in the Philippines.

# FEMINIST HUMANITARIAN NETWORK

# Collective, feminist leadership to achieve a transformed humanitarian system

# **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 funding opportunities. In 2022, the Fundraising Committee led the appointment of the FHN Fundraising Lead, and worked on the production of multiple targeted fundraising proposals aimed at significantly strengthening the Network's income and sustainability. The Committee also led on the delivery of fundraising training sessions to share knowledge between members.



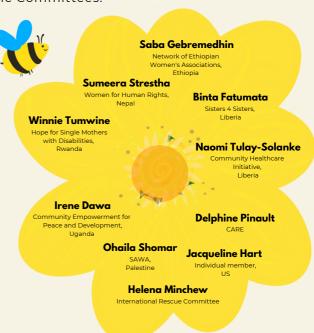
# Mmonbeydo Nadine Joah Organisation for Women & Children, Liberia Bridget Rhinehart Individual Member, Rwanda Grace Ireri ActionAid Mugishagwe Fos Feminista

#### **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee leads membership recruitment processes and the development and implementation of feminist policies on FHN membership and member accountability. To support members' induction and collective learning, in 2022 the Membership Committee led on the development of a membership strategy, ensuring that membership growth is strategic, inclusive and diverse, and ensures that we are building the collective power to achieve our vision. The Membership Committee also established new guidelines requiring members to have been engaged with the FHN for a year before joining the Strategic Committees.

#### **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 organization members. In 2022, the Advocacy Committee finalized the FHN's 2021 - 2025 Advocacy Strategy, supported the FHN's engagement in and access to global humanitarian forums such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's 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.





#### **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee is responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of the FHN's Communications Strategy. In 2022, the Communications Committee guided the recruitment of the FHN Communications Lead, and worked on the production, design and launch of the FHN's first annual report, the new FHN quarterly member newsletter and other key communications resources for members to support our advocacy work. The Committee also guided on the establishment of additional social media profiles and on strengthening our digital activism.





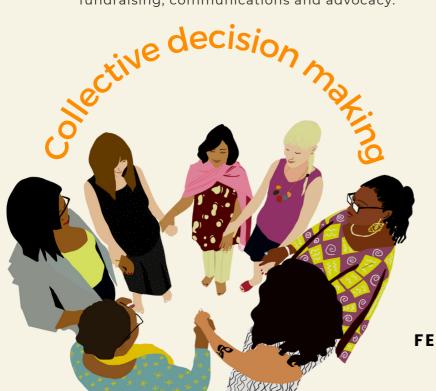
# **Steering Committee**

We are governed by a Steering Committee, which is responsible for strategic oversight of the network. Our Steering Committee reflects the 70/30 membership ratio that we are committed to. This means the Steering Committee represents 70% members based in the Global South and 30% members located in the Global North. Members are nominated and agreed to by the wider membership. In 2022, the Steering Committee supported the Network through its strategic review process, oversaw the development of the 2022 FHN workplan and kickstarted a process to review the FHN's governance.



#### The FHN Secretariat

The FHN Secretariat grew in 2022, following the recruitment of two new members of staff, Fundraising Lead, Eliza Horton and Communications Lead, Joey Greene. They joined FHN Lead, Holly Miller in September 2022 and have supported the implementation of the FHN's strategic workplans; coordinating day-to-day activities, fundraising, communications and advocacy.



# **Project groups**

In addition to our Strategic Committees, in 2022 several project groups were established for specific events, funding applications and work-streams. This provided additional opportunities to ensure collective leadership from the whole membership.



FEMINIST HUMANITARIAN NETWORK

# Our membership

In 2022, we continued to grow our network gaining eight new members - two new WRO members and six individual members from countries across Africa, Asia and Europe.













New members

We welcomed eight new members in 2022



A total of 80 members by the end of 2022



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# Our work in 2022



# FEMINIST HUMANITARIAN NETWORK

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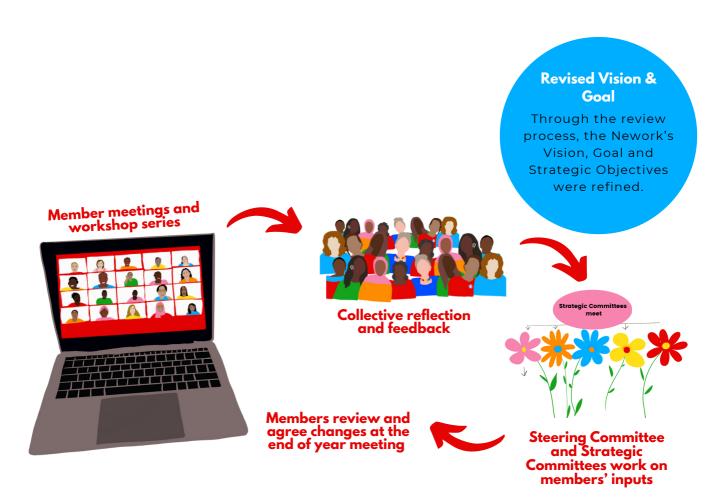


# **Getting strategic**

A key focus in 2022 was reviewing and revising the FHN Strategy. The Strategy was developed collectively by members through numerous meetings and workshops, and was reviewed in the same way. The review was led by a project team of members who came together to discuss the process and refine the language based on member inputs.

Over a six-week period, members met for a series of remote workshops to reflect on our Vision and Goal statements, and to discuss the changes we want to advocate for in the humanitarian system and how we could reflect that in our language. A project group was formed to guide the strategy review process, and the Steering Committee and Strategic Committees met and worked to share inputs and ongoing reflections on the FHN's structure and ways of working.

The FHN Strategy is reviewed biennially to ensure that we respond to shifts in the humanitarian system and in the political spheres beyond it. These review processes also ensure that our collective learnings and reflections, and refinements in ways of working and in feminist practice, inform the strategy which then informs the FHN's activities and work-planning. Our next review and reflection process will be held in mid-2024.



# **Vision**

An intersectional feminist ecosystem in which grassroots and national feminist actors have the power to ensure all women, girls and gender-diverse people's fundamental human needs are fulfilled before, during, and after crises.

# Goal

To contribute to transforming the current humanitarian system into an intersectional feminist ecosystem, free of the structural inequalities that drive crises, including racism, patriarchy, colonialism and neoliberalism.



# Strategic Objectives

To achieve our vision of a feminist humanitarian system, our focus is on achieving the following objectives:

- 1. To mobilize and strengthen the collective intersectional leadership and power of our network in order to create change in the humanitarian system.
- To contribute to transforming the current humanitarian system so that the
  expertise and efforts of women-led and feminist actors and movements are
  centered, recognized, and adequately resourced.
- 3. To **create actionable feminist evidence** and analysis to **shift power** to women, girls, and gender-diverse people, including women and girls with disabilities; and marginalized communities in crisis-affected contexts.
- 4. To **identify and challenge colonial, patriarchal and racist practices** and demand bilateral donors, affected country governments, UN agencies, and INGOs institute policies and practices that shift power in the humanitarian system to feminist organizations and WROs.
- 5. To shift power in the humanitarian system to ensure: the authentic and **meaningful** representation of feminist actors in decision-making; safeguarding and accountability to affected civil society and communities; and financing and equitable partnerships.



# Regional Workshop on Feminist Local Humanitarian Leadership

The Regional Workshop on Feminist Local Humanitarian Leadership: *Brave Feminist Conversations*, took place in Bangkok, between 15 - 17 November 2022.

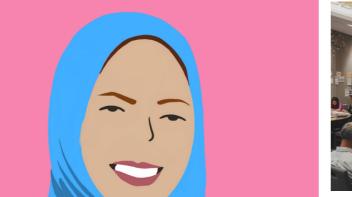
The workshop was co-facilitated by Oxfam, the Women's Legal & Human Rights Bureau (WLB) in the Philippines, and the FHN, and aimed to explore the different feminist approaches being taken by local organizations working in humanitarian response in the region, to learn what being a feminist humanitarian means their organizations and what challenges are facing local and community actors in order to build collective solutions.













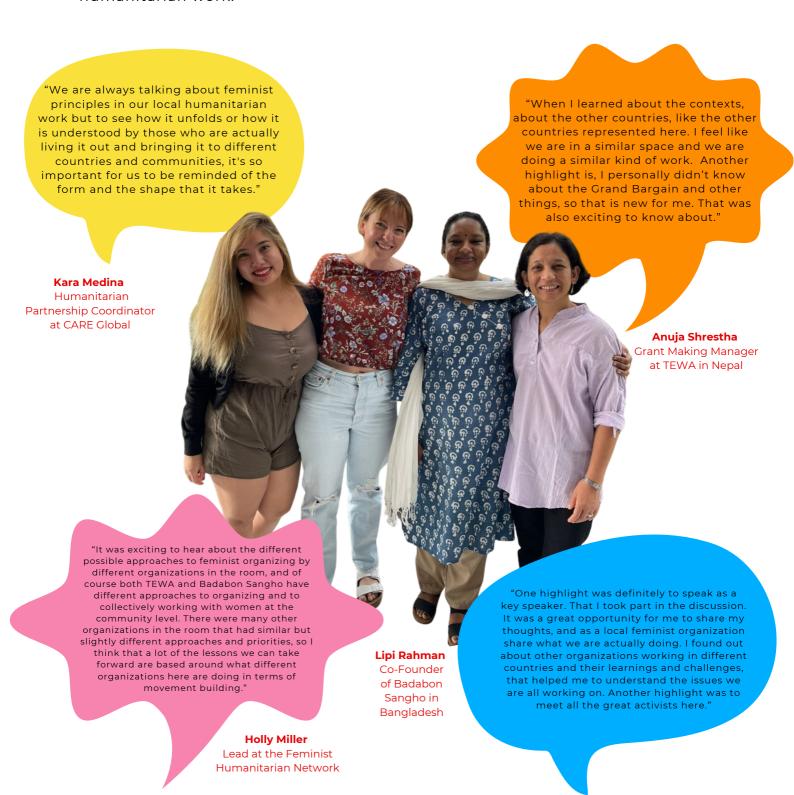


Brave feminist conversations



At the start of the week, the FHN co-facilitated a session covering feminist workshop principles, introductions and expectations - the session helped to create a safe and inclusive space for participants to engage in <a href="Brave Feminist Conversations">Brave Feminist Conversations</a>.

FHN members who attended the workshop held a meeting to discuss their reflections. It was fantastic to be together and have the opportunity to engage in inspiring conversations with other feminist organizations on their humanitarian work.





# Raising our voices and being heard

In 2022, we continued to prioritize a central objective of the Network: ensuring that women's rights organizations in the Global South play a key role in decision-making processes that shape the humanitarian system.

We continued in our role as Board member of the **Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact** and through it achieved greater accountability to women and WROs in reporting mechanisms.

We continued our role as a Board member of the **Women's Peace** and **Humanitarian Fund**. Leading in this space, FHN members highlighted WROs' role as first responders, climate campaigners and women human right's defenders, as well as the crucial role they play in preventing conflict and building peace.

# Women Deliver 2023

We participated as a member of the Women Deliver Advisory Group guiding the organization of the Women Deliver 2023 conference.

In December, the FHN's Advocacy Committee co-created and submitted a network-wide letter to **France's Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** requesting they re-assess and revise grantee structures within the currently exclusive Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF).

# The Grand Bargain and Friends of Gender Group

In 2022, a proposal was made by the Advocacy Committee that the FHN should become a signatory of the Grand Bargain and volunteer to Co-Chair the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group in 2023.

Members of the FHN considered this opportunity, and collectively agreed that the Network should pursue both opportunities.

The Grand Bargain has so far had two iterations and is an important platform where the FHN's collective voice could have real influence in bringing feminist approaches to the forefront of high-level, and system-wide decision making on humanitarian action.

# What is the Grand Bargain?

"The Grand Bargain, is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations who have committed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action, in order to get more means into the hands of people in need."

For more information watch this video by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies.

# What is the Friends of Gender Group?

The Friends of Gender Group (FoGG) was established in 2016 and brings together UN agencies, donor agencies and INGOs, with UN Women as its convenor. FoGG works to strengthen the Grand Bargain commitments to advancing gender equality and upholding the rights of women and girls in humanitarian settings. FoGG's work has so far focused on four priority areas: Localisation, Cash, Needs Assessment and Participation Revolution.

# FEMINIST HUMANITARIAN NETWORK



In March, Mmonbeydo Nadine Joah, Executive Director of ORWOCH (Liberia) and Holly Miller represented the FHN at the WPS-HA Compact's Meeting and participated in the process of building the Compact's M&E framework.

At CSW66 in March, as well as cohosting our side event with the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG), the FHN was represented at the WPS-HA Compact side event titled "The Road to Youth-Inclusive Implementation of Women, Peace and Security Humanitarian Action Compact Actions" by Belmar Franceschi, Director of PLAFAM (Venezuela).





In April 2022, the FHN co-hosted an event with ActionAid at the inaugural Feminist Foreign Policy Summit, held by the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy. The event highlighted the need for feminist humanitarian action in foreign policies.

In April 2022, we also participated in Development Initiatives (DI) and International Rescue Committee's event 'Turning Commitments into Action: Strengthening Humanitarian Funding for Women and Girls'.





In July, the FHN co-hosted an event at the Local Humanitarian Leadership Summit on women's leadership in humanitarian action - Winnie Tumwine (Hope for Single Mothers, Rwanda), and Alia Arasoughly (Shashat Woman Cinema, Palestine) represented the FHN on the panel.

In September, the FHN was a key speaker at the Philippines Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau's online event mapping local actors and initiatives on feminist local humanitarian leadership.





In October, Lipi Rahman and Mimidoo Achakpa represented the FHN at the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's Board meeting.

In December, Facia Harris, individual member, represented the FHN at the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network inter-regional meeting in South Africa and the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact's Board meeting.





The first Women Deliver Advisory Group meeting was held. The FHN was represented by Olfat Mahmoud (Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization, Lebanon) and Sandra Macías del Villar (Global Fund for Women).

"More resources are critically required to ensure that those who are affected by crises have the power and the agency to respond to these crises on our terms. I cannot say it enough, being accountable to affected communities means hearing our voices, following our leadership and resourcing our work. It is critical."



In December, FHN Steering Committee member Mimidoo Achakpa spoke on the panel at the launch of OCHA's <u>Global</u> <u>Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2023</u> - a comprehensive and evidence-based assessment of global humanitarian needs.

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# **Amplifying our message**

The FHN saw a marked jump in our social media following in 2022, and worked hard to build our digital allyship around the world. We used our growing social media platforms to share and amplify the work of our members, as well as to disseminate our collective key advocacy messages to influential actors within the system.

On Twitter, we **grew our following to 998.** Our reach expanded significantly and we focussed on connecting with key humanitarian actors.





On Instagram, we grew **our** following from **382** at the end of **2021** to **1,791** by the end of **2022.** Our reach grew by **329%**.

On Facebook, we grew our following by 87.5% to 1,206 by the end of 2022. Our reach grew by 647% with over 20k followers engaged.

We joined LinkedIn in

We marked some important communications firsts in 2022, including the launch of our first annual report and our quarterly member newsletter.



#### New video content

October 2022 and finished the year with 157 new followers.

We shared new bespoke video animations which provide an overview of who the FHN is, aiming to promote the Network across our social media channels. We also shared new video content highlighting the findings from our 2021 COVID-19 reports.

\*\*Gur vision is of a humanitarian system based on feminist principles.

One that improves crisis response around the world, challenges structural inequalities & ensures inclusivity, fairness & justice for all. #TimeforChang





# Using our voice

In 2022, with our increased communications capacity the FHN joined important conversations online, including sharing a statement on Sweden's decision to abandon its feminist foreign policy and posts in solidarity and support of women in Iran fighting for their rights and bodily autonomy. We also took part in several campaigning events, including the campaigns shared below.





We were delighted to contribute to Purposeful's powerful piece on dismantling the humanitarian-industrial complex which was featured by <u>Alliance magazine</u>.

imposed through a colonial and imperialist approach that continues to be held today and ignores the accountability of colonial and imperialism extraction and oppression in creating and exacerbating humanitarian crises. This is demonstrated clearly by who receives the vast amount of humanitarian funding, with "almost half of the humanitarian aid directed to organisations went to just three UN agencies" as well as the role of climate change in perpetuating crises. "Acknowledging the colonial and patriarchal dynamics that have shaped the existing system, feminist humanitarian response works to dismantle practices within the sector that exclude women and gender-diverse people. The movement recognises that there is no one-size fits all approach. It aims to shift power to women-led and feminist organisations in order to create safe spaces to plan and coordinate responses, inclusively. Supporting the collective efforts of place-based, diverse, feminist actors is critical to ensuring that crises do not further entrench and deepen inequalities. Feminist humanitarian response has the potential to be catalytic and transformative - creating a system

that has justice for all at its heart." Feminist Humanitarian Network

• Decolonise the humanitarian sector and efforts: the humanitarian sector was



# Resourcing our action: Feminist funding for a feminist future

As a young network, establishing a solid financial foundation is critical to ensuring we create a long-term and sustainable platform from which we can strengthen our voice and leadership within key humanitarian spaces and push for a feminist future.

In 2022, the Network welcomed a consultant to guide collective efforts on resource mobilization, supporting the Network in building key strategic partnerships, as well as coordinating the FHN Fundraising Committee, which met every six weeks throughout the year. A key development in our financial growth, and central to our collective ownership model was the introduction of an inclusive system of membership fees.

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Funding

Tight

Tight We also conducted in depth donor research, built donor relationships, coordinated donor meetings, submitted proposals and refined our financial processes to enhance the FHN's grant management and fundraising outcomes.

# The David and Lucile **Packard Foundation**

The FHN's grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation of \$310,000 USD was a significant contribution to FHN operations throughout 2022. The grant enabled the Network to invest in communications, fundraising, digital infrastructure, translation and interpretation services. The grant also strengthened the Network's engagement with key humanitarian decision-makers, donor governments and supported the conceptualisation of innovative research around barriers in the humanitarian system. The grant also facilitated member-wide knowledge sharing, learning and reflection sessions as well as supporting FHN members from the Global South to lead in key global decision-making spaces.

# Introduction of membership fees

In 2022, the FHN collectively decided to introduce annual membership fees through an equitable membership fee scale. This structure recognises different contributions from organizational and individual members based in the Global North and Global South, to effectively redistribute wealth and share costs. Membership fees seek to strengthen FHN sustainability and reduce dependence on donors, therefore allowing us to be more deeply feminist in our approach. The FHN received \$50,000 in annual membership fees for 2023 from international members. The FHN is actively developing an inclusive system which will enable smaller contributions from organizations with lower income levels while also ensuring membership fees are not a barrier for FHN participation, particularly for members based in the Global South.



# American Jewish World Service (AJWS)

Between January and December 2022, AJWS supported the FHN with a grant of \$25,000 USD. The grant strengthened the Network's Secretariat, supported in expanding the diversity of the Network's membership, delivered targeted advocacy in key global decision-making spaces, coordinated and facilitated member-led learning, reflection and sharing sessions.

# The Centre for Disaster Philanthropy

In August 2022, the FHN was delighted to receive a grant of \$165,000 USD from the Centre for Disaster Philanthropy to support FHN members on the frontlines of the COVID-19 recovery in the Global South.



# **ActionAid**

Throughout 2022, in its role as the FHN's host, ActionAid contributed to the operational functioning, digital infrastructure and staffing of the Network financially and through support in kind. ActionAid has supported the FHN to build relationships with donors and access funding streams, and continues to contribute to Network as an active member.

For example, through ActionAid's partnership with the **People's Postcode Lottery**, and made possible thanks to the players of People's Postcode Lottery, \$60,000 USD enabled the FHN to strengthen fundraising capacity, systems and processes, communications and conduct extensive independence mapping to identify the best country for the FHN to be registered.



The donors who supported the Feminist Humanitarian Network in 2022 have played a critical role in bolstering our visibility, influence, learning, sharing and reflection, leadership in humanitarian decision-making spaces, fundraising and communications capacity.





# **Our members**

#### Africa (27):

Community Healthcare Initiative (Liberia)
Kids Educational Engagement Program (Liberia)
Organisation for Women and Children (Liberia)
Sister 4 Sister (Liberia)

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Women Entrepreneurs and Environmental Links (Liberia)

Women in Humanitarian Response in Nigeria Initiative (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 (Kenya) Kiaswa Initiative (Kenya) Hope for Single Mothers with Disabilities (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)

Women and Rural Development Net WORUDET (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 (Nepal)

Gyanbodh Research and Development Services (Nepal)

Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (Bangladesh)

(Daligiauesii)

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 organizations (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 (22):

The FHN currently has 22 individual members, all of whom are professional humanitarians, from countries that include Bulgaria, Canada, Ghana, Liberia, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa, Liberia, the UK, the US and, Nigeria, Nepal, Uganda, Ghana, Bulgaria, and Canada

