EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2018 Global Survey of Grassroots Grant Recipients

Photo Credit | Elizebeth Weber

From November 2017 through March 2018, Global Greengrants Fund conducted a worldwide survey of our grantees as a follow-up to one completed in 2015. The survey, which will be repeated every three years, is one of the many ways Global Greengrants Fund reflects on how we contribute to grassroots environmental and social change. It helps us to get a better picture of the challenges and opportunities our grantees face. By doing so, we are able to channel the investments of our donors more effectively and provide better support for the grassroots movements protecting our shared planet.

Portrait of a 2016 Grantee Respondent

59% have grown since their last grant

43.4% have faced restrictions or threats in their work

 $39.7\% \text{ Reported that global greengrants was} \\ \text{Their first funder}$

MEDIAN 3 STAFF PEOPLE AND A \$19,000 ANNUAL BUDGET

"We are always honored to be understood and therefore supported by [Global Greengrants Fund]. Our work takes tenacity, patience and many years to bring success- and [Global Greengrants Fund] makes it clear they understand the tenants of activism, which allows us to be frank and forthright with our words in order to communicate the challenge, strategies and our needs in order to move forward."



Key Findings

Building Movements for Environmental and Social Justice

At Global Greengrants, we believe that the best solutions to environmental and social justice issues come from the people who are most impacted. However, these people and communities often lack the resources to act on their ideas and the political and economic power to participate in the decisions that affect them. The survey confirmed that our model provides effective support to people and communities who are ready to act, helping them to voice their concerns and to propose and implement their solutions. When asked about their achievements, all of the survey respondents reported positive outcomes, from positive impacts on their immediate locale, such as trees planted, to "highly significant" outcomes that struck at the root of larger environmental and social justice problems.

More importantly, the survey confirmed that our grants can, and are, contributing to building the social infrastructure and networks that connect organizations to larger movements. Local struggles can resonate much more if they are joined with other communities and with sympathetic allies in civil society, media, even government. By building awareness and reframing issues collectively, as part of a movement, local actions begin to fit with larger narratives and trends that can actually shape how societies and governments think about the issues facing society. Indeed, many of the grantees who reported "highly significant" achievements indicated that these results were achieved in collaboration with others over the course of several, if not many, years. In light of this, we were pleased that the majority of our grantees are using funds in ways that are important to movement building, such as raising awareness about local issues in a way that connects them to a wider context, organizing, networking or mobilizing people across communities, and responding to opportunities to influence legal, policy or judicial decisions.

noto Credit | Elizebeth Weber

"Thanks to the support of GGF, we have been able to advance in the recognition of the rights of the Indigenous Peoples within the coastal marine systems in [country]. In addition, our collective work with diverse indigenous communities has been fundamental to advancing new forms of administration, founded on community principles and oriented towards the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources. Today, and due to the trust and support received by GGF, we have managed to scale up our efforts as a nationwide organization, and consequently, have contributed to positioning Indigenous Peoples as key and relevant actors in marine planning."

-A GRANTEE RESPONDENT

13% described "highly significant" achievements, or outcomes that addressed the root cause of a problem and will likely have long-lasting, far-reaching effects, such as changes to laws or corporate policies or successfully countering environmentally harmful projects.

26% described "significant" achievements, or outcomes that were slightly narrower in their scope than "highly significant" achievements, perhaps only affecting one community, but in a highly significant way, or that demonstrated progress toward "highly significant" changes.

37.9[‰] of the grantees that indicated having achieved "highly significant" outcomes received their first outside funding from Global Greengrants. These results confirm that, over the past five years, Global Greengrants has had an impressive track record of providing seed funding to groups that go on to be involved in significant achievements.

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HAD INCREASED THE

NUMBER OF GROUPS WITH

WHOM THEY CONNECT IN THE PAST YEAR.



STATE THEY HAVE INFLUENCED DECISION MAKERS "TO A LARGE EXTENT."

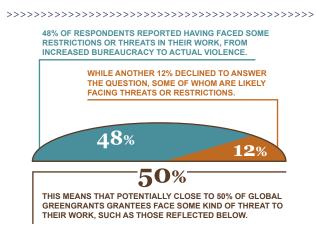
39.8%



FEEL THEY HAVE INFLUENCED PUBLIC OPINION OUTSIDE THEIR IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY TO A LARGE EXTENT IN THE LAST YEAR.

Safety and Security for our Network

Over the past years, we have seen a trend of increased restrictions against civil society coupled with an even more alarming increase in violence and threats of violence against environmental and human rights defenders. The survey revealed that restrictions and threats, from increased bureaucracy to actual violence, are not only common, but are happening in nearly every part of the world. These findings give new urgency to the commitment we have made to provide flexible funding for the safety and security of our advisors and grantees.



Grantees are facing restrictions and threats around the world:

hoto Credit | Goldman Environmental Prize

FAST % OF RESPONDENTS INDICATED HAVING ASIA EXPERIENCED RESTRICTIONS OR THREATS NORTH AMERICA 63 SOUTH 50% OCEANA ASIA 29% CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA 30% SOUTHEAST CENTRAL SUB-SAHARAN ASIA ASIA AFRICA 64

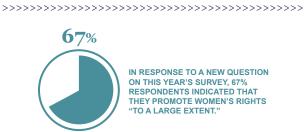
Over the last 3 years has your organization or its members faced any of the following	Yes
Spying or surveillance	27%
Restrictions by government on what kind of activities we conduct	26%
Public stigmatization (by officials or in media or informally)	25.5%
Threats of violence	23%
Increased bureaucracy and hurdles on registering as an organization or getting a bank account	22%
Censorship attempts to interfere with or censor communications	20%
Lawsuits aimed at silencing or stopping our work	17%
Restrictions by government on receiving outside funding	15%
Leaders or staff faced house arrest, criminal charges, detention or imprisonment	8%
Actual violence, attacks, or killings	7%
We were shut down by the government in the last three years	2%

"I have been working in this area for about 13 years and I have not come across any funding programme that is so easy to access and simple.... Sometimes the complexity of accessing funds and writing proposal can put off the excitement and enthusiastic about the new idea and concept but this grant from Global Greengrants was easy to access while the community was still excited about their concept ideas and the fund arrived with quick turn around time. The amount may be small compared to other donors but it was enough to get something started and become an amplifier, pushing us to be more creative and innovative in using it wisely."

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Women's Environmental Action

An important part of Global Greengrants' mission is supporting diverse leadership in environmental and social justice movements. We have long recognized and raised awareness about the intersection of women's rights and environmental justice, and we tracked how and if grantees think about gender in their work given our concerted effort to raise discourse and debate across the organization on this important intersection. This year, 57% of grantees responded that the consideration of gender is "essential" to the work and mission of their organization, compared to 42% in 2015 survey. While the consideration of "gender" increased for our grantees in a significant way, other categories that they were asked to rate, such as "biodiversity," showed no increase compared to 2015. This suggests a true change in the way our grantees are thinking about gender has occurred in the years between our surveys.



Conclusions

The grantee survey allows us to gather feedback and reflect on how our advisors can more effectively support grassroots organizations and movements with our funding. Grantee comments on the survey consistently remarked on how well-suited Global Greengrants' "simple" and "flexible" grantmaking model is to supporting locally led environmental and social justice action. Indeed, the survey results as a whole demonstrate that our model is an effective means of bridging the gap between donor investments and grassroots movements. Yet the feedback from our grantees in the survey also reinforced that victories take time and gave us new awareness about the growing challenges facing our grantees, as well as the importance of repeat funding in the initial years after an organization's founding. As we continue to stand with our grantees, we will work to provide more funding, as well as more flexible funding, to aid them in their work and to help provide them with increased safety and security as they meet the challenges ahead.

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