



# JASS Mobilization Fund

## A feminist response to organizing during crisis

Dealing with crises has always been a reality for women who are most impacted by structural inequalities. When these crises arise, they need resources to respond quickly and to organize in safe and effective ways. The Mobilization Fund enables JASS partners and allies to navigate emergencies, sustain their communities and seize opportune political moments that advance longer term organizing efforts.

### The Fund supports:

- Advocacy and urgent action
- Activist safety
- Practical needs
- Community-led recovery and solidarity

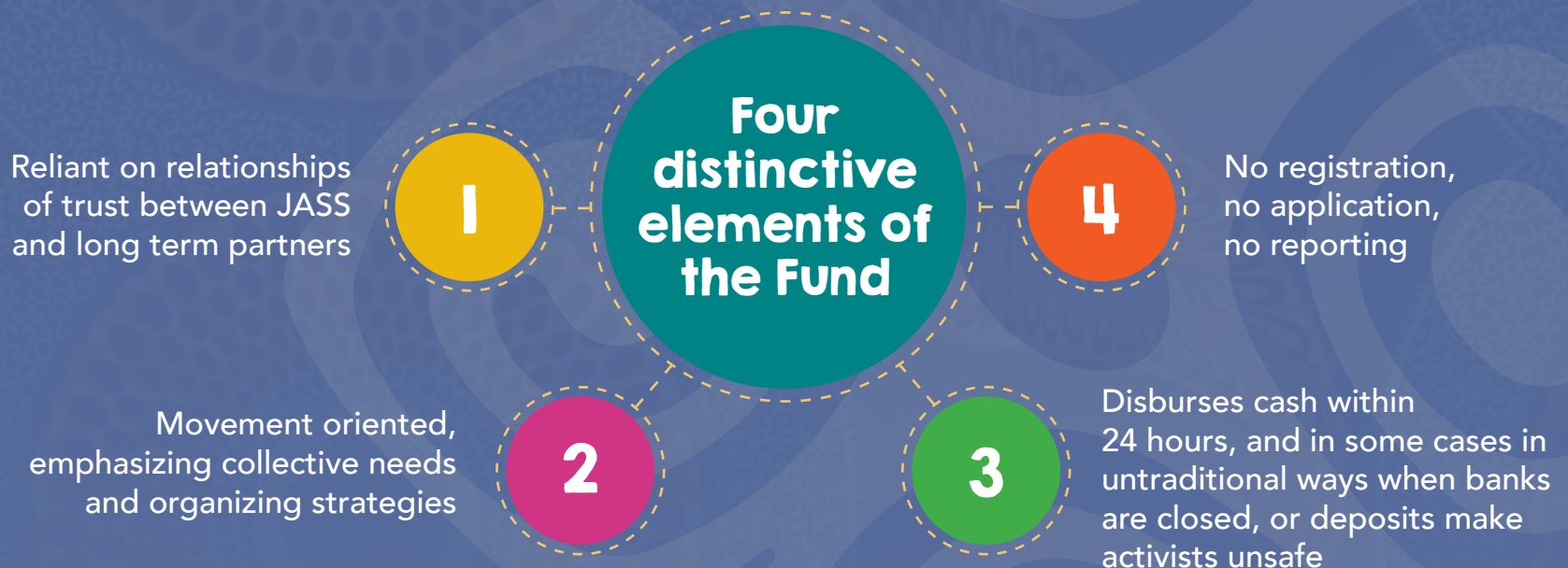
Since 2020 the Fund has supported  
**150+ allies & partners**  
in **17+ countries**  
with money ranging from  
**\$300 to \$3000**





# What sets the Fund apart?

The Mobilization Fund is an essential part of our movement building work to support women's individual and collective safety and leadership. During moments of crises, the Fund plays a critical role in sustaining and sometimes activating new rounds of organizing by women in a way that is responsive to their contexts and needs.



It's about solidarity and trust with our partners' situation and response first. Like how we always work, our partners define the kind of support they need, and we facilitate that."

– Kunthea Chan, JASS Southeast Asia



The Fund has provided support for our allies and partners in the most needed environments. The agility of the response has been a key element."

– Patricia Ardon, JASS Mesoamerica

# From the frontline

📍 Women often face criminalization, attacks and death threats in reprisal of their activism. In **Guatemala**, the Mobilization Fund supported women land defenders of the K'iche' Peoples Council fighting corruption in their community. Even amidst the challenges of lockdown and mobility restrictions due to Covid-19, they were able to sustain protests and solidarity actions denouncing criminalization of K'iche' activists and journalists, while providing legal counseling, psychological and spiritual support for detained defenders.

“ The attacks against a defender affect the whole community, weakening its leadership, generating internal tensions and conflicts, and draining time and energy from advancing in the work of building collective power.”  
– Collective protection to defend territory; defense of territory to protect life, JASS-FGHR

📍 When lockdown led to a sharp rise in gender-based violence (GBV) in **South Africa**, the Precarious Women Workers of Gauteng started a self-defense course with funds from the JASS Mobilization Fund. The RiseUp Against GBV used resources from the Fund to fill gaps where the state failed. The women activists from RiseUp rented a vehicle to conduct emergency evacuations of survivors to shelters and provide blankets to women living on the street.

“ We prevented GBV deaths. That's what the Fund helped us to contribute to. [The Fund] also helped us identify gaps in the system.” – **Mandisa Khanyile, RiseUp Against GBV, South Africa**

📍 In **Malawi**, the Mobilization Fund has supported the Our Bodies, Our Lives (OBOL) – an 8,000+ women-strong campaign supported by JASS to create food security initiatives to secure their economic survival and independence. OBOL women have created 24 community gardens in 20 districts, planting beans, tomatoes, onions, and other vegetables to feed their families, sell the produce in their communities, and invest the profits in village savings loans or bank accounts. JASS' political education, technical support, advocacy, and financial resources helped to anchor this work.

“ It's my dream to see women's livelihoods change. The gardens have helped women to cope with the socio-economic impacts of Covid-19. Women can sell food and feed their families.”  
– OBOL woman leader, Malawi



📍 In the wake of the violent crackdown on activists and protests following the military coup in **Myanmar**, the Mobilization Fund found fast and creative ways to get resources to women leaders of the resistance. The Fund provided money for safe communications, food, transportation, relocation, shelter, and protection gear. This flexible cash has enabled their continued leadership, resilience and safety.

“ [Since the coup] we had to stop all our policy advocacy work at the national level and we had to shift all our strategy and funding to support emergency needs. There are huge needs of safety and security of people that are joining the civil disobedience movement” – **May Sabe Phyu, activist from Myanmar**



# What difference does the Fund make for...



**... Activists.** Lack of or shortages in everyday essentials such as food and medicines can inhibit or stop women's organizing altogether. In extreme cases, women activists can be detained or dislocated from communities, further compounding their survival, organizing, and safety. Providing immediate support for individual leaders is potent for advancing their organizing agendas.

**...Communities.** The Fund activates and strengthens collective community responses to both unanticipated disasters and long term struggles, such as those led by communities defending their land and resources against extractivist companies or climate disasters.

**...Organizations.** The Mobilization Fund enables organizations to mobilize communities when challenges arise. By providing an opportunity to build care and re-energize organizing and movement spaces, the Fund plays a critical role in sustaining alliances and solidarities that are essential for long-term change.

## You Add, We Multiply

The responsive approach of this Fund would not be possible without flexible, unrestricted funding.

Partner with JASS to ensure critical resources are readily available to support women's tactical and practical organizing needs. Your contribution goes directly to frontline activists and their organizations.

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