



WE ARE IN

THIS TOGETHER



JASS ANNUAL REPORT
2014

Building Women's Collective Power for Justice



JASS (Just Associates) is a global network of activists, popular educators and scholars in 26 countries working to strengthen and amplify the voice, visibility and collective power of women for a just and sustainable world for all. We put women's leadership and rights at the heart of cutting edge economic, environmental and human rights strategies while emphasizing women's freedom of expression, health, sexual rights and the protection of women human rights defenders. The women and organizations we work with define and drive our priorities and programs, and our regional teams and partners in Mesoamerica, Southern Africa and Southeast Asia supports them. Our strategies train diverse local leaders, strengthen community organizing, build broad alliances, and link grassroots solutions to global advocacy. Using creative communications and documentation strategies, we publicize the innovative ways women are building inclusive communities and deepening democracy.

JASS' holistic strategies empower women activists and strengthen women's movements by:

- **equipping activist leaders** from all walks of life with the confidence, information, skills, strategies and connections they need to organize women for democratic change and to navigate risky contexts;
- **promoting and sustaining grassroots and local-to-global organizing** to build broad, flexible alliances that are responsive to urgencies and opportunities as well as rooted in the concrete demands of diverse women's constituencies;
- **mobilizing alliances for strategic political action** moments to engage, persuade, and pressure governments and international actors to respond effectively to violations of women's rights and to advance gender equality;
- **maximizing women's use of media to amplify the visibility, appeal and reach** of women's rights agendas and the role of women's movements in advancing democracy and justice; and
- **documenting and publishing knowledge from practice** – in multiple formats from videos to analysis and training tools – to contribute to **smarter thinking and responses to inequality and women's rights challenges**.



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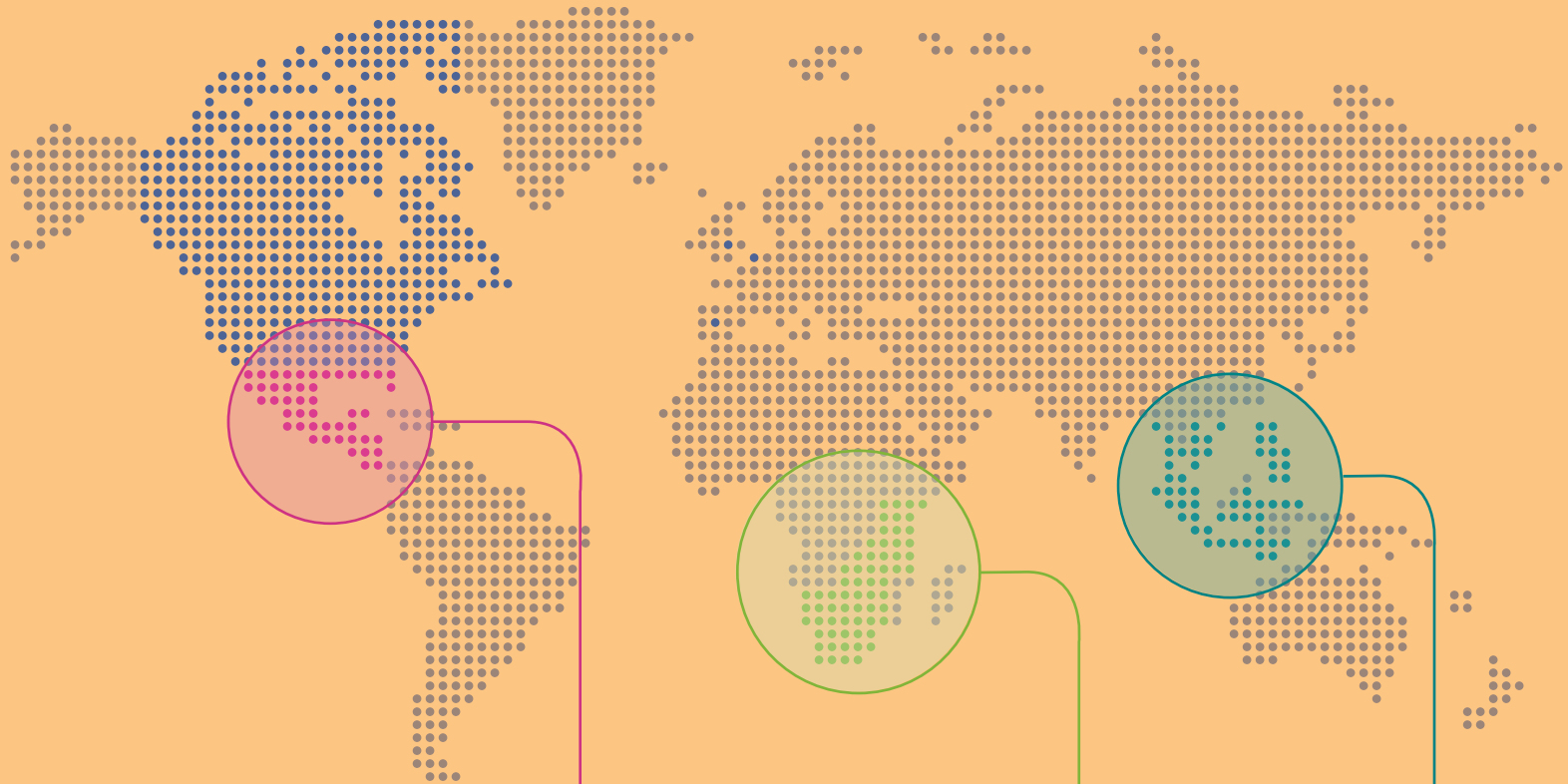
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JASS AROUND THE WORLD



GLOBAL

United States
The Netherlands
Spain
United Kingdom
Canada

MESOAMERICA

Costa Rica
Mexico
El Salvador
Nicaragua
Guatemala
Panama
Honduras

SOUTHERN AFRICA

South Africa
Swaziland
Malawi
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Namibia

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Cambodia
Philippines
Thailand
Indonesia
Malaysia
Timor L'este
Myanmar



YOU ADD, WE MULTIPLY

GETTING ON THE AGENDA

TO INCREASE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO RESOURCES
AND VOICE IN CREATING SOLUTIONS

390 mainstream media stories and "hits" featuring women's voices and agendas

100+ regional and international human rights organizations persuaded to take on gender equality and specific concerns of women

BUILDING NETWORKS

FOR A LOUDER COLLECTIVE VOICE AND SAFETY
AGAINST BACKLASH

450+ diverse local and national organizations brought together across issues in regional alliances in Mesoamerica, Southern Africa and Southeast Asia

1,000 (50% increase) diverse women activists—including LGBT, indigenous and rural, young, HIV+, Muslim—come together in new and expanded networks linking different issues and identities

PERSUADING DECISION MAKERS

TO HEAR WOMEN'S DEMANDS, RESPECT
WOMEN'S RIGHTS & BE ACCOUNTABLE

82 Village chiefs, Members of Parliament, Ministers, Heads of State, Ambassadors, UN Rapporteurs, Human Rights bodies, and the General Assembly working with women activists

67 strategic and urgent actions to demand safety, protection and justice for women defenders

15+ specific rights and poverty agendas developed and advocated by organized constituencies

EQUIPPING ACTIVIST LEADERS

TO BUILD AND MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES FOR
JUSTICE + BETTER LIVES

1,822 women activists and grassroots leaders from 18 countries trained & networked

535 women human rights defenders across Mexico and Central America supported & kept safe through the JASS-coordinated Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative

100+ at-risk women activists—especially indigenous and rural women defending land rights—protected and supported in cases of emergency

SHARING WOMENS INSIGHTS

TO INFLUENCE POLICY AND SOCIAL CHANGE
PRACTICE

250 articles, activist training tools, videos and analysis pieces published & used by civil society and academic institutions

58 dialogues, public events and exchanges convened with donors, academic institutions, civil society and policy makers

504 activist women's stories and testimonies documented & shared on social media through the Women Crossing the Line platform

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

“If we want the darkness to flower, if we want to establish lands of dignity and integrity ... lands where people can live in light and justice ... then our guiding stars must be struggle and hope.”

PABLO NERUDA

Dear Friends,

In 2014, there were many times that the balance between struggle and hope was hard to maintain. Crises and conflict continued to unfold across the world and yet, with increasing energy we also witnessed and joined many people coming together and rising up against injustice and violence. From **Black Lives Matter** in Ferguson, Missouri to the **Yellow Umbrella Movement** in Hong Kong, and the global mobilization in response to the killings of 42 students in **Ayotzinapa**, Mexico. And despite being hardly visible in the media or cast as victims, women activists and leaders were at the forefront, organizing to resist and transform their communities and the world, often at great risk to themselves.

Against this backdrop, for JASS, 2014 was a year of recognition, impact and going deeper in our movement-building strategies to support women and organizations leading social justice efforts.

Our sustained efforts in equipping activists and networks at the community level generated global impact and opportunities for women's voice, visibility and collective power on human rights. Here are some key moments that stand out:

UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (WCIP) AND PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

We joined in and listened as 15 indigenous and rural women leaders from our networks in Mesoamerica and Southeast Asia shared stories about how they stay strong and organize their communities against the divide and conquer tactics of mining companies and big corporations operating illegally and destroying their land. We marched alongside them and thousands in the *People's Climate March* as they connected with others like them, including, Native Americans from the U.S. fighting uranium mining and First Peoples from Canada fighting the proposed 730-mile pipeline. Together, we paused to yell into the sky and felt that change was possible. We would be heard. We were inspired by the emerging convergence between a gigantic agenda like climate change and such unfinished business as indigenous people's rights, women's rights, and racial and economic equality. Experiences like these motivated these community leaders with the clear sense that they and we are part of a transformation taking place across the world to ensure we take better care of the planet and our future.



We gained recognition for our often risky behind-the-scenes work with women to challenge discrimination and hate in a world where inequality and violence are morphing and rising.



Mapping the shared experiences and problems faced by indigenous women both in Southeast Asia and Mesoamerica was one of the most valuable lessons I learnt from JASS and WCIP spaces. It showed me that even though we as indigenous women are not part of formal decision-making processes at many levels, we bear much of the burden of its impact. Building from the collective power of indigenous peoples' local experience, organizing indigenous women is not only strategic – it is imperative."

MARLIEN ELVIRA "VIVI" MARANTIKA, YOUNG
INDONESIAN WOMEN ACTIVISTS' FORUM
(FORUM AKTIVIS PEREMPUAN MUDA INDONESIA)

LETELIER-MOFFIT HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

We stood proudly with 8 other women activists from Mexico and Central America on a stage in Washington DC to receive the prestigious *Letelier-Moffit Human Rights Award* for our pioneering collaborative effort, the Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative. We celebrated this recognition with the other recipients and many long-time friends from the Institute for Policy Studies. Beyond the validation it provides, the award illustrates the progress we have made in shifting the human rights community's understanding of, **who is a women human rights defender**, and the deeply gendered nature of the threats that women defenders face. The award had a distinct ripple effect, with widespread coverage in mainstream and alternative news outlets in multiple countries and on our allies' websites and blogs. With this spotlight, we were able to make inroads in improving how governments and human rights organizations understand and respond to violence against women human rights defenders.



“This award makes the invisible *visible* and acts as a bright light shining on the often invisible contributions of many women towards the cause of human rights.”

MARUSIA LOPEZ CRUZ, JASS SENIOR ASSOCIATE,
POWER AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN ACTIVISTS

OCTOBER 18 “JASS DAY” IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

With our roots in this wonderful city, we worked with key community leaders, and particularly my mother, Margaret VeneKlasen, to build a community of support and solidarity. A true JASS champion and Santa Fe Living Treasure, my mother helped us to also become a part of the Santa Fe community with a beautiful event featuring our work in Mesoamerica shared by our team, Marusia Lopez Cruz and Daysi Flores. The Mayor and City Council of Santa Fe honored us by naming October 18, 2014 “JASS Day”,



which we celebrated with many new friends and supporters. With support generated by our Santa community, we were able to strengthen our safety strategies and networks for women human rights defenders in Honduras.

LEADER OF INNOVATIVE ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES FOR WOMEN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Our JASS Southeast Asia co-founder, Nani Zulminarni, received both the Global Fairness Award and the Asia Foundation’s Lotus Leadership Award for her extraordinary work through PEKKA, an anchor partner of JASS Southeast Asia. For over a decade, Nani has been organizing widows and women heads of households to challenge stigma and isolation and, build a web of savings cooperatives and visible citizenship. We shared a sense of recognition for our collective social entrepreneurship as we applauded Nani on the stage, standing next to her co-recipient, Mohammed Yunus, the renowned founder of the Grameen Bank, at the Lotus Leadership Awards ceremony.



We took concrete steps toward institutionalizing security and protection measures for activists in all three regions—a critical priority given the increasing levels of backlash and violence that women activists face everywhere that JASS works.

- By documenting and sharing the women human rights defenders' protection strategies innovated in Mesoamerica across JASS, we were able to better support activists in Myanmar facing harassment and assaults for protesting a then-proposed Inter-Faith Marriage Law. The law would fan hatred and reduce women's freedoms. We organized global support—over 160 women's and human rights groups signed a joint statement demanding that the government respect and protect the activists. The petition was endorsed and gained visibility by a powerful statement of support from the Nobel Women's Initiative.
- In Zimbabwe, we continued to support the networking and safety strategies of our partner, Katswe Sistahood. Katswe supports young women to use theater and dance to challenge taboos surrounding sex, sexuality, and women's bodies in a context of corruption and violence against women. Through a process that prioritizes women's voices, activist leadership and collective power for safety and action, JASS supports Katswe's urban grassroots '*pachoto*' (women-only dialogues) strategy. Women, sex workers, and LGBTI people on the frontline against stigma and discrimination come together in circles to break the silence on sex and sexuality and to build solidarity against violence. In 2014, Katswe organized an average of 12 '*pachotos*' a week throughout the year, reaching 800 young women.

These dialogues integrated JASS' **Heart-Mind-Body** methodologies which are designed to help young women to deal with trauma and burnout generated by activism, while rebuilding and strengthening their capacity to organize for support, protection, and change.



I am learning that even if I am widowed, I have a right to refuse to be given away as a 'wife' to my brother-in-law (Shona cultural practice called *kugarwa nhaka*). I have learned by coming to this JASS and Katswe School that some things that I used to consider normal [about my culture] are not normal at all. And that I can challenge them!"

**SHUPIKAI SAMASHOKO, ACTIVIST-FACILITATOR,
KATSWE SISTAHOOD**

JASS' programs work alongside and with these women and their organizations to be louder, stronger, better equipped, better organized and safer as they take on a wide range of problems in their communities and contexts, issues that turn out to be vital to the world. We recognize the struggles, courage and creativity of our ever-widening JASS community as *we cross the line* to build collective power.

“After attending these trainings, I feel that JASS is a fashion designer. By this I don't mean that you come to design and measure us, but instead you let us measure ourselves and choose a design based on what is suitable for us and in our communities. From trainings with other organizations, we learn concepts but they are very heavy and hard to follow. With JASS, we are not going too far and you feel it out with us and help us to express ourselves by letting us determine what is suitable to do in our community. It is very effective. We want to join JASS' movement and partner with JASS in our movement.”

SUI SUI, MYANMAR

Lastly, we would like to celebrate all of you—longtime and new supporters and friends. Your support and commitment sustains us and motivates us to continue equipping, organizing and accompanying brave women on the frontlines of the world's crises to be more visible, stronger, louder, safer and more powerful to make the world more equal, just and sustainable

It takes all of us, with women's perspectives, leadership, and voice at the heart and center.

We need us all.

With gratitude,
Lisa



JASS 2014 IN PICTURES







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- Bottletop, USA

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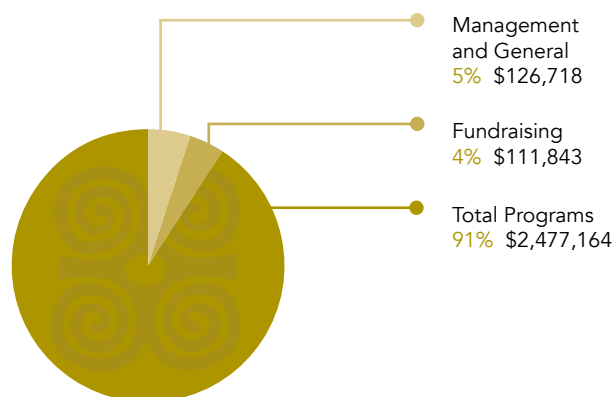
FINANCES

TOTAL INCOME
TOTAL EXPENSES

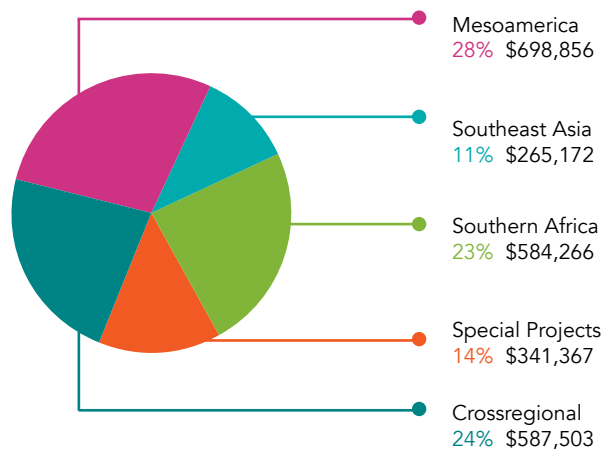
US\$ 2,780,982

US\$ 2,715,725

JASS 2014 TOTAL EXPENSES



JASS 2014 TOTAL EXPENSES BY REGION





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