Reflections On 2019

Visionaries in Congress created the IAF 50 years ago to advance a simple idea: a little support provided directly to local organizations can go a long way in helping create thriving communities. Over the decades, we are proud to have supported the efforts of more than 5,000 of these communities in 32 Latin American and Caribbean countries as they seized opportunities and confronted economic shocks, political uncertainties, and natural disasters.

This past year was no exception. In 2019, the IAF awarded $18.5 million through grants, partnerships, and investments to 97 grassroots organizations, bringing our total active portfolio of IAF investments to $85.5 million in 24 countries. While continuing to support grassroots groups addressing the root causes of irregular migration and building peace in Colombia, we reengaged with grantees in the Eastern Caribbean to strengthen community-led disaster mitigation and resilience. We also launched a new initiative to respond to the Venezuela crisis, supporting grassroots organizations throughout the region in communities impacted by large numbers of displaced Venezuelans.

While being responsive to grantees, we have also been deliberate in improving how we work. Multiplying impact through partnerships has always been at the heart of the IAF’s work. This year the IAF kicked off a new grassroots development fund with the International Community Foundation to surface grassroots innovation in Central America. And we made our first-ever impact investment, taking a minority stake in Empresa para el Desarrollo, S.A. (EDESA), a microcredit lender in Costa Rica and Panama. Once an IAF grantee, EDESA is now a trusted lender extending access to capital to hundreds of small businesses.

As we commemorate the past 50 years, we celebrate our grantees, the power of grassroots development, and the continued bipartisan trust and support of the U.S. Congress that has enabled the IAF to live up to its mission. Earlier this year, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced bipartisan legislation cosponsored by Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Chris Coons (D-DE) to commemorate the IAF for its significant contributions to advancing U.S. foreign policy priorities, as well as offer Congress’ support for the agency moving forward.

Looking back, we are inspired by the resourcefulness and grit of grassroots organizations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean as they have innovatively created opportunities and tackled challenges to build more prosperous, democratic, and peaceful communities. We look ahead with the spark that first inspired our creation, the wisdom that comes with age, and a redoubled commitment to growth and impact.

Eddy Arriola
Chair, Board of Directors

Paloma Adams-Allen
President and CEO

Eddy Arriola
Paloma Adams-Allen
RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

LASTING IMPACT
The IAF’s unique model of grantmaking empowers local solutions and facilitates more effective, cost-efficient development initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean.

1 | Application
Local organizations mobilize resources and propose their ideas through our rolling application.

2 | Proposal Review
IAF staff pre-screen and rigorously vet proposals, then select the most promising ones (just 1 in 10!).

3 | Project Development
The IAF and grantee partners create a shared vision and decide on metrics of success.

4 | Implementation and Oversight
Grantees implement, together we monitor, and communities prosper.

5 | Close Out
Together we reflect, evaluate, and apply lessons learned going forward.

We accept applications and partner with grantees in FIVE languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Haitian Kreyol.

FY2019 SNAPSHOT
$18.5 million IAF INVESTMENT
$20.0 million COUNTERPART INVESTMENT
Nicaragua continues to suffer the effects of an ongoing political crisis that began in 2018. The country has experienced violence and a severe recession, making it difficult for Nicaraguans to meet basic needs and secure financing.

IAF grantee partners have responded with resilience and creativity, thriving despite challenging circumstances. In turn, the IAF doubled our support to local organizations this past year. IAF grantee partner, Asociación de Cooperativas de Pequeños Productores de Café de Nicaragua (CAFENICA), for instance, is using innovative technologies to provide farmers with live weather data to make informed and efficient business decisions about coffee harvesting and blight in six departments of Nicaragua.

Fundación Aldea, another grantee partner, is mobilizing funds from corporate foundations, fair trade premiums, and U.S.-based coffee roasters to champion community-led initiatives. These initiatives range from improving access to drinking water to enhancing parents’ engagement in their children’s education through parent-teacher associations.

“We are learning to tap into local and national assets, as well as international coffee importers, to become less dependent on international donors.”

– Marvin Chavarria, Fundación Aldea, IAF grantee partner
Colombia faces the complex task of building peace after more than 50 years of conflict and a legacy of political polarization, systematic assassination of civil society leaders, narcotics production, and threats from illegal armed groups.

The IAF responded to these challenges by integrating peacebuilding across our entire Colombia portfolio. IAF grantee partners created a network of grassroots peacebuilders in 2016 that now includes more than 500 local organizations and 400 community radio stations across the country.

Today, these grantees undertake a range of conflict prevention activities in 99 municipalities, including those hardest hit by the conflict.

Grantee partner Transparencia por Colombia provides technical assistance in citizen oversight of the use of public resources, particularly those allocated toward implementing the peace accords. Transparencia also trains IAF partners to protect human rights defenders. To date, Transparencia has trained more than 200 social leaders and launched a communications campaign on combating corruption that has reached more than 70,000 people.

Building Peace in Colombia

36 IAF-funded peace-building initiatives in 24 of Colombia’s 32 departments since 2016
Throughout our 50 year history, the IAF has been at the forefront of supporting community organizations and their visions for building more prosperous, democratic, and peaceful communities.

1972

The IAF pioneered our bottom-up, grassroots development model by supporting nonprofits like the Federação de Orgãos para Assistencia Social e Educacional, which spearheaded using participatory assessment as a tool for community-led development in Brazil.

1977

With IAF support, Asociación Colombiana de Promoción Artesanal engaged artisans to revive and refine the Colombian handicrafts industry, helping them carve out a niche in the domestic market for authentic handmade goods.

1980

The IAF bolsters the civic participation of indigenous communities together with grantee Centro Cultural Masis. The center’s workshops in traditional folklore, music, and art are credited with pioneering bilingual Quechua-Spanish education in Bolivia.

1986

The IAF backs the Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo Regional’s efforts to develop the small-scale dairy industry in the Peruvian Andes. Today, cheese from the region is well known and exported internationally.
The IAF supports our first community foundation, Fundación Comunitaria Oaxaca, fostering inter-sectoral development among local government and business leaders and channels resources back to grassroots organizations in the state of Oaxaca to support sustainable development in Mexico.

In the wake of a hurricane Matthew, two communities in Haiti take refuge in storm-resistant structures built with previous IAF funding to Mouvman Peyizan 3yèm Seksyon Kanperen. The IAF supported numerous grantees to address the needs of storm survivors.

Committed to generating opportunities for marginalized groups, the IAF supports Fundación ph15 para las Artes in using photography to encourage the social and economic integration of underprivileged youth in Argentina.

The IAF partners with Asociación de Retornados Guatemaltecos in Guatemala to facilitate the social and economic reintegration of returned migrants into their home communities, providing a productive alternative to irregular migration.

The IAF joins forces with Agua to para el Pueblo in Honduras build community-managed potable water and sanitation systems in rural areas.

Learn More at: www.iaf.gov/50-years-of-impact/
Responding to Crises: Venezuela and the Eastern Caribbean

The IAF is a uniquely flexible agency, able to quickly draw on our vast network of community partners and agile funding model to respond to crisis. And, our community-led ethos and focus on sustainability allow us to plan beyond the immediate humanitarian phase of support.

More than 4 million Venezuelans have fled their country, and the region is increasingly feeling the effects of the hemisphere’s largest refugee crisis. The IAF issued a targeted call for proposals in early 2019 to our network of community organizations in surrounding countries and quickly mobilized support to those providing assistance to displaced Venezuelans and the communities where they have relocated. These organizations strengthen income-generating opportunities for entrepreneurs, job readiness skills for at-risk youth, conflict-resolution activities, and access to basic health, legal, and education services.

In the wake of recent natural disasters, the IAF has also employed our highly adaptive model to award grants to civil society organizations that are strengthening community-led disaster mitigation and preparedness planning in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadine. The IAF is joining forces with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to engage the region’s community organizations, making it easier for them to access external funding and organizational support.

The IAF has the flexibility to respond to emerging crises with sustainable projects.
The IAF launched the Women Investing in Growth and Security (WINGS) initiative to support the critical role of women in strengthening economies and communities. The effort is part of the U.S. government’s Women’s Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) initiative. Through WINGS, the IAF has funded 43 innovative, community-led projects designed to spur women’s social and economic success. Our grantee partner in Peru, ASPROFLOR, is increasing incomes of flower producers by diversifying and improving production, investing in infrastructure such as greenhouses, and pooling production to sell in volume.

**WINGS Snapshot:**
- **$7.5 million**
- **43 community-led projects**
- **12 countries**

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**Supporting Long-Term Recovery in Mexico**

Mexican community foundations have coordinated humanitarian relief and long-term reconstruction since devastating earthquakes hit the country’s central and southern states in September 2017.

To support these foundations’ efforts, the IAF and the C.S. Mott Foundation launched the **Partnership to Support Post-Earthquake Recovery in Mexico** in November 2017. The initial $233,000 invested by the IAF has leveraged an additional $1.5 million in funding from U.S. and Mexican partners to date. This year, the IAF used Partnership funds to award a grant to Fondo Unido, United Way’s Mexico chapter, to facilitate capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and peer learning among community foundations engaged in long-term, bottom-up reconstruction efforts to mitigate the impact of future natural disasters.

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“I have two children at the university in Cusco right now studying engineering and architecture. If I did not have flowers I could not pay for their lodging and food.”

- Gladys Quispe, ASPROFLOR, Peru
For every $1 invested by IAF,
- 3,000 partnerships developed by grantees to mobilize resources and share experiences
- 224,000 community members trained with new skills
- 362,000 community members directly benefitted from IAF investments and nearly 1.4 million indirectly benefitted
- 11,000 new or better jobs created

*These totals represent cumulative year-end results for all active grants*

**Beyond the Numbers, IAF Grantees...**
- Promoted a bottom-up peace in Colombia that helps the country recover from decades of conflict
- Served their communities in Nicaragua despite the ongoing political crisis
- Supported displaced Venezuelans in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru

Over 50 years, the IAF has partnered with 5,439 local organizations across 32 countries.
ACTIVE PORTFOLIO: 305 PROJECTS

**IAF’S ACTIVE PORTFOLIO**
reflects all of the projects the IAF is currently supporting.

- **$85.5M** IAF Investment
- **$108.6M** Counterpart Investment

**FY19 SNAPSHOT**
- **$18.5M** IAF Investment
- **$20.0M** Counterpart

**ACTIVE PORTFOLIO**

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<th>COUNTRY</th>
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<th>VALUE (Millions)</th>
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**PROGRAM AREAS**

Most grantees work across several mutually reinforcing program areas—this allocation reflects the main sectors and activities in which each grantee works.

- **Leadership** $24.2M
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security** $32.6M
- **Enterprise Development and Job Skills** $9.8M
- **Community Asset Mobilization** $5.2M
- **Natural Resource Management** $4.5M
- **Civic Engagement and Human Rights** $2.9M
- **Culture and Development** $2.6M
- **Other** $3.7M
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