



**INTER-AMERICAN
FOUNDATION**
EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES, SUSTAINABLE RESULTS

2020 IN REVIEW





REFLECTIONS ON 2020



Eddy Arriola

This year saw the IAF continuing to propel effective grassroots development even during a global health and economic crisis. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck Latin America and the Caribbean, already vulnerable communities faced heightened food insecurity, income loss, health risks, and gender-based violence. We quickly adjusted our grant processes to facilitate rapid community-level response. IAF grantees joined the front lines, helping people survive by distributing food and personal protective equipment, investing in economic recovery, and supporting longer-term environmental and economic resilience across the region.



Paloma Adams-Allen

On top of responding to COVID-19, the IAF partnered with grantees to address other pressing hemispheric issues: providing alternatives to irregular migration, promoting women’s economic empowerment, defending human rights, and strengthening incipient civil society organizations. We also expanded our support to displaced Venezuelans, funding local organizations working with this population in Argentina, Chile, and Trinidad and Tobago. In total, we

awarded almost \$30 million in grant funding to 198 grassroots organizations, growing our total active portfolio to \$98.5 million in 26 countries.

As the region faces the worst recession in 100 years, new partnerships with the private sector position the IAF to expand our reach. A new collaboration with Danone Argentina and the Danone Ecosystem Fund will improve the livelihoods of 4,500 recyclers in Argentina. Our regional *InnovAction Challenge* with the Young Americas Business Trust will fund and amplify the business innovations put forward by young entrepreneurs to address the health, safety, and economic effects of COVID-19. We’ve also expanded our disaster resiliency programming in the small island nations of the Eastern and Southern Caribbean through a joint initiative with USAID. And, with the University of British Columbia, we continue to enhance food security among agricultural communities across the region.

We are proud of all we achieved in 2020 and encouraged by the recognition our work has garnered. Our longstanding community

philanthropy partnership with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation was selected as one of five finalists for the 2020 Concordia P3 Impact Award. Congress underscored its confidence in our approach, providing the IAF with its highest appropriation in recent decades. And House and Senate committees each passed bipartisan resolutions commemorating our 50th anniversary. The Senate resolution notes that the IAF’s “support of community-led efforts” has “advanced the national interests of the United States and promoted democratic values across the Western Hemisphere.”

The COVID-19 pandemic overshadowed our work in 2020, testing our responsiveness as a partner and the resilience of our grantees. In the face of hardship and uncertainty, we are encouraged that the values that have underpinned the IAF for 50 years—local solutions, partnerships, flexibility, and innovation—hold true. As we chart our course into the next 50 years, we do so with an unshakable commitment to our foundational vision: that communities know best how to resolve their own challenges. The tireless spirit of community organizations, grassroots leaders, and local entrepreneurs inspires our work and unwavering support.

Eddy Arriola
Chair, Board of Directors

Paloma Adams-Allen
President and CEO

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding economic crisis have increased gender-based violence and recruitment of young people into gangs across the region, including in Haiti. Famn Deside operates the only shelter for domestic violence survivors in the Sud-Est department and works with both men and women to reduce violence in their communities. Over the grant's two years to date, women participants have learned their rights and their reporting of violence has increased by 90 percent. Another grantee partner, Lakou Lapè, offers alternatives to joining or staying in gangs to young people living in three of the most dangerous neighborhoods on the periphery of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The organization trains youth in resolving conflicts and engages the business community to provide mentorship, training, and job opportunities.

“The biggest threat in my area is the number of young people who are armed [and] act violently... With [Lakou Lapè’s] workshops, I learned to develop better relationships with other young people living in my neighborhood.” —Jean Bernard Camille



RESPONDING TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic unleashed the worst health and economic crisis in Latin American and Caribbean history. The IAF quickly responded to the needs of vulnerable communities throughout the region, allowing grantees to reprogram funds for critical activities and providing additional emergency funding. Our response was timely enough that, according to the Center for Effective Philanthropy, 84 percent of our grantees managed to continue their most important work as safely as possible and without interruption. Our extensive network of grassroots partners in remote and underserved areas worked on three levels simultaneously: **response, recovery, and resilience.**



RESPONSE

Deliver food, sanitary supplies, and locally-sourced protective equipment to keep communities healthy and safe. Disseminate accurate information to slow COVID-19 transmission.

RECOVERY

Invest in economic recovery to create opportunities for people to earn a living, return to school, and access services as economies reopen.

RESILIENCE

Support locally-led efforts to bolster longer-term resilience in underserved communities against future economic, social, and environmental shocks.

INVESTMENT TO DATE

\$21.7M

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED

151

COUNTRIES

21

GRANTEE PARTNERS ADDRESSING COVID-19

Our grantees pivoted quickly to primarily virtual work. Even as grantees remained committed to their core mandates like enterprise development, over three-quarters took on additional activities to help their communities weather the COVID crisis.



72% turned to supporting basic needs

When markets shut down as Guayaquil, **Ecuador**, became the pandemic's regional epicenter, residents had difficulty accessing food while rural producers' vegetables threatened to spoil. Asociación de Pequeños Productores Agrocológicos delivered 1,500 produce packages directly to urban residents, providing them with **healthy, affordable food** while also providing market access to producers. It also delivered 200 tons of food to 18,000 families in five provinces of Ecuador.



44% invested in communications technology

When COVID-19 threatened to derail the educational progress of at-risk youth in El Progreso, **Honduras**—a region with high rates of violence and migration—Organization for Youth Empowerment (OYE) covered the costs of students' access to data so youth could connect to **virtual education** and peer support groups to maintain their educational progress for the year. Youth in OYE's communications program developed podcasts on **COVID-19 prevention**.



21% provided micro-business support

Getting protective equipment to remote areas posed a challenge. Associação das Bordadeiras de Nazária helps domestic violence survivors in Nazária, **Brazil**, become financially independent through commercial production of high-end clothing. At the onset of the pandemic, they quickly pivoted to producing thousands of **reusable cloth face masks**, both for sale and community distribution.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The IAF's **Women INvesting in Growth and Security** (WINGS) initiative directly invests in innovative, community-led projects throughout the region that increase women's access to financing and expand leadership, business, and management training opportunities. Now in its third year, the WINGS portfolio totals \$23 million—matched by resources mobilized by grantee partners—and includes 121 local organizations in 23 countries.

WINGS grantee partner Unión Temporal Construyendo Esperanza (UTCE) works with 15 grassroots organizations of primarily indigenous Zenú and Afro-Colombian women in rural communities to promote civic engagement. As a result of UTCE's work, these women secured pledges from multiple mayoral candidates to promote women's participation in public office and designate funds to serve women's needs. The municipal governments of San Antonio de Palmito and San Onofre also incorporated public policies for women in their official development plans.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

RESULTS*



2.3M
community members
BENEFITTED
from IAF investments



224,000
people acquired new
KNOWLEDGE and
SKILLS

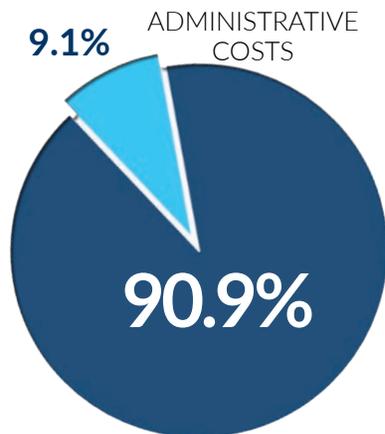
MATCHING RESOURCES

For every
\$1
IAF invests



IAF GRANTEE
PARTNERS commit
\$1.26

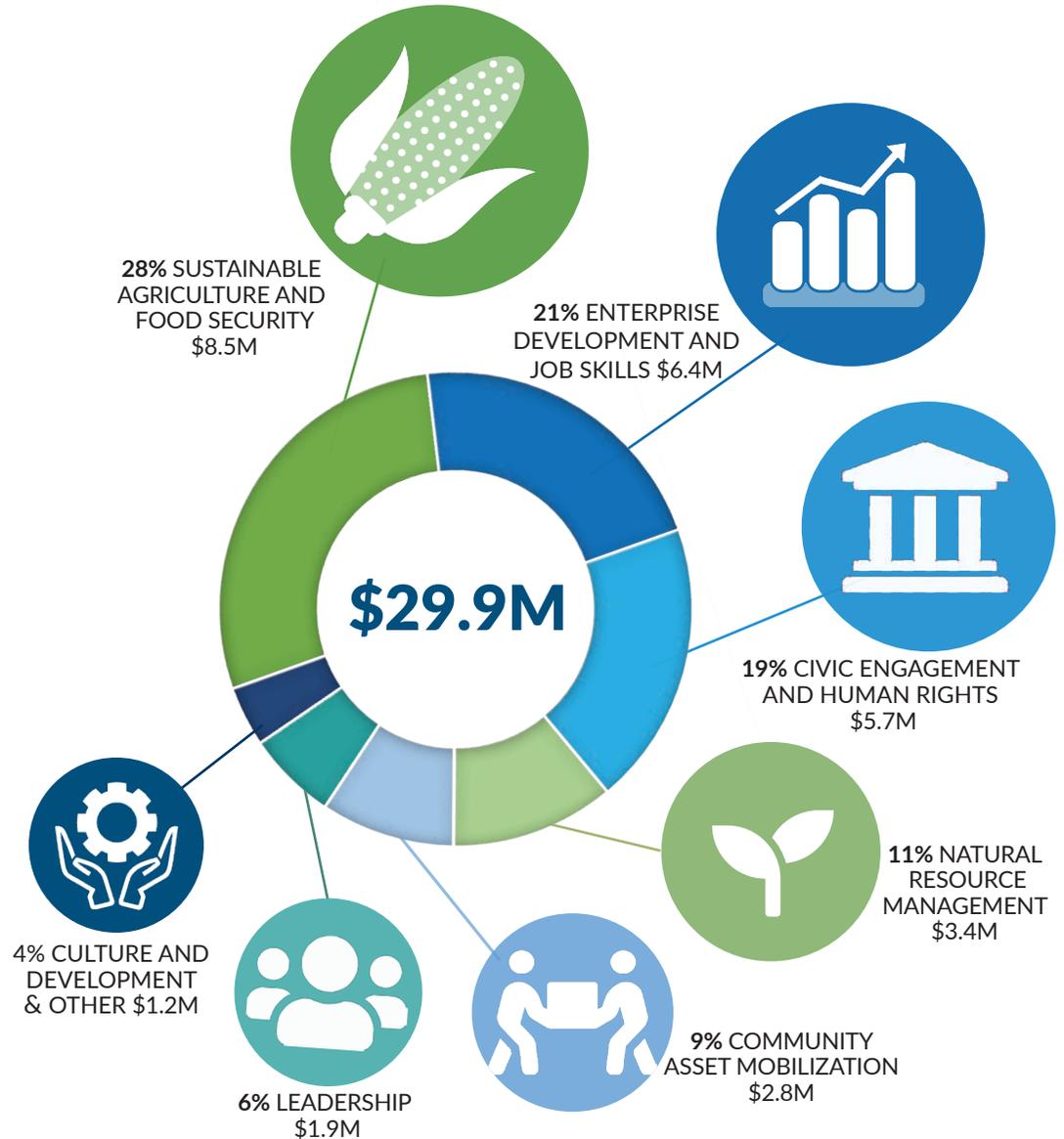
IAF BUDGET EFFICIENCY



DIRECT
PROGRAM
INVESTMENTS

NEW INVESTMENTS BY PROGRAM AREA

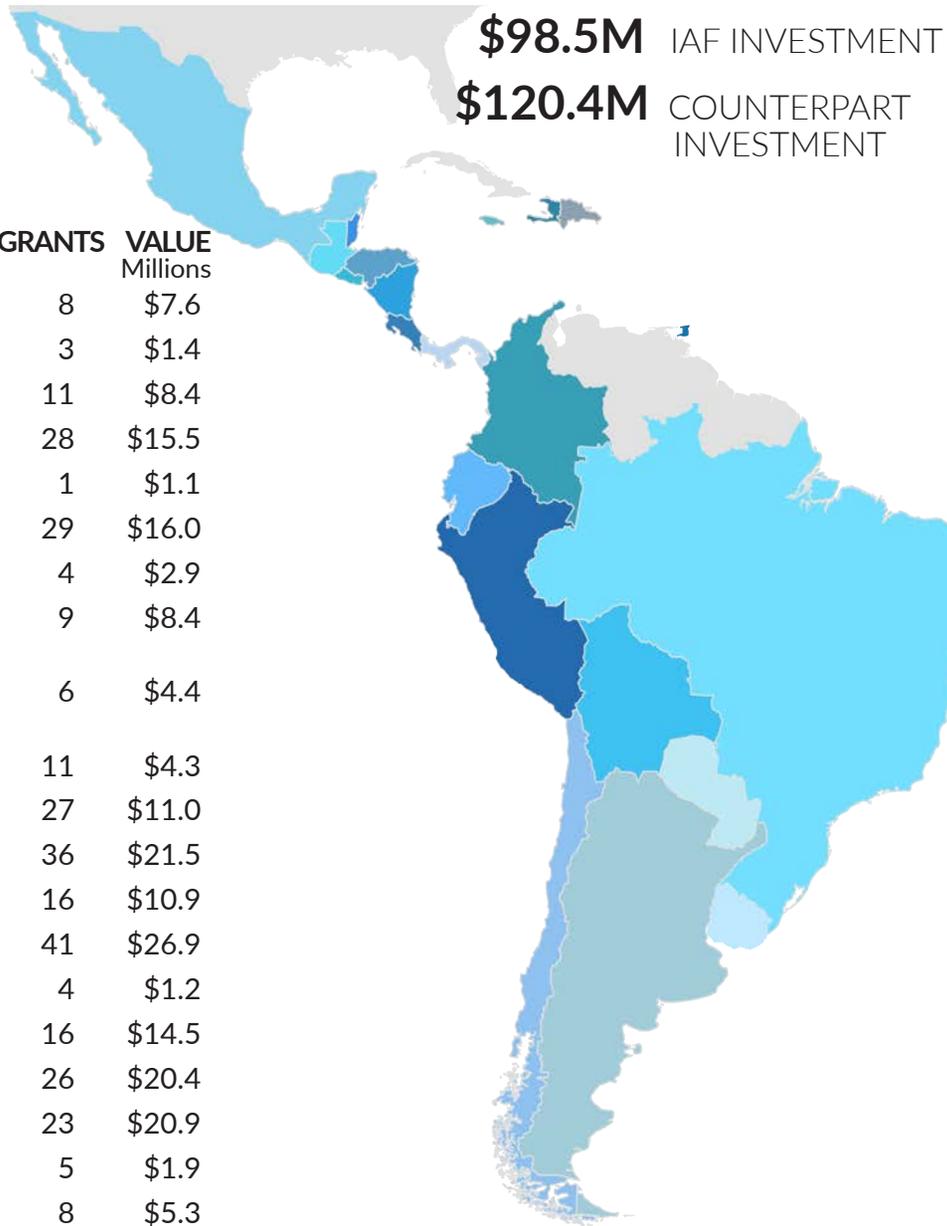
\$29.9M IAF \$34.6M COUNTERPART



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

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

ACTIVE PORTFOLIO: 333 PROJECTS



RECOGNITION

The IAF's partnership with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to foster a strong community philanthropy sector in Mexico was **one of five finalists for the 2020 P3 Impact Award**, which honors leading public-private partnerships.



Approximately **1 in 10 Equator Prize winners from the region have received a grant from the IAF**. Our grantee partner Utz Che', a Guatemalan forestry nonprofit, won one of the prestigious awards in 2020.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS



The IAF is joining forces with **Danone Argentina** and the **Danone Ecosystem Fund** to promote recycling and economic activity in 35 cities in Argentina. Together, the partners will improve the incomes and working conditions of **4,500 underserved people** who collect and sell recyclable materials and support **40 recycling organizations** in establishing effective recycling systems.



USAID

The IAF and **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** are launching a three-year, \$5 million joint initiative, **Building Community Resilience in the Eastern & Southern Caribbean**, that capitalizes on our agencies' respective strengths to ensure that U.S. foreign assistance reaches the most vulnerable communities in the small island states.



The IAF is partnering with **Young Americas Business Trust** and the **Organization of American States** to launch the InnovAction regional competition, which will support at least **750** young entrepreneurs whose business ideas promote civic participation, address inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic, and reactivate key industries.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF), an independent foreign assistance agency of the United States government, was created in 1969 to promote citizen-led development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IAF works directly with community organizations to help them realize opportunities and solve their own problems. This approach results in effective, community-owned development characterized by economic opportunity, resilience to violence, social inclusion, and greater citizen participation in democratic processes.



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Photos: Front cover courtesy of BAIXADA; page 1 by Waldo Lopez; page 2 by Keziah Jean; page 3 courtesy of ADESJU and this page by Edith Bermudez.

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The Inter-American Foundation is governed by a bipartisan board of directors appointed by the president of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Our board members are drawn from the private sector and the federal government.

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