

count
me **IN!**



Realising
Women's Rights

Count Me In!

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Count Me In! supports and strengthens women's civil society groups to lobby and advocate for gender equality and women's human rights, and to make their voices heard and listened to. Not only in their homes, schools, communities, in the media, and in politics, but in every arena where decisions are being made that affect their lives.



Home Based Women Workers
Federation, Pakistan

Cover image: Malawi Human Rights for Women and Girls with Disabilities

Count Me In!

Works from local to global

Women's rights organisations and women human rights defenders are drivers of social, economic and political change. In response to discrimination, exclusion and violence, women, girls and trans people are working together to demand their rights all around the world. Their strength and determination to speak up, speak out and take action are creating a more democratic, fair and peaceful world where human rights for all are respected.

Indigenous women, rural women, sex workers, lesbian and bisexual women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV, and trans people are usually the most marginalised in their communities. They are excluded and their voices are silenced. These same women, through their lived experiences of injustice, have the knowledge, insights and perspective to play an essential role in ending injustice and inequality across the globe, for themselves and their whole societies. They can and are creating lasting social and political change for us all.

The Count Me In! Consortium works to amplify the voices of women, girls and trans people who are implementing solutions for a more just world, from their communities to the global stage. Count Me In! partners with women's rights organisations and supports women human rights defenders who confront and challenge multiple layers of discrimination, ensuring that no-one gets left behind.

Count Me In! members and partners mobilise their collective power towards realising Sustainable Development Goal 5 – the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls – so that every woman, girl and trans person lives a life to their full potential, with their rights fully respected.



Participants in CMI!'s Money and Movements convening in Kenya, April 2018

Resilient and autonomous women's rights movements and organisations are powerful actors in securing social change to protect and realise women's human rights.¹ When such organisations are provided with financial and other resources directly, they are able to challenge and change laws, policies, social norms and lack of access to decision-making that perpetuate gender-based injustice.²

In these times of closing civic space, it is increasingly important to strengthen women's, girls' and trans people's rights groups so they can continue their work for human rights, equality and justice. Count Me In! members and partners have achieved significant success, despite this challenging political context. Positive changes from Count Me In!'s work take many different forms – the examples that follow are just a few among its success stories.



INDIA

Sex workers unite to halt a damaging bill

In 2018, the Indian government introduced a new Trafficking of Persons Bill that would have stigmatised and criminalised sex work. This bill, if passed, would have threatened the autonomy and livelihoods of an estimated three million sex workers in India.³ Count Me In! partners recognised the danger and mounted lobbying efforts at international, national and state levels. They organised advocacy training for sex workers, contributed to newspaper articles and worked with the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights to issue a statement to the Indian Parliament. Responding to this widespread opposition, the Indian government allowed the bill to lapse.

¹ Htun, M and Weldon, S (2012). The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence Against Women in Global Perspective, 1975-2005. *American Political Science Review*, 106 (3), pp. 548-569.

² Nazneen, S and Sultan, M (eds) (2014) *Voicing Demands: Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts*. Zed Books. See also Holden, L et al (2017) *Our Voices are Strong: Lessons from women's, girls' and trans people's self-led organisations*, for Mama Cash.

³ Sagade, J and Forster, C (2018). Recognising the Human Rights of Female Sex Workers in India: Moving from Prohibition to Decriminalisation and a Pro-Work Model. *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, 25 (1). pp. 26-46.

Indigenous women win recognition of their cultural and economic rights

Mayan women in Guatemala were earning meagre compensation for their textile designs that were being copied and used publicly to attract tourists and for international clothing designs. Count Me In! supported a Mayan led women's rights organisation to present their demands for intellectual property rights to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2018. The Commission responded by exhorting the Guatemalan government to protect women's cultural rights. The unprecedented case has bolstered Indigenous activism in Latin America; in Chile and in Mexico, Indigenous communities are now advocating for national legislation to protect their intellectual property.



GUATEMALA



KENYA

Women's rights organisations secure land rights

In Kenya, a county government allocated land to vendors of produce, who had operated along the side of the road. While 85% of these vendors are women, only 24 of the 115 allocations went to women. CMI! supported a local women's rights group to lobby the city council and organise a protest of 150 women strong. As a result, the government reallocated the land, granting plots to 70% of women vendors along the highway. The market women were able to protect their livelihoods and gain ownership of their land.

Resourcing change-makers

Change is invariably catalysed by those who experience injustice and know what needs to change. Women's rights organisations and women human rights defenders, like those highlighted above, are the drivers of social, economic and political change.

Yet women's rights organisations are severely under-funded: only 1% of gender equality funding from international institutions and governments goes to autonomous groups led by women.⁴ Count Me In! partners and members channel resources directly to women's human rights defenders, civil society organisations and movements. They lobby governments, multi-lateral donors and global funding initiatives to ensure that money is specifically allocated to women's rights organisations and to women human rights defenders.



CMI's Money and Movements
convening in Kenya, April 2018

⁴ OECD, (2019). Aid in Support of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Donor Charts. Available online: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/Aid-to-gender-equality-donor-charts-2019.pdf>. Accessed: 12 Dec. 2019.

Count Me In! at a glance

Count Me In! achieves long-term change by bringing together member organisations with powerful and complementary approaches and expertise. In just three years, Count Me In! has engaged in hundreds of initiatives worldwide, through four strategies aimed at strengthening women's rights organisations and women human rights defenders.

6,4€ Million

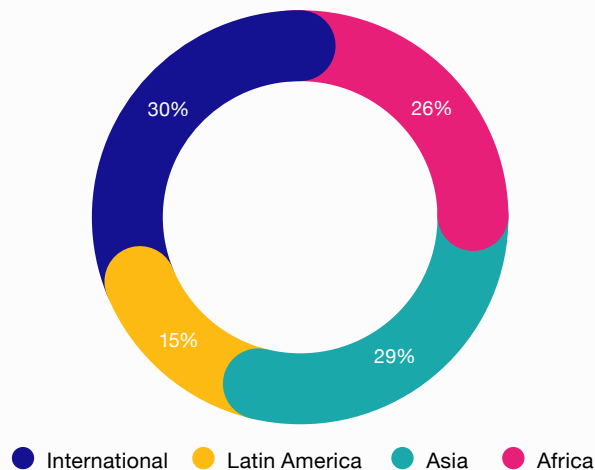
Invested annually to **promote** human rights and equality for women.*

* Annual average of total actual cumulative expenditure 2016-18

19,5€ Million

Cumulative **investment** since our founding in 2015.

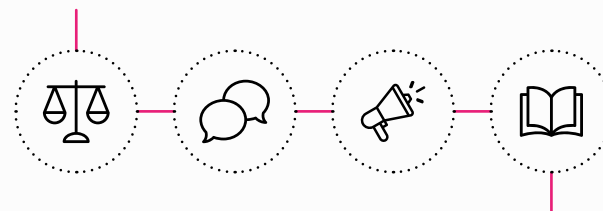
Distribution of investment by region:



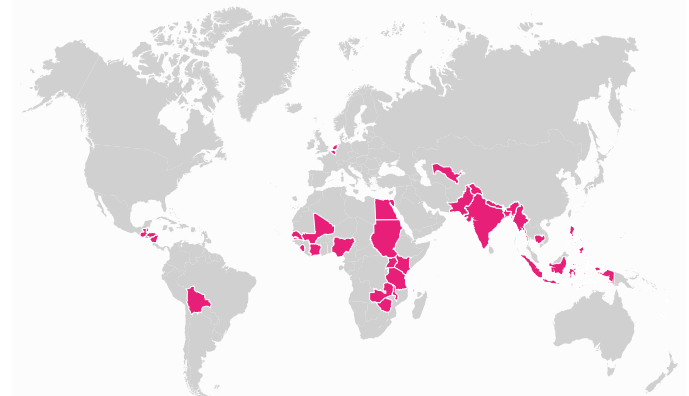
4 Strategies

- 1 Capacity building
- 2 Strategic resources
- 3 Knowledge building and strategic communications
- 4 Direct lobbying and advocacy

789+ Initiatives



32 Countries



Latin America

Bolivia
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua

Africa

Cote d'Ivoire
Egypt
Kenya
Malawi
Mali
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Sudan
Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia

Bangladesh
Cambodia
India
Indonesia
Kyrgyzstan
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Timor L'Este
Uzbekistan
West Bank/Gaza

Count Me In! at a glance

Count me in! nurtures its partners and builds networks and movements

198
Capacity Building
activities during 2016-2018* = 33%**

89
Knowledge Building and Strategic Communications
activities during 2016-2018* = 17%**



397
Strategic Resourcing
grants during 2016-2018* = 37%**

105+
Direct Lobbying and Advocacy
activities during 2016-2018* = 13%**



Capacity Building

CMI! strengthens its members and partners through activities such as dialogues, convenings, training institutes, and alliance building meetings.

55% of our CB activities involve convenings, dialogue and exchange, and meetings

33% of our CB activities involve training and accompaniment

12% of our CB activities involve networking and alliance building



Strategic Resourcing

CMI! provides strategic resources to support partners to grow in influence and scale, and to respond quickly to opportunities and threats.

57% of our grants are provided as core support for partners

25% of our grants are provided for rapid response of advocacy

18% of our grants are provided to partners at risk



Knowledge Building and Strategic Communications

CMI! supports research and media engagement to build and share knowledge to promote the advocacy work of feminist movements.

47% of our KB&SC involve conducting research and collecting data and statistics for advocacy

40% of our KB&SC involve movement building

13% of our KB&SC involve media engagement



Direct Lobbying and Advocacy

CMI! supports Direct Lobbying and Advocacy to advance agendas to eliminate gender-based violence, secure economic justice and promote sustainable resourcing for women's rights.

41% of our DL&A initiatives focus on changing law and policy

31% of our DL&A initiatives focus on advocacy for sustainable resourcing

28% of our DL&A initiatives focus on changing social norms

* Based on cumulative 2016-2018 data on intervention-related investment

** Based on total cumulative expenditure since 2016

*** Based on 2018 activities

Standing resilient and connected

Count Me In! members have worked together to make sure that activists have a seat at the table and that women's, girls' and trans people's voices are heard and heeded. Our activities have ranged from hosting a global convening that brought together 100 funders and activists, to feminist leadership trainings and movement building workshops, to core financial support for organisations and leaders so they can safely advance their ground-breaking work.

Through these initiatives, our partners have grown their community support and strengthened their advocacy. They are increasing their influence and scale, and holding political leaders accountable.

But these activists are facing increasing threats to their fundamental rights to organise and speak out against gender-based injustice. Xenophobic, transphobic and anti-rights backlash in authoritarian, anti-democratic contexts is politically and physically threatening. In these challenging times, resources to support these organisations and leaders are more essential than ever.

Count Me In! is ensuring that resources, both financial and non-financial, go to strengthening women's rights organisations and women human rights defenders. CMI's work safeguards women's civil society groups, keeping them resilient and connected to vital networks of support, allowing them to continue their brave advocacy for human rights and gender equality for all in communities around the world.



Waneledon campaigns meeting
with women and girls group of
Owai community over the revocation
of lands for a superhighway

The Count Me In! consortium

The CMI! consortium supports thousands of women human rights defenders and hundreds of women's, girls' and trans people's organisations that fight for their communities' rights.

In partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs CMI!
creates social and political change at a local and global level.

Learn more about how Count Me In! is making change
www.mamacash.org/CMI

