



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

# 2019 IN REVIEW



**Festival VIRTUAL**  
por la **#NOviolencia** **es** **reparación**  
Compañía de Promoción de la Espectación Social Comunal  
Sistema



# Reflections On 2019



Eddy Arriola



Paloma Adams-Allen

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddy Arriola'.

Eddy Arriola  
Chair, Board of Directors

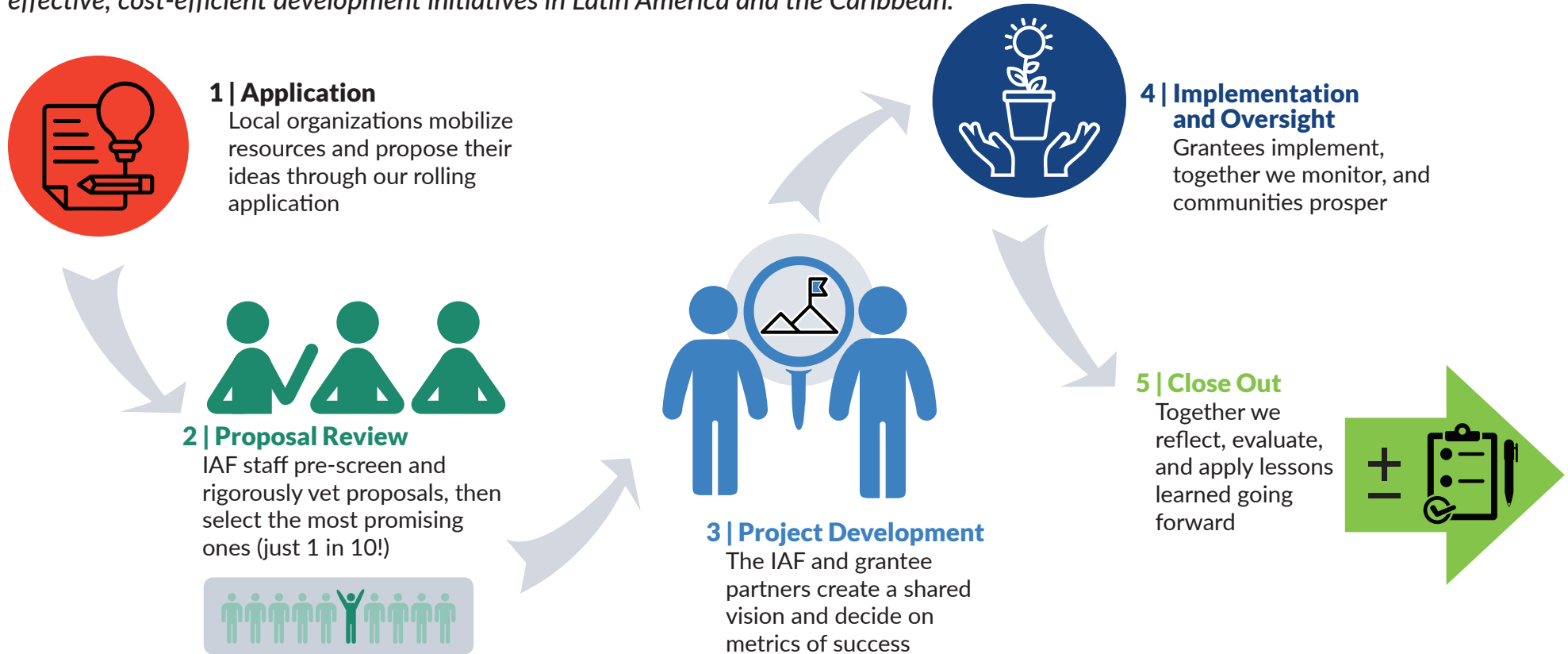
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paloma Adams-Allen'.

Paloma Adams-Allen  
President and CEO

# 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.



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





## Innovative Responses in Nicaragua

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





## Building Peace in Colombia

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.

**36** IAF-funded peace-building initiatives in **24** of Colombia's 32 departments since 2016



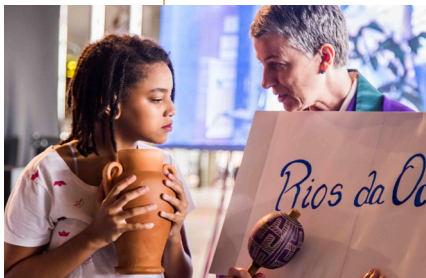
# 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

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.

1970s

1972

The IAF pioneered our bottom-up, grassroots development model by supporting nonprofits like the **Federação de Orgãos para Assistência 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.

1980s

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.



1995

1998

The IAF supports our first community foundation. **Fundación Comunitaria Oaxaca** fosters inter-sectoral development among local government and business leaders and channels resources back grassroots organizations in the state of Oaxaca to support sustainable development in **Mexico**.



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



2006

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**.



2018

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 promotes women's civic participation with **Círculos Femeninos Populares-Mérida**, a pioneer of women's rights in **Venezuela**. As part of the grant, communities partnered with local policymakers to develop anti-violence projects.

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.



2000s

2005

2010s

2016

2020s

Learn More at: [www.iaf.gov/50-years-of-impact/](http://www.iaf.gov/50-years-of-impact/)



A woman with her arms crossed stands in front of a wall made of horizontal wooden logs. To her left, a light-colored lace curtain hangs. She is wearing a white sleeveless top with colorful embroidery and a green bracelet on her left wrist.

## 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.

*The IAF has the flexibility to respond to emerging crises with sustainable projects.*

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.





## 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.



"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

## Women Investing in Growth and Security

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



# HIGHLIGHTS

## 2019 RESULTS\*



**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

## PARTNERS



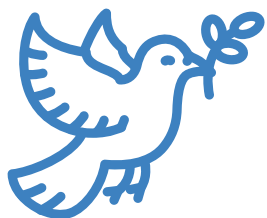
GRANTEE  
PARTNERS  
commit  
**\$1.30**  
on average

for every  
**\$1**  
invested  
by IAF



*\*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

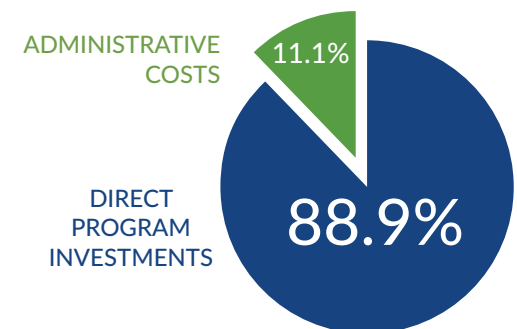


served  
their communities  
in Nicaragua  
despite the ongoing  
political crisis



supported displaced  
Venezuelans in  
Brazil, Colombia,  
Ecuador,  
and Peru

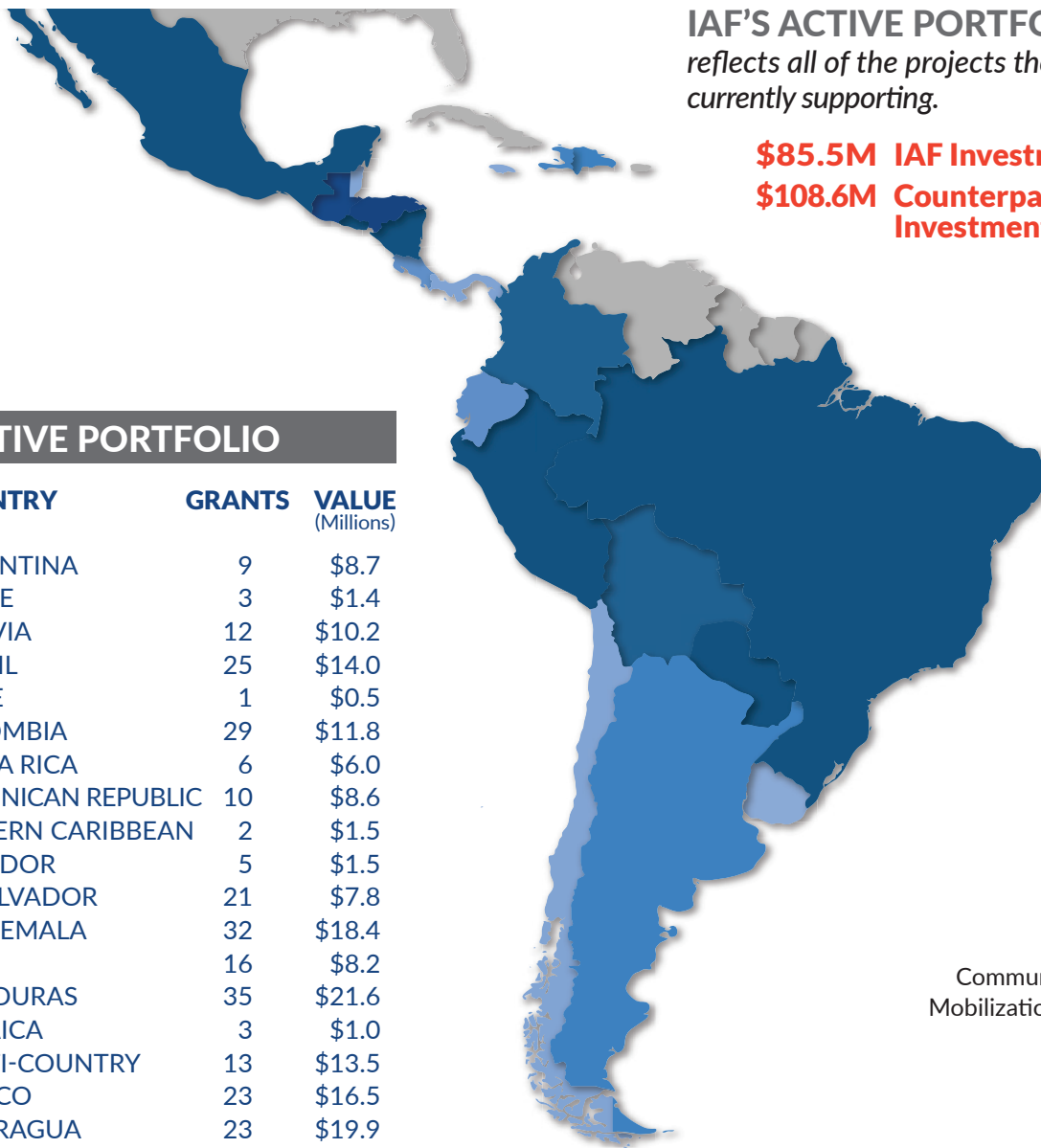
## EFFICIENCY



*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**

## ACTIVE PORTFOLIO

COUNTRY	GRANTS	VALUE (Millions)
ARGENTINA	9	\$8.7
BELIZE	3	\$1.4
BOLIVIA	12	\$10.2
BRAZIL	25	\$14.0
CHILE	1	\$0.5
COLOMBIA	29	\$11.8
COSTA RICA	6	\$6.0
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	10	\$8.6
EASTERN CARIBBEAN	2	\$1.5
ECUADOR	5	\$1.5
EL SALVADOR	21	\$7.8
GUATEMALA	32	\$18.4
HAITI	16	\$8.2
HONDURAS	35	\$21.6
JAMAICA	3	\$1.0
MULTI-COUNTRY	13	\$13.5
MEXICO	23	\$16.5
NICARAGUA	23	\$19.9
PANAMA	4	\$1.3
PARAGUAY	11	\$9.6
PERU	20	\$11.5
URUGUAY	2	\$0.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>\$194.1</b>

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

## PROGRAM AREAS

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







**INTER-AMERICAN  
FOUNDATION**

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Photos: Front cover, pages 1,3, back cover Eugenia Carrión;  
pages 4, 5, 6 courtesy of IAF grantee partners; page 7 Kezia  
Jean, and page 8 courtesy of Ambulante in Mexico



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## Board of Directors

The Inter-American Foundation is governed by a 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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