

Raising Our Voices

NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN

FEBRUARY 1999



Panchita insists that Roberto accompany her to the family planning clinic. They have fallen in love but Panchita does not want an unintended pregnancy. She is working in a family's home and attending school. Grupo de Trabajo Redes produced this popular education serial about Panchita to illustrate the challenges and resources for domestic workers in Lima, Peru.

Latin American Women's Groups Fight to Defend Reproductive Rights

Grantees of the Global Fund for Women are at the heart of the struggle to ensure reproductive rights for women and girls in Latin America. Facing the opposition of religious institutions and working in a conservative political landscape, these women's organizations have mobilized public support for improving access to abortion and contraception as a means to protect the lives and health of millions of women.

Over 6,000 women die each year in Latin America of complications arising from illegal abortions, which is the leading cause of maternal mortality in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Hon-

duras, Panama, Uruguay, and Venezuela. In countries around the world where abortion has been decriminalized, maternal mortality rates dropped up to 50%. Currently, Cuba is the only country in Latin America where abortion is legal on request; and as a US territory, Puerto Rico also allows abortion on request. In Belize, Barbados, and Guyana, abortions are permitted for reasons of socio-economic hardship.

In most of South and Central America, a woman's right to govern her body, sexuality, and fertility is strongly

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Women Lead Efforts to Rebuild Communities After Hurricane Mitch

"This is not a consequence simply of heavy rains, which have also caused damage, but of soil erosion, deforestation, and years of plundering, which have caused suffering all over the planet and especially in Central America.

"For this reason, we can only write from our pain and fury. Pain for the loss of human lives; for the grave misery in which thousands of families are living; rage at the irresponsibility and incompetence of the national and local governments. In the face of disaster, the first to respond were the people, the women's movement, organized civic groups, and a few state institutions like the police and army."

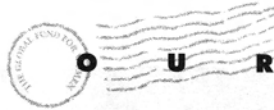
—Grupo Venancia, Matagalpa, Nicaragua, November 15, 1998

Hurricane Mitch barreled into Central America last October and remained stationary over Honduras and Nicaragua for over a week. The result: over 11,000 people dead, almost 2 million homeless (most without adequate food or temporary shelter), agriculture, hospitals, schools and roads wrecked. Contaminated water, hunger, and inadequate medical care will likely result in many more deaths. Honduras and Nicaragua were among the world's poorest before the hurricane hit; it will take years to recover from the devastation they have experienced.

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Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

New Year's Greetings from the Global Fund! On behalf of our board and staff, I wish you strength and continued success in all aspects of your work. The efforts of women's groups to bring about peace and justice in all parts of the world are of special relevance at this time.

As I write these words, the people of the United States are dismayed by a bitter and divisive process that threatens to remove their President from office, while in Iraq, innocent citizens seek to recover from the damage caused by US and British bombings. Once again, while politicians play cynical games, women and children pay the heaviest price. We are outraged that economic sanctions cost the lives of an estimated 6,000 Iraqi children every month. We question the morality of bombing Iraq, while Serbian forces continue to intimidate and threaten the citizens of Kosovo. We ask why women in Indonesia and Malaysia must bear the burden of structural adjustment and massive layoffs. We challenge a world order that is prepared to ignore the blatant abuse of women's human rights in Afghanistan, just to pacify strategic business interests. We should demand to know why the world ignores the crisis in the Republic of the Congo, when the women of Rwanda, Uganda, and surrounding nations have already borne anguished witness to one genocide.

The groups that the Global Fund supports are on the frontlines of a protracted war. It is a war to salvage human qualities of decency and honour. It is a struggle that offers dialogue and negotiation in lieu of nuclear tests and the pointless escalation of military capacity. It is a quest that puts the well-being of *all* our children before the greed and cynicism of any one individual. Most recently, we were reminded of this as women's organizations in Nicaragua and Honduras came together in collaborative networks to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch. The board of the Global Fund voted to create an emergency fund of \$150,000 in support of the women in those nations that have undertaken the long hard process of rebuilding lives. And, without a moment's hesitation, several donors stepped forward to add to that fund.

We are inspired by the courage and compassion of such efforts by both women and men around the world to make change, to speak out against injustice, and to believe that we can live our lives differently. Although at times like this our path seems rocky and difficult, the work of these individuals and organizations shines with a strong and steady light that shows us a way forward. We thank you for your commitment, your faith and for the privilege of working in partnership with each of you.

In hope and solidarity,

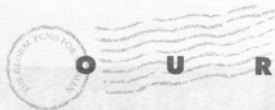
Kavita N. Ramdas

Yearlong Paid Internship Available

The Global Fund is accepting applications for a paid, one-year Program Associate position. The Program Associate will work primarily with our grantmaking team, reviewing and managing correspondence from organizations that request support from the Global Fund. The Program Associate may also work on other projects such as writing for the newsletter, preparing follow-up information for donors, helping with mailings, or assisting with the library.

The position requires: a strong commitment to women's issues; the ability to work independently and as part of a team; cross-cultural understanding and sensitivity; excellent writing skills; and a good working knowledge of geography. The Program Associate must be able to manage several tasks simultaneously, be flexible, and be willing to assume a range of unanticipated assignments. She/he should have a BA/BS by the start date and familiarity with Macintosh computers, including skills in Microsoft Word, Filemaker Pro, and Eudora. Proficiency in Spanish or another foreign language is preferred. The Internship is for the period of one year to begin in July 1999.

To apply for the Internship, please send a resume, cover letter, references, and writing sample to the Global Fund for Women on or before **March 1, 1999.**



Preparing Girls for the Future: Education and Human Rights Conference



Melissa Ortiz (left) and Maria Antonieta Alcalde, panelists for the session "Voices of Young Women: Personal Experiences of Barriers to Education."

On October 10, 1998, about 125 donors, students, and members of the public joined us at Mills College for a conference to examine the state of girls' education around the world. Activists and researchers from Mexico, Nepal, Afghanistan, the US, and India discussed the consequences of cultural, familial, and academic barriers to education for girls, as well as the impact of human rights abuses like trafficking. The conference was convened by the Global Fund for Women, in collaboration with the Mills College Women's Leadership Institute and the Ms. Foundation for Women.

Marie Wilson, President of the Ms. Foundation for Women, urged us all to be "dangerous women" in her keynote address. Education, she reminded us, is truly dangerous, because it broadens girls' outlooks and empowers them to make their own choices.

The Taliban in Afghanistan clearly recognizes this; banning the education of girls is a key part of its repressive policies. Sakena Yakoobi, founder of a grantee group that works to educate Afghan girls despite frightening opposition, shared with us her wonderful blend of determination and humor in the story of how she persuaded a local mullah to support a school for girls. Before she met him she was warned that he might shoot her for mentioning educating girls; after a few meetings with Sakena, he was the headmaster and his daughters the teachers of a new school for girls!

It was also a particular pleasure to have young girls participating in the conference—sharing both the challenges they have faced and the solutions they have devised. Maria Antonieta Alcalde of Balance-Red de Mujeres Jovenes, a grantee in Mexico City, spoke about the huge barrier teen pregnancy has become to girls' education there, and described Balance's program of skills-building classes run by and for young women.

These are only two highlights from this rich, informative conference. To learn more about girls' education, please contact our office to request a copy of our report: *Preparing Girls for the Future: Education and Human Rights*.



Marie Wilson, President, Ms. Foundation for Women

Outreach to African Women's Groups Bears Fruit

The Global Fund's outreach visits in Africa last May (covered in our July issue) continue to enrich our work in many ways. The African feminist activists we made contact with are spreading the word about our grantmaking through their networks, resulting in 330 grant requests from Africa arriving this summer and fall—about a 350% increase over the number of requests received in the same period last year. Fourteen of the leaders we met have formally joined our Advisory Council.

In this fiscal year (since July 1, 1998) we have awarded 36 grants totaling \$342,800 to women's groups in Africa.

We are preparing both a written report and a video to highlight the lessons we learned about the issues African women face today. Both will be available in early spring. We plan to use the report and video, called *Where the Road Ends and the Walking Begins*, to help explain the Global Fund's grantmaking to current and prospective donors at house parties. If you would be interested in hosting a house party to benefit the Global Fund, contact Nicky McIntyre at 650/853-8305 or nicky@globalfundforwomen.org to learn more.

"Thanks to contact with GFW we have recognized our own needs as women, and thanks to your grant we have succeeded in many of them. Communication with you made it possible for us to articulate our needs, to achieve skills of organising and working in groups, writing projects, forming a budget and evaluation criteria, looking for local donors, connecting with other women's groups. Thanks to your financial support we made other people and institutions donate for our cause."

**—Women's Center in Uzice, Serbia, Fed. Rep. Yugoslavia
The Women's Center received a \$7,000 grant from the Global Fund in February 1998.**

Grantee Focus on Latin America Activism In Action

Confederación Latino Americana y del Caribe de Trabajadoras del Hogar (CONLACTRAHO), Santiago, Chile

A federation of 25 organizations of domestic workers in 11 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, CONLACTRAHO has been mobilizing a continent-wide movement advocating for domestic workers' rights for ten years: "It is not enough to have rights—we must have consciousness and organize ourselves to defend those rights." Few regional networks reflect such a broad range of women—low-income women, black women, indigenous women, migrant women, and young girls—whose concerns as domestic workers are rarely taken up by the broader women's movement. Domestic workers often face sexual harassment, racism, wage exploitation, migration concerns, and harsh standards or conditions without the protection of labor rights such as minimum wage, sick leave, and earned vacation time. Poverty, illiteracy, and low self-esteem have isolated many domestic workers from organizing or seeking enactment or enforcement of those rights.

CONLACTRAHO represents the rights of domestic workers in the international arena and with labor organizations but most importantly links women organizing with each other. Each year the federation holds capacity-building seminars and information exchanges for domestic workers in pairs of countries—Mexico-Guatemala, Peru-Bolivia, Brazil-Paraguay. CONLACTRAHO is using a grant from the Global Fund for general support to set up



CONLACTRAHO's current secretariat is led by Basilia Catari Torres (center) of La Paz, Bolivia.

an office, hold events, publish their bulletin *For a New Awakening*, and to conclude a participatory survey in seven countries of "The Reality of Household Workers in Latin America."

Instituto Kairo's, Iquitos, Peru

When the Peruvian government's progressive family planning program degenerated into forced sterilizations to meet monthly quotas, indigenous women were among those most commonly coerced after the birth of a child. According to Instituto Kairo's, a group training indigenous women of the Amazonian Basin, "forced contraception [Norplant] and tubal ligations are being performed among women unaware...and they are suffering increased domestic abuse be-

cause their husbands suspect that they are using contraception in order to have affairs." The group has created a network of 60 women in 10 villages to be community health workers addressing maternal health, family planning, contraception, nutrition, and oral hygiene, collaborating with local government health workers and traditional midwives. Kairo's also produces popular education hand-outs on reproductive health topics and an illustrated serial story about reproductive choice in the face of indigenous traditions. These efforts are another face of the movement of indigenous women empowering themselves to provide appropriate health and literacy services to their communities.

The Crisis Centre, Bahamas

In recent years, women's groups in Nicaragua, Ecuador, and Peru have successfully lobbied for passage of laws making domestic violence a crime, following up these efforts with innovative programs to make the legal protection accessible and understood by women at every level of society. Parallel progress has been made in the Caribbean where some equally protective laws have been passed and a regional conference on domestic violence was organized by the Crisis Centre of the Bahamas in November 1998. "A Life Free of Violence: It's Our Right," which was attended by 169 delegates from twelve Caribbean countries, featured workshops and presentations over four days on issues including domestic violence and the Church, treating

WOMEN SUPPORTING EACH OTHER ACROSS THE GLOBE

Igballe Rogova, founder of Motrat Qiriazhi, a Global Fund grantee in Kosovo, recently made a generous and heartfelt expression of her solidarity with the women harmed by Hurricane Mitch. When she received the Lydija Sklevicky Human Rights Award from Mamacash, a women's fund in the Netherlands, Igballe pledged to donate a quarter of her \$20,000 award to support Hurricane Mitch recovery efforts led by women. Why? She says that her organization, and other women's groups like hers in the former Yugoslavia, could not have survived the years of war and hardship they have experienced without the financial and moral support of international women's organizations.

adult survivors of sexual abuse, treating the batterer, anger management, disabilities, and school-based anti-violence programs. The Crisis Centre provides direct services to women and children including a 24-hour emergency hotline, legal advice, and counseling while offering training for crisis personnel on other islands and raising awareness in the community about violence through a 'Zero Tolerance' campaign.



A member of a weaving cooperative in the OMICH network that links women of the Tzeltal and Tojalabal communities.

Organización de Mujeres Independientes Chiapanecas (OMICH), Chiapas, Mexico

Facing displacement and military hostility in Chiapas, indigenous women of nine regions formed a network of collectives to ensure ongoing economic activity—as a means of self-sufficiency, as a form of resistance, and as a method to network and share knowledge. Despite the geographic and political obstacles preventing frequent meetings or communication, OMICH has moved forward by forming a decentralized leadership structure, and developing careful plans focused on the accounting training needed for the Altamirano region to launch a pilot revolving loan fund. The collectives will receive small loans for enterprises such as raising rabbits, growing corn, or making bread. Upon repaying the loan, profits will be shared with 50% to be rein-

vested in the business or in community needs, 40% to be distributed among the individual collective members, and 10% to be set aside for widows. From this experience, OMICH expects to seed new loan funds in the remaining regions as part of their ongoing struggle for self-determination and survival of their communities.

Centro de Informação e Documentação Coisa da Mulher (CEDOICOM) and Colectiva Lésbica do Rio de Janeiro (COLERJ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Like many other regions, Latin America continues to witness grave oppression of lesbians and gays; nevertheless, important strides forward have inspired new momentum for lesbian rights in recent years. Since 1996, when the province of Buenos Aires adopted a new constitution that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, several new lesbian groups have emerged in Argentina and the visibility of their activism has dramatically increased. In 1998, Patria Jiménez of El Clóset de Sor Juana became the first lesbian elected to the Chamber of Deputies, Mexico's national congress of representatives. And in March of 1999, the V Encuentro of Lesbian Feminists of Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as the result of an extensive collaboration of lesbian and feminist groups coordinated by the Centro de Informação e Documentação Coisa da Mulher (CEDOICOM) and the Colectiva Lésbica do Rio de Janeiro (COLERJ). Founded by black women in 1994 with a commitment to the empowerment

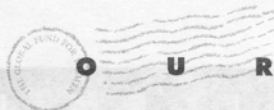


Illustration from a COLERJ survey

of groups of women marginalized in Brazilian society, CEDOICOM has worked jointly with COLERJ since 1995 and together they held Brazil's first National Seminar for Lesbians with great success in 1996. Thus far, hostile opposition has plagued the regional gatherings—the 1989 encuentro in Peru had to be canceled, and Argentina's was held in secret in 1995. With support in fundraising, outreach, and translation from other lesbian groups throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, CEDOICOM and COLERJ expect between 500 and 700 women to attend this year's event "taking the Encuentro out of the closet, making possible an open dialogue with Brazilian society."

Indigenous women leaders training indigenous women leaders—the coordinators of Servicio de Orientación Integral para la Mujer (SOIM) and partner groups visit the rural community of Akjerana in the Altiplano, Bolivia.





Reproductive Rights

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restricted. El Salvador has recently increased penalties for all cases of abortion. Chile switched in 1989 from permitting abortions that would preserve the life or health of the woman to its current law forbidding them in all circumstances. Colombia, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic enforce similar laws. Nicaragua, Panama, and Jamaica require a husband's permission for an abortion, and only when medically necessary to save the woman's life. Several countries make legal exceptions or reduce prison terms if the abortion is performed to "save the woman's honor" or in the event of rape or incest, although in Argentina and Ecuador this applies only to mentally ill women. Low-income women suffer the most under these restrictions; women of wealth can travel or make private arrangements to obtain an abortion.

Due in part to the courageous efforts of women's groups, there has been some liberalization of abortion laws during the past five years: Mexico and Brazil now allow abortions for cases of rape and incest, and Uruguay now accepts socio-economic reasons. In Bolivia, the Centro de Información y Desarrollo de la Mujer (CIDEM) collaborating with other women's organizations and health agencies, successfully lobbied the government to permit training in public health clinics on treatment of abortion complications. CIDEM also carried out a national survey of attitudes toward abortion in Bolivia, revealing stronger public favor than anticipated.

On September 28, 1998, the Day for Decriminalization of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean, CIDEM held a press conference at the Legislative Assembly in La Paz. The group released the findings from the national survey and submitted a bill that would formalize the means for obtaining legal abortions in the cases rape, incest, threat to the life or health of the mother, and would add fetal deformity to these exceptions. The need for this legislation had been dra-

matically illustrated in August 1998 by the case of a 14-year-old girl in Sucre who had received the first-ever legal permission in Bolivia to terminate a pregnancy as a result of incest—yet was denied the procedure by four different doctors. Her abortion was only performed after a judge issued a court order.

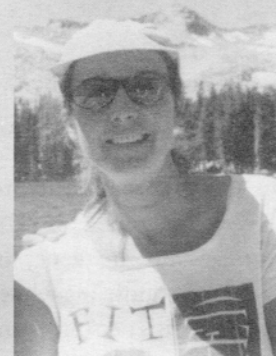
Overlapping with September 28 events in La Paz, members of the regional network of Católicos por el Derecho a Decidir (CDD)—Catholics for a Free Choice—came together for a training workshop and screening of "Las Lágrimas de Eros" (Eros' Tears), their video about sexuality and gender issues across a range of Catholic identities in Latin America. With CDD groups in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay, these women are succeeding as effective advocates for reproductive freedom. Each group is a forum for progressive women's voices speaking thoughtfully as Catholics seeking to make sex education, contraception and abortion legal and more accessible.

Pro-choice women in Latin America and the Caribbean remain committed to their goal of overturning these misogynistic laws. They recognize that women's lack of political power is at the root of the abortion issue, and they have taken action: during just the past 18 months the percentage of seats held by women in legislatures throughout Latin America and the Caribbean increased from just over 10% to 15.4%—more than two points higher than the global average of 12.9%. Reproductive freedom is now on most of these nations' legislative agendas for 1999. ■

Figures from *The State of Women in the World Atlas* by Joni Seager, 1997; "Aborto inseguro: Cuando las mujeres se mueren por ser pobres" by the Campaña 28 de Septiembre, 1998; "GIRE: Boletín Trimestral sobre Reproducción Elegida," No. 18/September 1998; and "Women's Representation in Latin and Caribbean Legislatures Surged in 1997-1998," by Paul Constance, Press Section of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Sarah Vaill, Program Officer for the Americas, Caribbean and Oceania. Thanks also to Ann Moore for her fact checking.

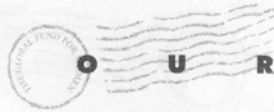
Volunteer Profile



Kitty Rudman has donated countless hours during the last year to coordinate our series of house parties. These informal gatherings have taken place in the homes of Global Fund friends throughout the Bay Area and in other cities around the nation. They give current donors and prospective supporters a chance to learn more about the Global Fund and our current activities.

Kitty supports the Global Fund with her time and money because she feels "fortunate to have such a full life" and wants to give back to others. She has traveled extensively throughout the world, particularly in Africa, and has developed a strong commitment to the rights of women and girls. In Africa, she was moved by the kindness and generosity of those who had so little but nonetheless insisted on welcoming and helping her.

We are very grateful to Kitty for her hard work, energy and spirit.



In communities everywhere in Honduras and Nicaragua, local women's organizations such as Grupo Futurista de Mujeres Campesinas offered their shelter, skills, and mobilization to the immediate relief efforts and emergency needs in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. Many took on the painful task of performing a census of families—documenting the numbers of victims, survivors, and damages per community—and distributing relief aid where needed.

Hurricane Mitch

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In the first weeks after the hurricane, we received information from our grantees in the area, mostly via urgent phone calls and e-mail, about the pressing needs they faced. We contacted all of our grantees in Honduras and Nicaragua, letting them know that the Global Fund Board of Directors had approved an Emergency Grant Fund of \$150,000. They could request a grant of up to \$5,000 to support their disaster recovery work by sending us some basic information on their needs and plans. Some donors who contacted us about our response to the Mitch disaster generously added their contributions to the fund. Sarah Vaill, our Program Officer for the Americas, Caribbean and Oceania, worked diligently to approve requests and transfer emergency funds as quickly as possible. See the box on page 8 for a list of grantees receiving emergency funds.

Women's groups across the affected areas have played a major leadership role in meeting immediate human needs and planning for medium-term survival for people devastated by the storm. Grupo Venancia, a grantee in Matagalpa, Nicaragua that provides popular education and training for women, shared with us a diary of their work in the period after the hurricane. These brief excerpts illustrate what these groups faced and the Herculean efforts they are making.

The First Week

In the first days after the hurricane and the violent flooding of Matagalpa's Rio Grande, Grupo Venancia provided refuge for 96 people in its premises, the Cultural Centre Guanuca...Despite all of our efforts, working day and night, a little girl who we had taken to the hospital with bronchial pneumonia died from lack of oxygen when the electricity of their emergency generator failed...We organized a working kitchen and the gathering of food for the families and other people who had taken shelter in the Guanuca Community Child Care Centre... We helped with the evacuation of people from places affected by flooding and

landslides, the transport of supplies to various shelters, and the purchase of food for CARE to distribute among 22 of the 58 shelters in the city.

Using our vehicles and staff we gathered and organized the first data related to the shelters, the results of which were consolidated on [another NGO's] computer, powered by our generator...From our analysis of the different problems we had observed, we put together a global proposal and presented it to the Emergency Committee...to date we haven't received any reaction.

The Second Week

We signed a contract (renewable) for two weeks with the NGO Clinica Mil Flores, ensuring medical attention to the families who had taken refuge in our centre—most of which were headed by single women—and to families of the staff.

The Third Week

To date, we have been implementing an Immediate Aid Plan. This consists of providing food packets (for 15 days), chlorine and abate (a water purifier), blankets, plastic sheets, and water (when necessary) to the people who used our centre as a refuge... We have undertaken visits to families of Grupo Venancia members to verify their situations... We added the purchase of containers for water storage (especially rain water) to our plan of action, with the intention of accompanying their distribution with training in preventative health measures, now that epidemics of illness are breaking out in the neighborhoods we have visited.

We responded to requests for seeds from two groups of women who have lost their crops. Both are in areas where it is possible to sow a third crop of the year, known as apante, taking advantage of the last rains before the dry season begins.

Like Grupo Venancia, women's

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Hurricane Mitch Emergency Grants

The Global Fund has awarded almost \$154,000 to the following groups to support hurricane disaster recovery work.

Centro de Estudios de la Mujer,
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Grupo Futurista de Mujeres Campesinas,
El Piliguín, Honduras

Movimiento de Mujeres de Colonia
Lopez, Arellano y Aledañas,
San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Movimiento de Mujeres por la Paz
"Visitación Padilla," Tegucigalpa,
Honduras

Programa de Integración de la Mujer en el
Desarrollo de Honduras, La Paz, Honduras

Association of Costeñan Women of the
Autonomous Region of the Atlantic,
Bluefields, Nicaragua

Casa de la Mujer Campesina—Bocana
de Paiwas, Zelaya Central, Nicaragua

Colectivo de Mujeres Itza,
Managua, Nicaragua

Colectivo de Mujeres 8 de Marzo,
Managua, Nicaragua

Fundación de la Mujer y la Niñez Por La
Paz y la Vida, Managua, Nicaragua

Grupo Venancia, Matagalpa, Nicaragua

Movimiento de Mujeres Autónomas de
Ciudad Sandino, Ciudad Sandino,
Nicaragua

Movimiento de Mujeres Desempleadas
de Estelí, Estelí, Nicaragua

Movimiento de Mujeres Trabajadoras y
Desempleadas "Maria Elena Cuadra,"
Managua, Nicaragua

Programa de Atención a la Mujer con
Discapacidad, Centro de Promoción
de la Rehabilitación Integral,
Managua, Nicaragua

Puntos de Encuentro, Managua,
Nicaragua

Red de Mujeres Constructoras de
Condega, Condega, Nicaragua

Red de Mujeres Contra La Violencia,
Managua, Nicaragua

Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de
Guatemala (CONAVIGUA), Ciudad
Guatemala, Guatemala



Martha Elena Alvarado (center) of Grupo Futurista de Mujeres Campesinas receiving donations of clothing and supplies from residents of neighboring Hatillo, Honduras. Thirty miles outside Tegucigalpa, Honduras, lies the mountainous region that is home to the women of Grupo Futurista and their small medical clinic, built with a grant of \$6,000 from the Global Fund in 1996. With a grant from our Emergency Fund, the group's next steps will be to purchase seeds, tools and materials to help re-build homes and food supplies and to hold a series of workshops ranging from preventing soil erosion to preventing infection and disease.

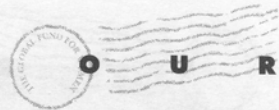
Hurricane Mitch

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groups in the storm-damaged areas of Nicaragua and Honduras are responding to devastation in their communities with courage, creativity, and compassion. And they are committed for the long haul; already many are organizing strategies to meet longer-term needs and to put women's voices in the heart of the post-disaster development process. Grupo Venancia plans to build housing for 20 or so families and provide training to local women on preventive health care and post-traumatic stress disorder. We are proud to have the organizational flexibility to provide immediate assistance, and we will be privileged to be a resource for women's groups over the long term as they rebuild their communities.

Sarah Vaill, Program Officer for the Americas, Caribbean and Oceania and Anne McCarten-Gibbs, former Communications Officer.

If you would like to contribute to our Hurricane Mitch Emergency Grant Fund, please make your check payable to the Global Fund for Women and clearly write "Mitch Emergency Fund" on the comment line.



Staff Update

The Program Team is pleased to announce the addition of two new members! **Amelia Wu** joins the Global Fund as Program Officer for the regions of Asia and Europe (including Russia). Prior to the Global Fund, Amelia was the Regional Desk Officer for Southeast Asia at the Asia Foundation, a Consultant with Levi Strauss & Company, and most recently, a Marketing Analyst at the Bank of the Orient. Amelia holds a Masters in Public Policy with a concentration in International Development from Harvard University.

Patricia Del Castillo has been promoted to the position of Program Assistant. Since 1997, Patricia has been the Administrative Assistant and the friendly voice one hears when phoning the Global Fund. As Program Assistant, she will support the Program Team in grantmaking activities. Patricia, a certified realtor, holds her degree in Business Administration from IPAE, a technical college based in Lima, Peru.

The Development and Communications Team is also pleased to welcome **Perrin Elkind**. Perrin has filled the new position of Fund Development Associate and will assist in a variety of donor communications. While a student at Tufts University, Perrin studied in Zimbabwe and Indonesia. She wrote a book, *Tonderai: Studying Abroad in Zimbabwe* to raise awareness about women in Zimbabwe and to be a guide for others wishing to explore foreign cultures with respect. Previously she worked in non-profits serving women and the visually impaired.

We are sad to say goodbye to two Global Fund staff. **Laurie Laird**, who left in August 1998, was an integral part of our work for seven years, first as a Program Officer and then as Program and

DONOR AND VOLUNTEER NEWS

We are truly grateful for the time and skill our many volunteers and interns have generously contributed to the Global Fund. They play a vital role in our work. Our recent interns were Ann Moore and Asha Amirali who assisted the Program Team during their winter breaks from the University of Texas-Austin and Coe College, Iowa, respectively. We particularly appreciate their assistance on the grantee profiles in this newsletter. Sara Abbasi has continued her wonderful assistance in a variety of program areas. A special thanks goes to Beth Barker and Linda Gruber who successfully organized our first house party in Marin, and to our volunteers who helped to send out our November mailing. We are forever grateful. They are: Mary Dodge, Ellen Forbes, Esther Hewlett, Julia Kringel, Anne Firth Murray, Connie Ring, Mary Ripley, Kitty Rudman, Dottie Schaeffer, Martha Smith, Flora Sullivan, Jo Walker, Meryl Rudman, and Marcia Coy.

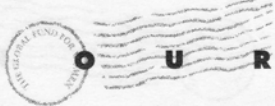
Outreach Coordinator. Her passion for social justice, extensive knowledge of the Latin American women's movement, and fluency in Spanish added immeasurably to our work. We wish her happiness and success in her new position as the Teaching/Learning Coordinator for the Eastside Project at Santa Clara University.

We also say farewell to **Anne McCarten-Gibbs**, our Communications Officer. Anne has written and edited the newsletter and annual report for the last two years. She redesigned our communications materials to be more professional and to vividly capture the work and mission of the Global Fund. Anne will be spending more time with her family while continuing to work on the Global Fund's web site.

The Global Fund is hiring!
Please contact us for information about the following positions:
Communications Officer
(open until filled)
and Administrative Assistant
(February 10 deadline).

Honor an important person in your life through a donation to the Global Fund! Just write us a note with your gift, telling us who you are honoring and for what occasion (birthdays, Mother's Day, and weddings/commitments are popular occasions). We will send your honoree a card, and their name and event celebrated will appear in our annual report.

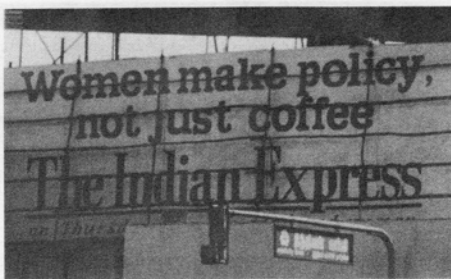




Events and Publications of Interest

Mark your calendars for the following events:

- The Emmy Award winning film, **"The Selling of Innocents,"** by Indian filmmaker Ruchira Gupta, will be screened in Washington D.C. on March 2 and in New York City on March 3. The film addresses the trafficking of girls from Nepal to India. The New York event is co-sponsored by the Global Fund with Women In International Security (WIIS). Call 301-405-7612 in the US, or via e-mail at WIIS@puafmail.umd.edu.
- **The 8th International Association for Women In Development (AWID) Forum: Leading Solutions for Equality and Justice,** November 11-14, 1999, in Washington, DC. Contact the Association for Women in Development at 1511 K Street, NW, Suite 825, Washington, DC, 20005, USA, or at www.awid.org.
- **1999 Women's Global Leadership Institute: Challenges of the New Millennium,** June 7-19, 1999. Announcement and application form can be found on the Center for Women's Global Leadership web site at www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cwgl/humanrights, or by writing to the Center at Douglass College, Rutgers University, 160 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08901-8555, USA.
- **Hague Appeal for Peace: Civil Society Conference,** May 11-15 1999, in the Hague, The Netherlands. The conference will discuss the full spectrum of initiatives integral to the promotion of peace in the 21st Century, including gender issues, disarmament,



conflict resolution, international law, human rights, and sustainable development. Assistance to participants from developing countries is available. Contact c/o WFM, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

- **A Women's Strategic Planning Seminar on Trade** will be held in the Caribbean in December of 1999. Sponsored by the Women's Project of the Center of Concern, Dawn Caribbean, and UNIFEM, this seminar will bring together researchers, activists, and academics from around the world to examine trade policy from a feminist perspective. Contact Peggy Antrobus at DAWN, Barbados, pan@caribsurf.com or the Center of Concern, 1225 Otis Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20017, USA, coc@coc.org.
- **Council on Foundations 1999 Annual Conference,** April 19-21, 1999, in New Orleans, USA. The Global Fund will be presenting at two sessions: *Small Grants-Big Impacts: International Grantmaking That Works* with the Global Greengrants Fund that supports the grassroots environmental movement in developing countries; and, *Expanding Traditions and Exploding Myths: Women Changing Philanthropy* with the Women's Philanthropy Cluster (comprised of Women and Philanthropy, Resourceful Women, Women's Funding Network, and the Michigan Women's Foundation).

free copy of the video, along with a discussion guide, by calling 1-800-697-5770 in the US, or contacting Maria Nicolo at 201 East 85th Street, #8C, New York, NY 10024, USA, maria_nicolo@msn.com.

- The **Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida (GIRE)** in Mexico has produced a Spanish-language version of Dorothy Fadiman's video **"From Danger to Dignity: the History of the Legalization of Abortion in the US."** Groups can obtain a copy by contacting GIRE at Apartado Postal 21-547, C.P. 04021 México, D.F. Tel/fax 658-6684 658-6634. Dorothy Fadiman is a donor to the Global Fund and the narrator of the Global Fund's video, **"Gifts of a Garden Growing."**
- The regional office of Catholics for a Free Choice in Argentina has produced a video **"Las Lágrimas de Eros"** (Eros' Tears) about sexuality and gender issues across a range of Catholic identities in Latin America. Contact CDD-AL, Sucre 26, Córdoba 5000, Argentina.
- The Global Fund is pleased to announce that the video, **"Sisters and Daughters Betrayed: The Trafficking of Women and Girls and the Fight to End It,"** produced by Chela Blitt, is available once again by calling our office. The cost for activists is \$8 plus shipping and \$25 plus shipping for all others.
- The **Seva Foundation** has published a report, *A Future for Chiapas: Funding Sustainable Communities*. The report commemorates the one-year anniversary of the tragic massacre of 45 indigenous men, women and children in Ateal by providing an analysis of the challenges of funding sustainable communities in Chiapas. It is available by contacting the Seva Foundation at 1786 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. Tel 510-845-7382.

Raising Our Voices:

News from the
Global Fund for Women

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President, Kavita N. Ramdas

Resource Materials

- **"A Woman's Place"** is a wonderful video that explores the inevitable conflict between tradition and change through stories of three women who are using the legal systems in their countries—South Africa, India, and the US—to ensure women's newly-won rights. The film was produced and directed by women from each of the three countries featured. Community groups can obtain a



From *A Future for Chiapas*, a report by the Seva Foundation.