



MONGOLIAN WOMEN'S FUND

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



## ABOUT US

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Mongolian Women's Fund (MONES) promotes feminist philanthropy and mobilizes resources from international women's funds, international and domestic donors for protection of women's rights.



## OUR MISSION

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Contribute to the development of feminist movements in Mongolia by mobilizing resources from external and domestic sources and providing financial and technical support to organizations and groups working on women and girls' rights.



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## FOREWORD

Dear partners,

2021 was a difficult year for our country as we strived to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and address the associated health, social and economic challenges.

As for MONES, the year was full with successes and challenges. The process of leadership transition which started in 2020 has continued, the Board approved the Strategic Plan for 2021-2025, identifying strategic directions of our activities. We are in the process of prioritizing the strategic goals and translating into short-term targets of the organizational development. The work on revising internal procedures for improved governance of the Fund, including streamlining accounting documents is underway. A new post of Program Director has been created as part of the restructuring.

As a result of the persistent efforts of advocacy over 18 years by the coalition of NGOs against sexual harassment at the workplace, initiated by Ms. N.Chinchuluun, the founder of the MONES in 2003, detailed provisions on prohibiting work place harassment have been incorporated into the revision of the Labour Law approved in 2021.

In 2021, MONES awarded 60 grants worth a total of MNT403,046,500 to 39 organizations from central and local areas. These grants supported activities to ensure gender equality, eliminating discrimination, increasing leadership of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation, supporting and capacity building women's rights NGOs and groups.

Support from the international women's funds allowed the MONES to respond to the need of urgent actions during the COVID-19, by providing core funding support to organizations which protect the rights of and provide services to women and girls and the LGBTIQ+ community who are most severely affected by the inequality, thus ensuring the continuity of their operation online. This was the highlight of the grant-making programme in 2021.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our sister funds, women's organizations and partners who work together for the gender equality and just society.



Chairperson of the Board  
**B.Oyunbileg**



Executive Director  
**B.Agni**

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In the Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the MONES has prioritized the following groups and activities as a priority in its grantmaking:

- High impact collective actions of women;
- Support organizations and activities that protect the rights of socially excluded, silenced, underserved women and girls, gender minorities and disabled people;
- Rural women and local communities whose rights are violated due to environmental injustice, adverse impacts of climate change and mining activities;
- Activities aimed at preventing from violence against women and girls and sexual harassment at the workplace;
- Provide fast, smaller grants that respond to the need for urgent mobilization and actions to react swiftly to emerging and unexpected sociopolitical situations and emergencies affecting activists.
- Support organizations and activities that build leadership capacity of young women and the next generation of feminist activists.

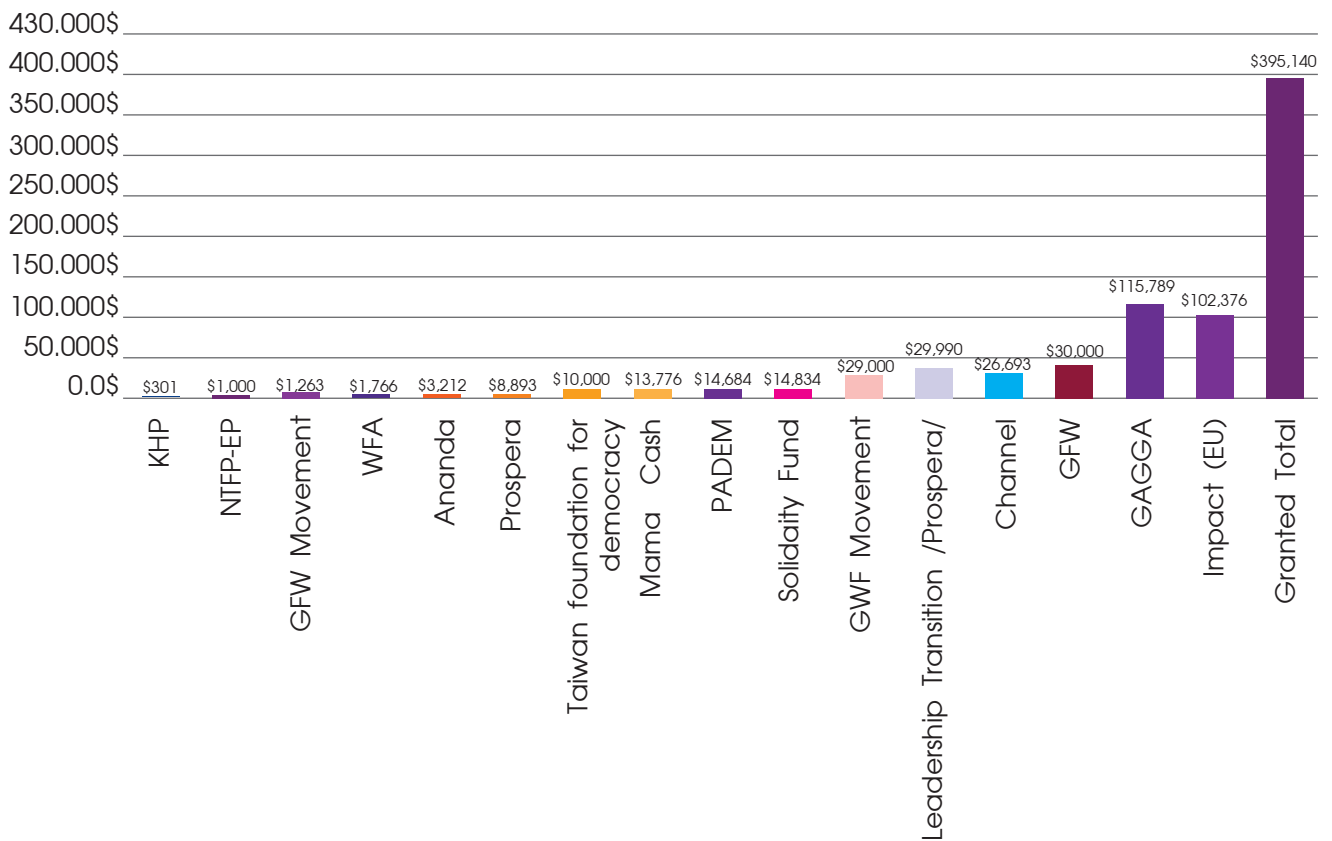


## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION & PROMOTION OF PHILANTROPY

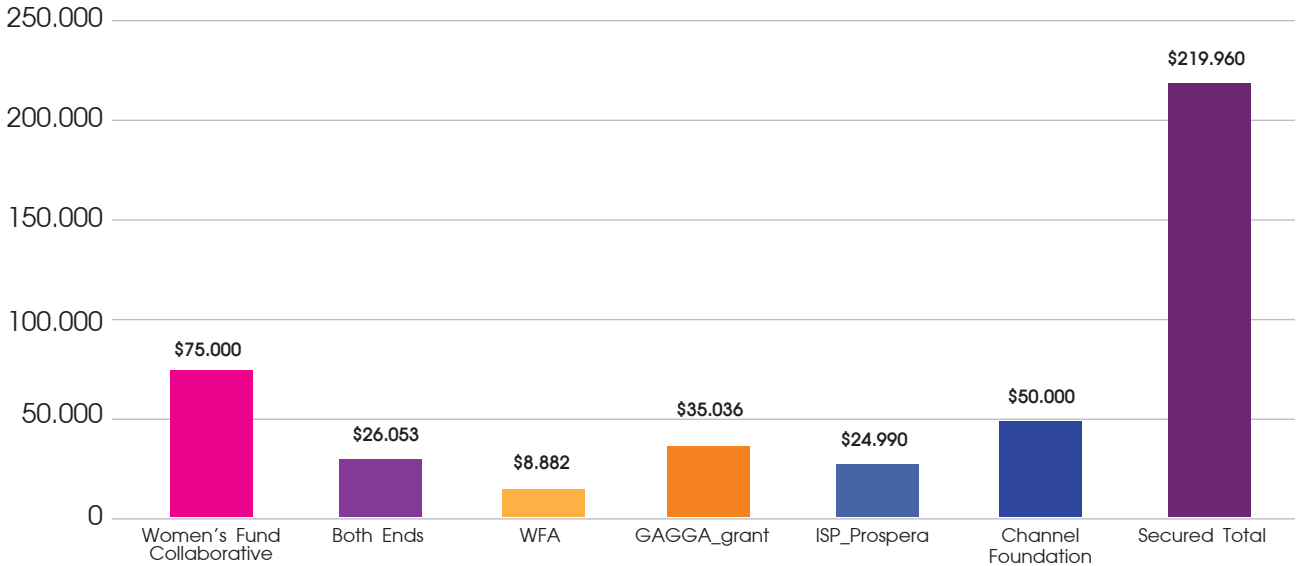
### Resource mobilization from International donors

MONES is mainly funded by the the global and regional women’s funds. 2021 annual budget of MONES was \$ 615,100, out of which the opening balance was \$ 395,140 and funding received was \$ 219, 960.

### Opening balance of 2021



## Secured In 2021



## Domestic resource mobilization and promotion of philanthropy

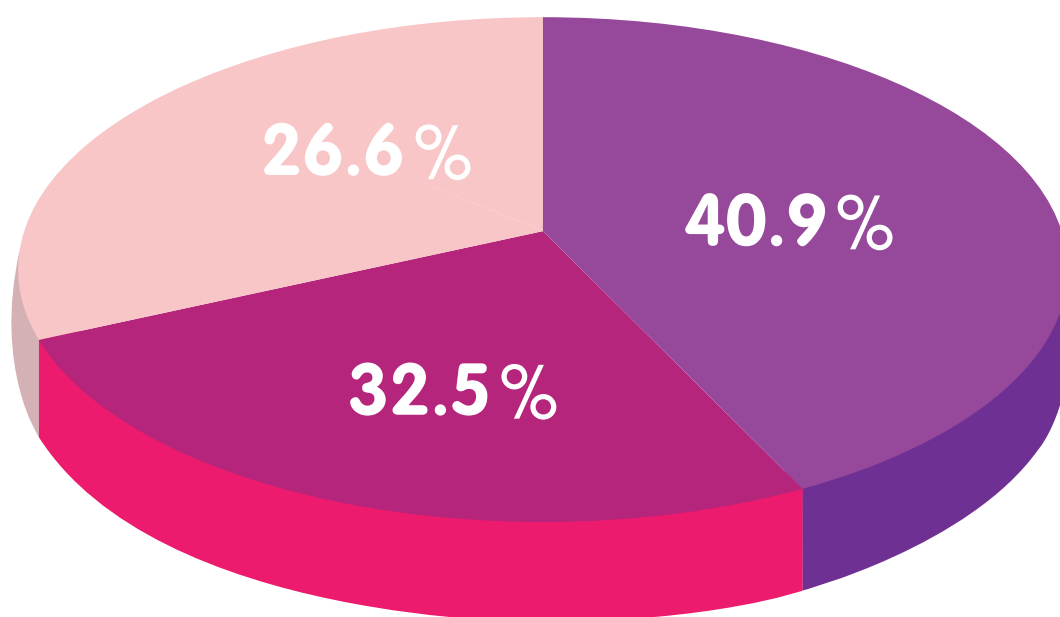
Due to the COVID - 19 quarantines and restrictions, the domestic fundraising activities were suspended. Though, MONES was able to raise a total of 12,163,434 MNT in 2021. 663,400 MNT were collected from donation boxes placed in five branches of Batbaigal LLC.

This amount was donated to the "Bright Shining Heart" project that was implemented by the Shine Khos Nomin Oyu NGO that supports mothers with children with disabilities. In addition, the Chingeltei District Governor's Office has provided 11.5 million MNT funding for the insulation of the homes of vulnerable people.

## GRANTMAKING PROGRAMS

### Summary

In 2021, MONES awarded 60 grants worth a total of 403,046,500 MNT to 39 organizations and women's groups from central and local areas. These grants supported activities to ensure gender equality, eliminating discrimination, increasing leadership of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation, supporting and capacity building women's rights NGOs and groups.



- Advancing gender equality and elimination of discrimination against girls and women
- Climate change and women
- Women's movement: Capacity building of women's NGOs



## Grant Portfolio By Areas

GRANTMAKING AREAS	NUMBER OF GRANTEES	FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS	AMOUNT OF GRANTS /tukrig/
Advancing gender equality and alleviation of discrimination against women	12	Channel Foundation	57,360,000.0
	2	Mama Cash	90,634,500.0
	1	Global Fund for Women	5,000,000.0
	2	Domestic Fund Raising	3,600,000.0
	1	Ananda	8,180,000.0
Climate change and women	2	Both ENDS	5,000,000.0
	2	NTFP-EP	7,600,000.0
	11	GAGGA	118,418,700.0
Women's movement: Support and capacity building of women's NGOs	6	Taiwan Foundation for Democracy	26,412,000.0
	3	IMPACT (EU)	11,476,500.0
	15	Global Fund for Women	57,864,800.0
	3	Domestic Fund Raising	11,500,000.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>403,046,500.0</b>

Over 700,000 people have benefitted from training, research, advocacy, capacity building activities implemented through grants provided to 39 organizations and women's group.

MONES always aims to expand the network of grantee partners. In 2021, the following 6 NGOs have received the MONES grant for the first time:

- Foundation for protection of sources of river and ponds
- Youth value development, Tuv aimag
- National Association of school teachers and parents
- Steppe Rose
- Tuva mothers
- Association of inspired women, Bayan-Ulgii aimag

We provided grants worth of a total of 55,864,800 tugrik to 15 NGOs for the purpose of ensuring their online readiness – purchase of notebooks, wifi routers and covering annual communications expenses, as those NGOs had faced difficulties of running daily activities as before because of the spread of the COVID-19 and movement restrictions. Given the special situation of increased cases of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 related lockdowns, a flexible core funding support was provided to the National Center against Violence and the LGBT Center. These were the highlights of the grantmaking programme in 2021.

## Highlights of grantmaking programs funded by major donors

### Mama Cash

Mama Cash is an international women’s fund, founded in the Netherlands in 1983. Mama Cash supports more than 130 women’s funds worldwide, feminist and women’s rights organizations and initiatives led by and for women and girls, as well as the human rights movements of trans people. Mama Cash has been supporting the MONES since its establishment.

### GAGGA project

MONES and its grantee partners were very pleased to join the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) – the initiative led by the Central American Women’s Fund (FCAM) in cooperation with Mama Cash and Both ENDS, environmental justice organization based in the Netherlands, since 2016. GAGGA is a strong network of women’s funds, environmental justice foundations, women-led non-governmental organizations and communities, providing financial and methodological support to empower women.



The GAGGA's strategies for 2021-2025 are strengthening local women's leadership, resilience and capacities; linking climate, environmental women's rights movements for lobby and advocacy (L&A); and influencing governments, investors and donors, all for gender-just climate solutions.

Through generous funding support from Mama Cash, we have provided grants worth of a total of MNT136,286,450 for addressing the following priority topics relevant to the climate change situation of Mongolia as identified through rigorous discussions with our grantee partners:

1. Developing a tripartite (civil society, decision makers at local level and the private sector) partnership on actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation;
2. Impacts of climate change in the Gobi region, ways of mitigation and adaptation, dissemination of L&A tools and methodologies among the public;
3. Increase women's role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, increase their L&E;
4. Assessment of negative impacts of mining activities on women, influencing on decision-making;
5. Gender monitoring of the Green Climate Fund projects implemented in Mongolia;
6. Assessment of climate finance (national and local levels), L&A for increased efficiency;
7. Monitoring of actions on reducing air pollution, identify ways of improvement, conduct L&A;
8. Assess women's access and opportunities for participation in the national programme on "Planting one billion trees" for climate change reduction, conduct technical monitoring and L&A;
9. Assessment of the quality and access to drinking and household use water in rural areas and ger districts, conduct L&A;
10. Changes in women's employment, life styles and the quality of life because of climate change, reduction of negative impacts.



The following NGOs were the grant recipients under the GAGGA 2 project:

1. Liberal Women's Brain Pool NGO in Baganuur district
2. Liberal Women's Brain Pool NGO in Dornod aimag
3. Gerelt Khugjilin temuulel NGO
4. Hikers and Travelers' Mongol Altai Center Club in association with National Center against Violence in Baganuur district, Mother Tuva NGO, National United Federation of School, Parents and Teachers NGO, Chinagiin Galsan Foundation NGO
5. Mongolian Women's Employment Support Federation NGO
6. Steps without boundaries NGO in association with Steppe Rose NGO
7. Headspring and Riverhead Protection Fund
8. Woman Leader Foundation NGO
9. Women for Social Progress NGO in Darkhan-Uul aimag
10. Legal Study Development Center
11. Urkhukh khugjil NGO
12. Tuna Tergel San NGO
13. United Association of NGOs, Uvurkhangai aimag



## Resilience Grant

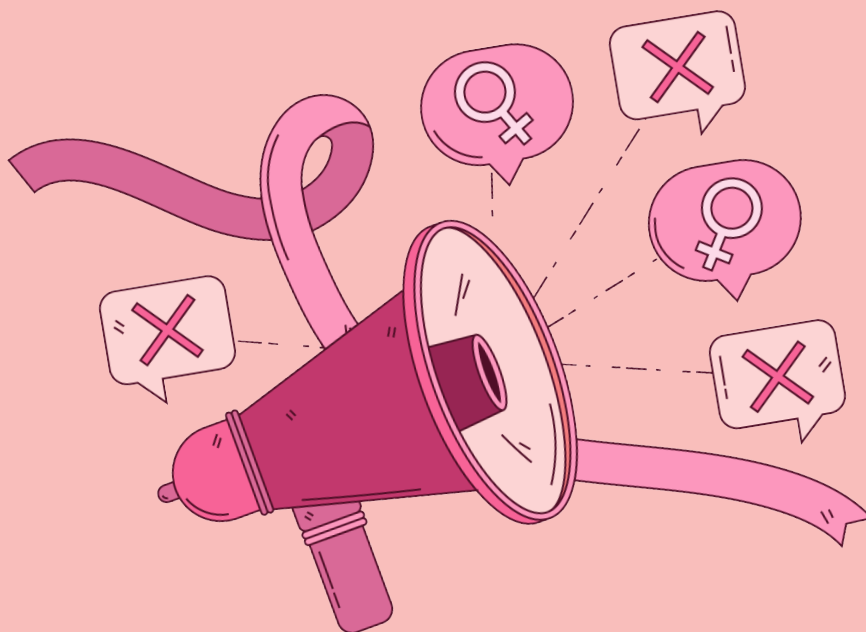
The resilience fund is a grantmaking programme of Mama Cash which provides core, flexible grants to organisations of women, girls, trans and intersex people who work to build collective power and claim justice. In 2021, grants from Mama Cash were used as a core support to the National Centre against Violence and the LGBT centre which were in the most difficult situation, in the form of grants to cover 9-10 months' staffing costs.

### **We contributed to ensuring the continuity of shelter services to women and girls who are victims of domestic and sexual violence**

The National Center Against Violence (NCAV) is a NGO which has been continuously providing services and shelters to victims of domestic and sexual violence, since 1995.

Because of the COVID related lockdowns, the number of clients of shelter houses and counselling services increased by 30 percent compared with the previous year, while there was a discontinuity and delay of some funding, especially those coming from the municipal budget, hence the NCAV was unable to pay salaries of its core staff. Given this situation MONES provided a grant worth of 67.6 million tugriks to cover the costs of day-to-day operations in order to ensure the continuity of the services.

Within the framework of this grant, the NCAV reconstructed its website, created e-counselling service to clients and 24/7 online hotlines for victims of domestic and sexual violence. From July to December 2021, a total of 2371 persons received the service of the NCAV, of which 93 stayed in the shelter houses, 727 received face-to-face consultations, 1023 received telephone consultations, and 98 cases were resolved by multi-disciplinary teams.



### **We supported activities for protection of sexual and gender minorities**

The LGBT Centre is the first and only LGBTQI+ human rights organization in Mongolia. In addition to diverse tasks such as protecting the rights and freedoms of LGBTQI+ people and providing services, the LGBT Centre conducts training and advocacy activities aimed at sensitization and changing attitudes of the public on sexual identity and orientation.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, implementation of many projects and programs were postponed and discontinued. On the contrary, the pandemic restrictions and limitations had negative impacts on the LGBTQI+ community, especially on their income. Impacting basic necessities such as food, water, coal, hygiene supplies, internet, data, and housing.

MONES supported and funded the LGBT Centre with its capacity building and direct aid to its community, a total fund of 34.4 million tugrug. The funding was used as a direct support to LGBTQI+ people including payment for rental, food supplies and mental healthcare services and for organizing public awareness raising campaign "Equality and Pride Days".

During the project period, within the framework of "Mental Health Days", the LGBT Centre organized online discussions on "Relationship and Conflicts, How to Resolve?", "Open discussion on LGBTQI+ issues", "Risk Assessment" reaching about 300 persons. Moreover, it prepared and disseminated articles on the rights of LGBTQI+ people through major media outlets, handbooks and briefing packages for professionals were distributed to libraries of 21 aimags, NGOs and individuals.

### Testimony of a grant beneficiary

My name is A, 27 years old, transgender woman.

As a transgender person, it is quite challenging to live in today's Mongolian society. I deal with prejudices and discrimination on a daily basis, and my rights to education and employment are violated due to my gender identity. In search for job, I fill out job applications but due to my assigned sex at birth on my legal documents I do not get hired. If society treats me like others, I wish to work and live like others.

I am not employed and I do not have enough to make a living; on top of this due to the pandemic, my living situation such as housing and food has gotten worse. I stayed with my relatives for a little while but once they learned my transness, I was kicked out. A friend of mine allowed me to stay with her for a while, and rest of the time since the pandemic I have been staying at motels and anywhere I could find.

Like most transgender persons, my family, parents and relatives do not accept my transness, because of that I attempted suicide. I do not have access to medical care because it requires medical insurance or private hospitals are expensive. Also healthcare providers and their attitude and treatment make it difficult to get help. I do get ill but I treat myself to the best of my abilities.

I often go to the LGBT Centre for support, and I was one of the first few to learn about this Project. I am grateful. The Project seems to evaluate our needs during this difficult time, and offers a great deal of support to us. I hope that in the future, Projects like this will continue and support our community in need.



## Channel Foundation

The Channel Foundation is a grantmaking body based in Washington D.C, USA, established in 2006. Its grantmaking focuses on supporting and promoting leadership in international women's human rights. MONES started receiving its grants since 2007 and with assistance of the Channel Foundation implemented grant programme of worth of MNT 76,026,600 in 2021.

The following activities were undertaken under this grant programme:

- Advocacy activities aimed at influencing policy makers, including organization of meetings and discussions with members of parliament, the women's caucus of the parliament, representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the National Human Rights Commission, sending open letters and briefings, inviting speakers and influencers to podcasts were undertaken during the deliberations of draft revisions of the Labour Law.
- The provisions on prohibition of sexual harassment in the workplace had been defined narrowly and inconcretely in the original draft revision of the Labour Law. The members of the coalition against SHW expanded these provisions by providing the drafters with a broader definition of SHW and its types and forms, relevant parties in employment relations. As a result, the text was approved in the Article 7 of the Law, without any alterations.
- 31 persons were trained as trainers on SHW, the NGOs such as Mongolian Association of Trade Unions, Princess Centre, Women's Employment Development Fund, Mongolian Women's Employment Support Federation conducted training on prevention and prohibition from SHW, redress mechanisms among 1000 employees of public and private organizations.





- Public advocacy campaigns by NGOs Beautiful Hearts and Princess Centre “One Billion Rising” aimed at stopping girls’ pelvic examination at schools, protection of sexual freedom and inviolability of women and girls; “Equality and Pride Days 2021” by the LGBT Centre.

## Global Fund for Women

The Global Fund for Women (GWF), established in 1987, based in San Francisco/USA, is a publicly supported grantmaking foundation that advances human rights by investing in women-led organizations worldwide.

We provided grants worth of a total of 55,864,800 tugrik to 15 NGOs for the purpose of ensuring their online readiness – purchase of notebooks, wifi routers and covering annual communications expenses, as those NGOs had faced difficulties of running daily activities as before because of the spread of the COVID-19 and movement restrictions.



## BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

### Improve – Act! En-gendering Rural Economic Development in Mongolia (the IMPACT) – The European Union

This project is being implemented with financial support from the European Union by a consortium of the AVSF (Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières), GERES (Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity) and MONES in 2019-2022.

The project objectives are to build the capacity of women working in the productive sector and increase their participation in decision making at central and local levels; and to support agricultural activities with high added value – sustainable cashmere and local vegetable production through the dissemination of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly solution and promotion of sustainable natural resources management and production practices.

The project sites are located in Arkhangai and Khentii aimags, the provinces with a total population of 140,000, 80 percent of the source of income of the residents' is based on agriculture. Women constitute 40 percent of herders and 75 percent of agricultural producers, as well as 80 percent of CSOs, association of land users and cooperatives.

The project partner AVSF assisted herders in the establishment of cooperatives and land users' association focusing on sustainable cashmere, building of warehouses in the two aimags, sorting and certification, sale of cashmere in the international and domestic markets. GERES' interventions are focused on generation of additional income for women through production of organic vegetables. It also completed the construction of bioclimatic cellars and passed for ownership by the cooperatives of vegetable growers and local authorities.

MONES focuses on improved understanding of the project stakeholders about gender issues, strengthening management and leadership capacities and financial education of the project beneficiaries and women-led NGOs. In 2021, it organized 5 training workshops in the project sites. Moreover, it supports networks of women NGOs and groups.

## **Integrating Women's Rights into Climate Change – BothENDS**

This short project funded by the BothENDS – a global environmental justice NGO based in the Netherlands – mainly focused on capacity building of women and environmental NGOs for monitoring of projects funded by the Green Climate Fund and implemented in Mongolia.

We conducted a mapping of public and private organizations in Mongolia working on adaptation and mitigation of climate change, the projects implemented and funding international organizations and gender consideration in these projects.

MONES conducted a series of 7 discussions among its partner women-led NGOs and activists with the aim to improve their general understanding about the climate change issues and intersection of women's rights and ecosystem protection. These discussions sessions were facilitated by prominent scholars, representatives from government and research organizations.

The list of topics of discussions:

- Impacts of climate change and mitigation measures at the global and national levels
- Community resilience to climate change
- Most pressing problems of the forestry in Mongolia
- Situation of desertification and land degradation in Mongolia
- Climate change and water resources
- Lobby and advocacy for environmental justice
- Joint actions to integrate women's rights into climate change

Furthermore, with the purpose of improving the effectiveness of monitoring of GCF funded projects, we have translated a number of toolkits and handbooks for civil society for engaging with the GCF.

## **Improving the living conditions of disadvantaged families of Chingeltei district of Ulaanbaatar - PADEM**

This project started by MONES signing a partnership agreement with the Luxembourg based international NGO PADEM (Programmes d'Aide et de Développement destinés aux Enfants du Monde) 31 March 2020 and completed on 31 August 2021. The total funding provided by PADEM was 44,823 euros, of which 30,170 and 14,653 were spent in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Based on a household survey of families with income below the poverty line, living in the 16th khoroo (basic administrative unit) of Chingeltei district of Ulaanbaatar 11 households were selected for insulation their homes with materials energy efficient, harmless for human health and without fire hazards, with their own active participation. The project built ecologically friendly toilets for 10 families and latrine for one family.

Throughout the duration, the project closely worked with the municipality, a co-operation agreement with the Governor's Office of Chingeltei district was signed on 8 July 2020, whereby 11.5 million tugrik which is equal to 10 percent of the total cost of home insulation of the vulnerable people, were provided from the municipal budget.

A baseline survey of the target groups was conducted at the beginning of the project. At the end of the project, out of 18 families who had their home insulated or received a new yurta, 39% responded that their coal consumption was reduced by 20-30%.

### **Improving leadership capacities of locally elected female representatives – Taiwan Foundation for Democracy**

The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy is a fund whose aim is to become a strong link in the world's democratic network, joining forces with related organizations around the world. MONES has been implementing grant programmes with the support of the Foundation since 2011.

In 2021, with support from the Foundation, small projects were implemented in the remote Baganuur district of Ulaanbaatar, Arkhangai, Bayan-Ulgii, Dornod, Tuv and Zavkhan aimags, focusing on improving leadership capacities on the newly elected female representatives in local councils, developing gender sensitive socio-economic development policies, training on methodologies for participatory monitoring and evaluation.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Solidarity Fund (Mama Cash)**

The Solidarity Fund is a fund hosted by Mama Cash, which has been supporting women's funds since 2020.

In 2020-2021, with support from the Solidarity Fund, MONES implemented a project on transition to the electronic document management – Cloud storage system, which included mapping of business documents and systematization of information; placing almost all digital documents in the Google Drive. This allowed an easy way to retrieve, manage and store important documents that can be used for the documentation and analysis of programmes and grants implemented. In addition to keeping the institutional memory, the system ensured online readiness which was particularly useful during the COVID related lockdowns as staff can access the information online from anywhere they want.

The funding from the Solidarity Grant was also used for the finalization of the strategic plan for 2021-2025, hiring consultants for the revision of internal procedures and contracting templates, as well as activities aimed at the staff well-being.

## Fenomenal Fund

Fenomenal Fund launched in 2019, aims to help strengthen the infrastructure of women's funds – organizations that provide financial and other support to advance the rights and opportunities of women, girls, and LGBTQI+ people in countries around the world.

We have received funding of the Fenomenal Fund for supporting our organizational development, including improving the outreach and visibility of the Fund to the public and donors, communications strategies, capacity building of staff, improving governance of the Fund, increasing the role of the Board in fund raising.

## Prospera - International Network of Women's Funds

Prospera – International Network of Women's Funds is a membership organization bringing together 44 women's funds globally. As the global hub of women's funds, Prospera seeks to create opportunities for greater collaboration between our members and across sectors, develop technical skills and knowledge, and mobilize resources to strengthen and support women's funds to realize women's rights.

With the financial and technical support from Prospera was used for institutional strengthening of the Fund, including the process of leadership transition and covering related staffing costs, the audit by a third party, and consultancy services on revising and updating internal procedures.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020-2021

		2020	2021
<b>INCOME (USD)</b>			
1	External	385,672	419,426
2	Domestic	8,028	4,036
3	Other income	14,551	6,481
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>408,252</b>	<b>429,943</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE (USD)</b>			
1	Grants	146,071	141,453
2	Programme expenses	189,850	221,785
3	Organizational capacity building	32,468	17,529
4	Administration	34,422	32,308
5	Communications	9,832	12,461
6	Other expenses	7,356	5,082
	<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>430,618</b>
	Balance	<b>-11,748</b>	<b>-674</b>
	Percentage of grants in total expenditures	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>35.9%</b>

## THE BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MONES's decision-making is its Board which consists of 9 members. Executive Office reports to the Board.

### **Executive office:**

1. Executive Director
2. Programme Director
3. Grant Management Officer
4. Communications Officer
5. Finance Officer
6. Administration Officer

### **Project Staff:**

1. GAGGA Project Manager
2. IMPACT Project Manager
3. Gender Officer of the IMPACT Project in Arkhangai aimag
4. Gender Officer of the IMPACT Project in Khentii aimag

## CONTACT US



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