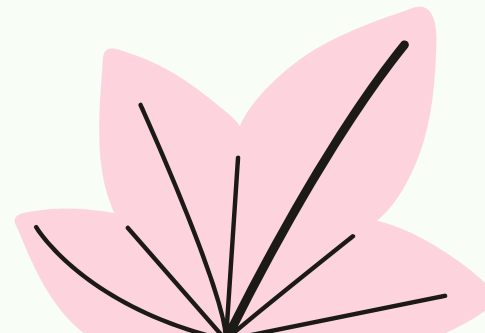


Results of the community dialogues for the campaign **Grassroots Solidarity Revolution**



In June, Morras Help Morras, with the resources of the Civicus minigrant, launched a call for 14 grassroots activists from all over Mexico. We received 150 applications and after a tough selection process we found a large, diverse and experienced group of fundraisers.



We selected participants from regions that are representative of different types of violence:



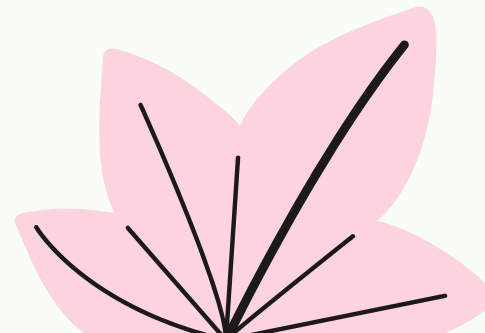
Chiapas: Violence against indigenous nations



Ciudad Juárez:
Feminicidal violence



Michoacán: Necroneoliberalism



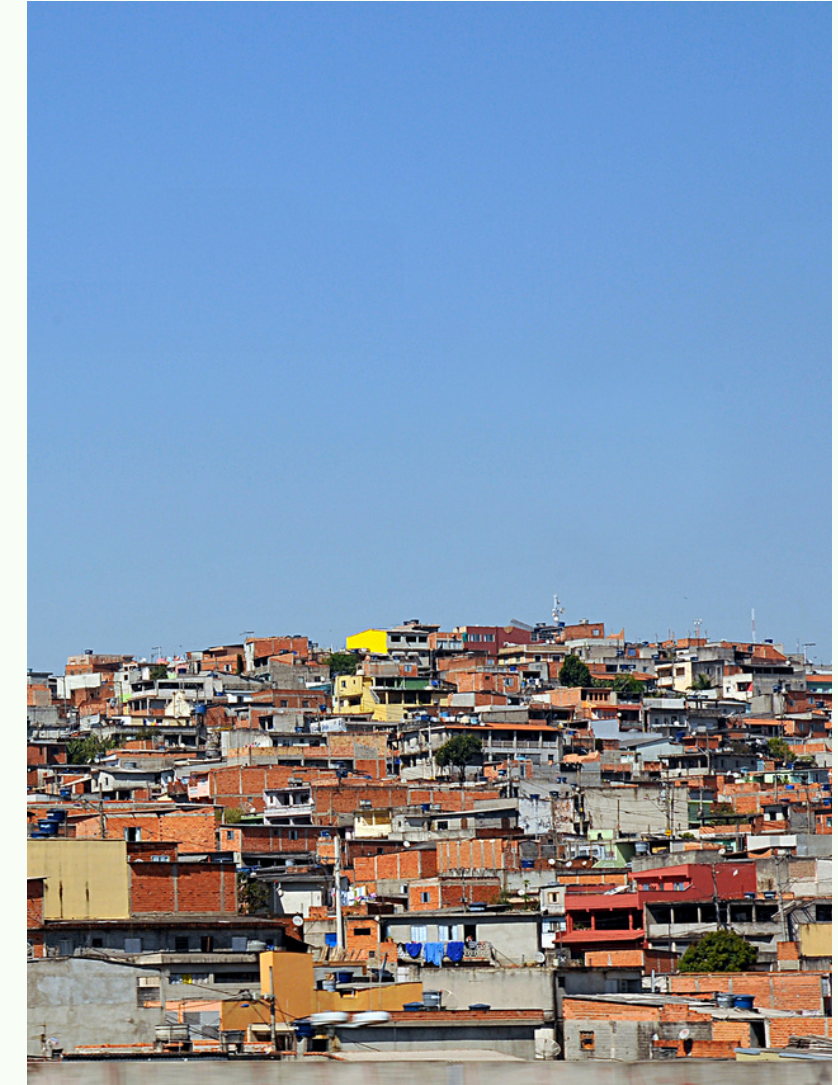
We selected participants from the north, center, lowlands, west and south of Mexico, trying to cover the entire national territory and its contexts.



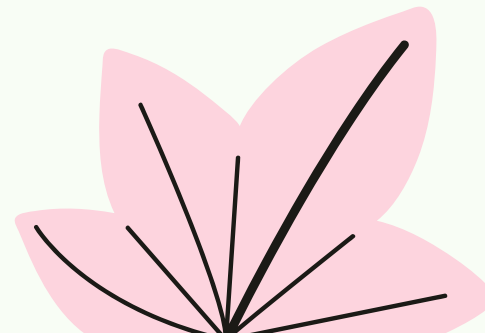
Drug war and militarization:
Tamaulipas and
Guerrero



Fundamentalisms:
Aguascalientes and Nuevo León



Marginalization and
impoverishment: Estado de México



The participants are part of organized civil society, doing grassroots activism, advocacy, victim accompaniment, training and lobbying. They work in areas such as racial justice, culture of peace, reproductive justice, drug policy and human rights advocacy. These were the participants:



Angie: Specialist in women's digital rights



Karen: founder of the first feminist political party



Cynthia: Institutional and Government Strengthening Specialist





Hilda: Grassroots work with women
and the Rarámuri nation

Erika: President of the National
Coalition of Rural Women

Sandra: Director of the I Need an
Abortion Network





¿What are we talking about?

What are the difficulties in obtaining a grant?

What are the barriers to achieving sustainability after receiving a grant?

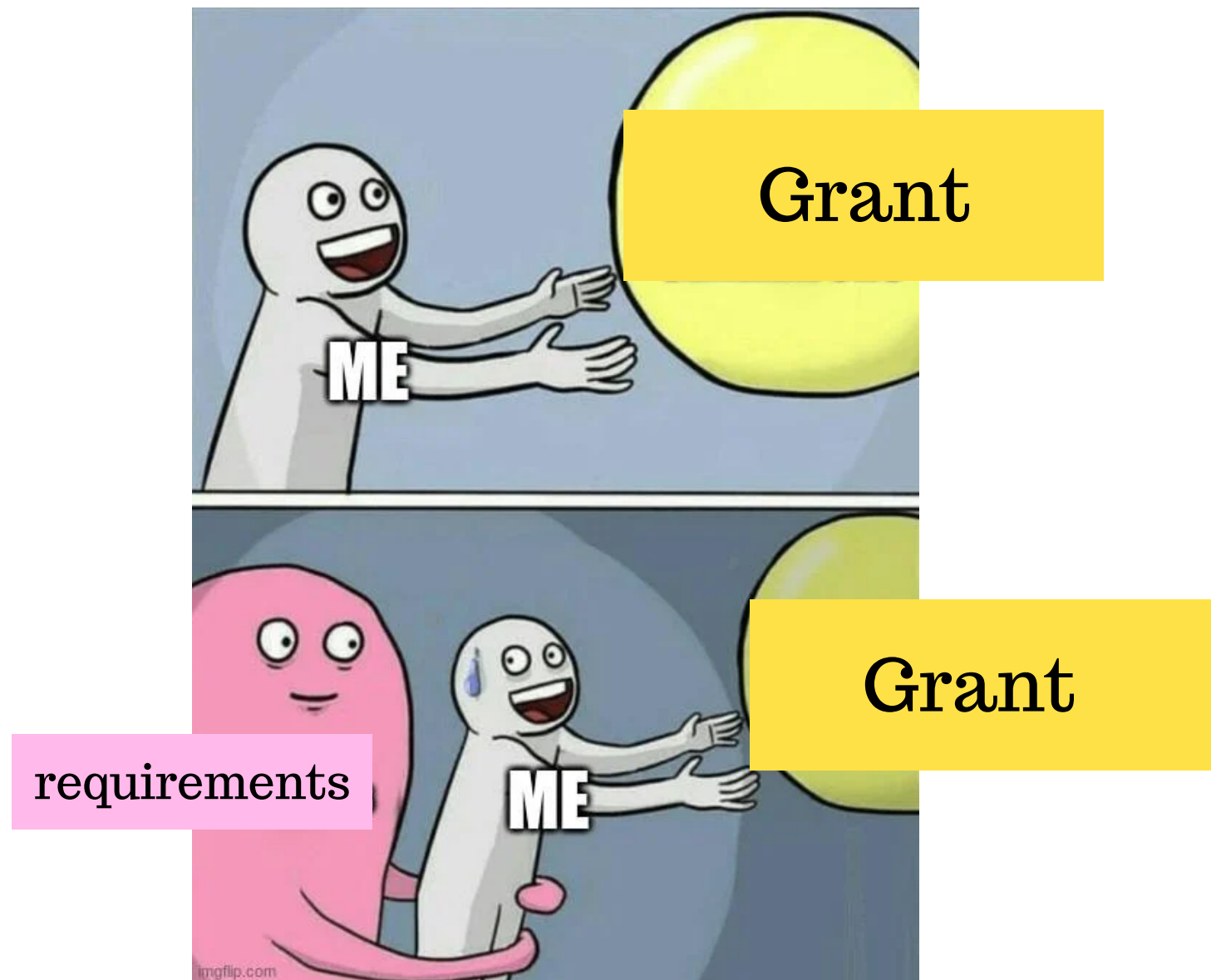
How can donors make resources more accessible?

Do you want us to give you money with no requirements? No. We just want to question the power dynamics that exist between the donor figure and the subsidies.



What are the difficulties in obtaining a grant?

- **Legal requirements:** To be legally constituted or registered with the Tax Collection System.
- **Financial requirements:** Have a bank account in the name of the organization, have other sources of funding, have a minimum income of 25,000 USD in the previous year.



What are the difficulties in obtaining a grant?

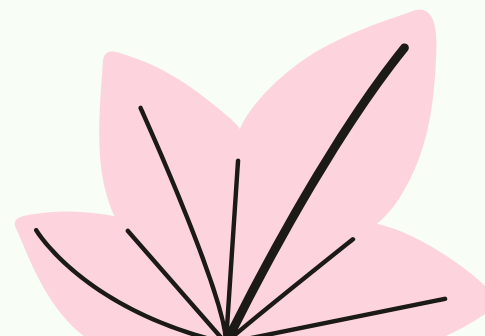
- **Bureaucratic requirements:** Filling out lengthy applications, excessive evidence of previous work, lack of knowledge in project drafting.
- **Equity requirements:** letters of recommendation or references from reputable activists.

Create grant forms that are easy to fill out,
with concrete questions and simple
languages

Create grant questionnaires with many
questions with complicated language and
difficult to answer.



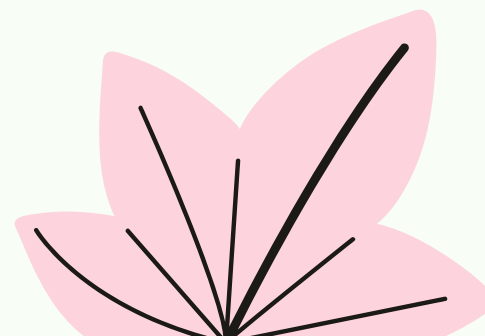
Donor



What are the difficulties in obtaining a grant?

In summary: Donors ask grassroots organizations to be legally constituted, have a bank account in the organization's name, have evidence of work for at least one year, references or recommendations from recognized activists, previous grants or a guaranteed budget. These requirements can only be met by medium or large civil organizations, but hardly by small or emerging grassroots organizations.

In addition, the grant application forms are long, tedious, unfriendly and difficult to fill out for people who have no experience in fundraising.



These requirements mean that small organizations are left out or, if they pass the administrative stage, compete against very large organizations.



Big organizations

**Small
grassroots
organizations**



Donors put organizations with a staff of five people against organizations with a staff of 50 people, including a specialized fundraising area, in competition for resources.

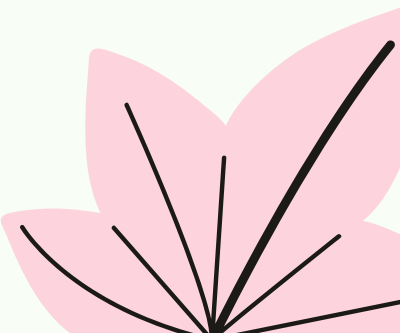
We have an administration and fundraising department. Filling out this grant application is very easy!



I am my own administrator and fundraiser. I accompany victims of violence. I do lobbying and advocacy. I manage the social networks and the collective. This long and tedious application process represents more workload. I am already anxious!



Donors set requirements that are often impossible for small grassroots groups to meet, such as being legally constituted, having a bank account, and having previous grants of enormous amounts of money.



What are the sustainability challenges after obtaining a grant?

One of main the sustainability challenges for organizations and collectives is that most donors give resources for specific projects but not for their sustainability. And it happens, for example, that many collectives do very valuable work but are not good at writing or planning projects and, therefore, are left without support. Writing projects is important but it is not the only thing that determines how good or bad a collective's work is. Grassroots activists have to be constantly planning projects to obtain resources to continue working due to lack of funds that support their sustainability.



What are the sustainability challenges after obtaining a grant?



My organization's expenses

I am presenting a new project to support the expenses of my collective.



How can donors make resources more accessible to grassroots organizations and collectives?

We believe that all the funding problems for most of the grassroots collectives would be solved if there were three types of calls for proposals: 1. calls for internal strengthening, where the money would be used for legal registration, opening a bank account, and for training on areas such as resource management and fundraising; 2. calls for specific project funding, 3. and calls for sustainability funding. And calls for resource management and sustainability should be more targeted, with separate calls for small, medium and large organizations.



How can donors make resources more accessible to grassroots organizations and collectives?



Launching calls for proposals to finance projects where large, small and medium-size organizations compete for resources.



Accompanying grassroots collectives to strengthen and grow by issuing specific calls for funding proposals for specific contexts, focusing on the needs of activists.