Strengthening women environmental defenders through a digital and advocacy network

Description of the project:
‘Defensoras Ambientales’ empowers women environmental rights defenders from indigenous peoples and local groups in Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay, with a gender justice perspective. A network of over 1,200 women has been built, and an innovative mobile phone application (PLAC) was launched to inform, connect, protect and communicate efficiently. This supports the protection of territories deteriorated by extractivism, agrochemical contamination and the restriction of local actors’ civic space. A feminist school was established in 2021 to strengthen local knowledge, technical and advocacy skills for climate adaptation and mitigation, with the aim to improve the groups’ resilience and amplify their demands.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

Climate impact
- Active conservation of natural resources, promoting the right to land, access to clean water, and organic food production via small grants
- Fosters significant climate action through meaningful participation processes using advocacy and systemic transformation
- Rehabilitation of cultural and ancestral knowledge for environmental protection

Gender impact
- Mobile application to inform, protect, and connect women human rights defenders with each other
- Creation of the Feminist School for Climate Action as an education space for political advocacy
- Strengthening the political participation of women environmental leaders in international human rights and SDG frameworks

Scalability / replicability
- Network building advocacy alliances in the Latin America region
- Expansion of the PLAC mobile application to other countries

Support program for women prisoners in Rwanda’s prisons

Description of the project:
Esperanza Humura carries out a program supporting women prisoners in Rwanda with a holistic approach. It includes awareness raising on their human rights and legal assistance, capacity building for future economic self-sufficiency, promotion of their nutritional health and that of their young children detained with them, as well as organic waste management for biogas production, composting and sustainable agriculture in the prisons vegetable plots. Launched as a pilot in Nyamagabe penitentiary institution, the project aims to be replicated in 12 more prisons of the country, benefiting more than 6,450 women.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

Climate impact
- Promoting organic waste management and sustainable agriculture in prisons
- Production of biogas for use in prison kitchens, thus reducing the use of firewood

Gender impact
- Economic empowerment of women, trained to develop income-generating micro-projects
- Awareness raising of women prisoners on their human rights, hygiene, reproductive and nutritional health, environmental protection
- Support to marginalized women who are invisibilized in social policies and public debate

Scalability / replicability
- After the pilot project in Nyamagabe prison, Esperanza Humura’s ambition is to extend the project to 12 other prisons in Rwanda
- Cooperation with the Rwandan national authorities and penitentiary institutions: Rwanda Correctional Services

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