

2019 highlights



Seattle International Foundation
Central America

2019 was a big year for Seattle International Foundation. Guided by our mission to champion **good governance** and **rule of law**, promote **equity**, strengthen **civil society** and mitigate forced **migration** in Central America, we made real progress.

Throughout the year, SIF organized several meetings to discuss Central American realities, increased our grantmaking, sponsored numerous regional convenings and campaigns, and positioned civil society leaders and regional priorities in Washington, D.C. We also supported independent journalism, launched a new brand design and grew in size and impact. It was, without a doubt, a year that proved the merits of our approach. Through convening, grantmaking, advocacy, leadership development and research we not only met our goals but exceeded them, while establishing ourselves as the only foundation in Washington State to focus on Central America.

We are pleased to share with you a summary of our work in 2019 and our joint efforts, led alongside our partners and grantees, to boost development, create change and generate opportunities in Central America. We are ready for 2020, which is sure to be just as successful!



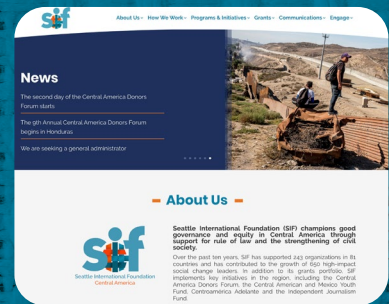
Fred Ramos/El Faro



SIF in 2019



- We launched our new logo to reflect the work we do with our partners and the strong bond we share with the city of Seattle.
- We unveiled our new website that incorporates the new SIF logo, our 10-year growth trajectory and our strategic shift in vision, mission and programs to increase our impact in Central America.
- We added 6 new members to our dynamic team, each with a breadth and depth of knowledge that will help strengthen and expand our work. We now have 20 employees in six countries and eight cities.
- Several of our team members published opinions, analysis and research, which you can find on our website.



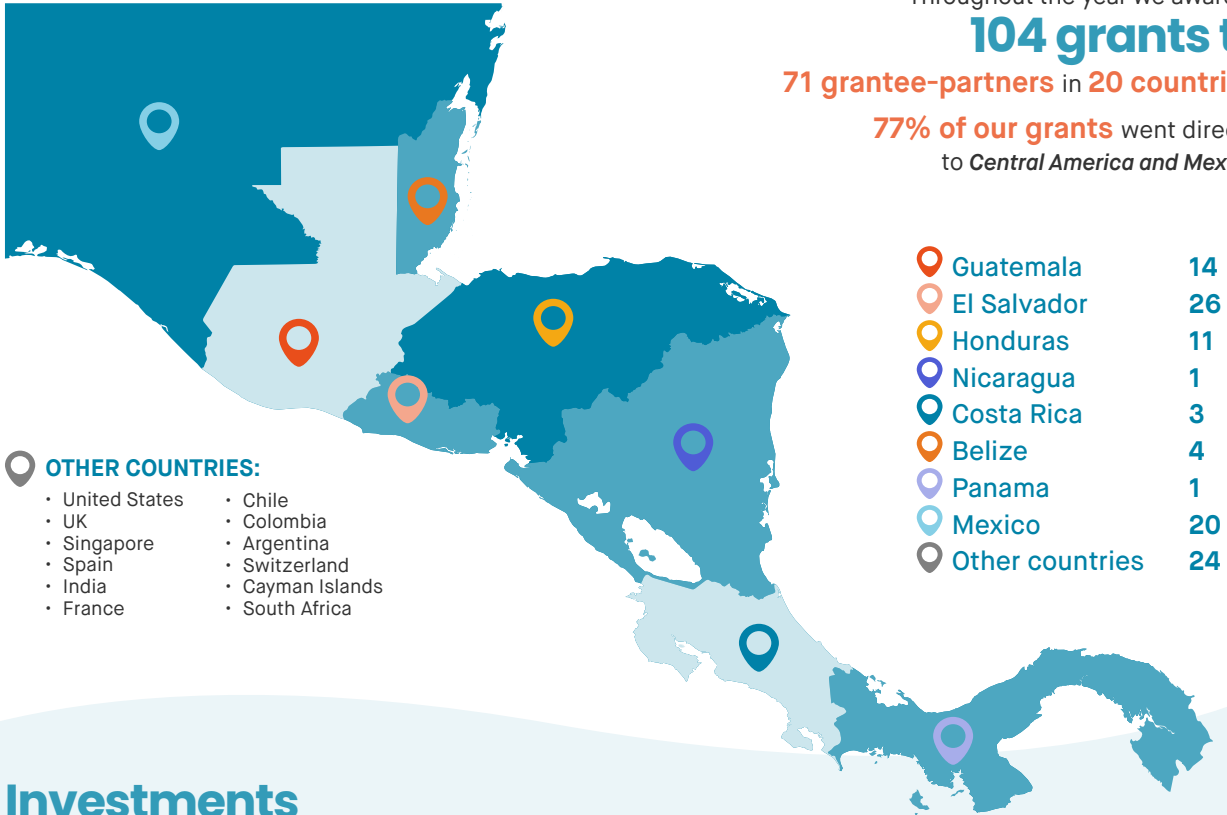
Grants

Throughout the year we awarded

104 grants to

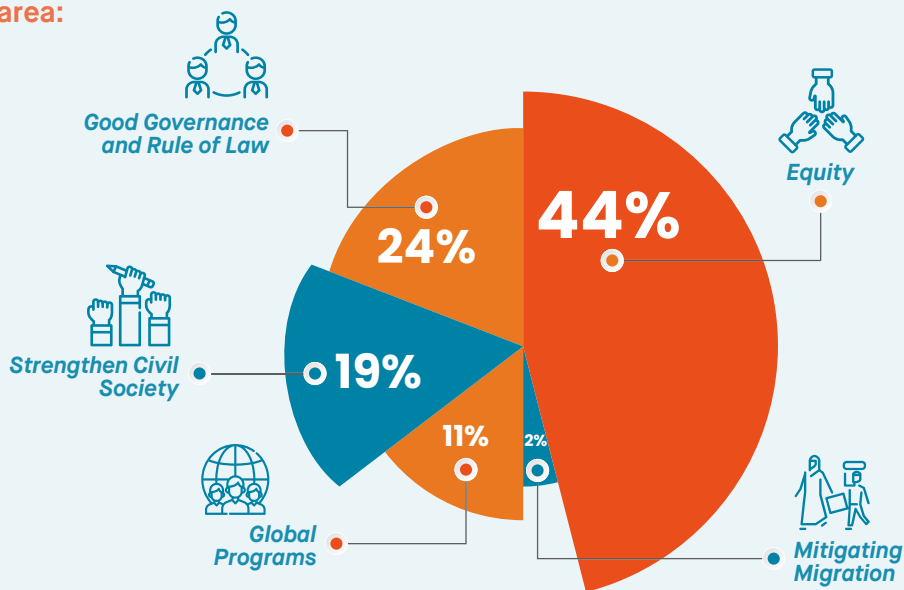
71 grantee-partners in 20 countries.

77% of our grants went directly to *Central America and Mexico*:



Investments

per focus area:



Find a full list of our grants and grantee-partners at <https://seaif.org/grants/our-grantees/>



- Centroamérica Adelante (CAA), our successful leadership program, continued establishing itself in the region. The third iteration of the program incorporated **32** participants from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras and focused on mitigating the causes of migration in the Northern Triangle of Central America.
- CAA and its partners organized **3** country-specific and **2** regional workshops to strengthen the personal and professional development of each participant. Over the course of the year, participants also received online trainings and advising to support the design and development of their pilot projects.
- As a culmination to the program, all 32 participants presented the results of their pilot projects to address migration and displacement in Central America, which then received seed funding from SIF.
- CAA participants also attended **international events** including the Fund for Global Human Rights conference, a forum on migration in Washington, D.C. and CADF 2019, among other key activities to further their understanding of the regional context and to network with others committed to the region.
- Centroamérica Adelante also launched its new branding with a new logo that reflects the leadership, teamwork and progress we seek to promote in the region.



SOCIOS:





Martín Cáliz/Contracorriente



Víctor Peña/El Faro



Independent Journalism Fund

- We supported **11** independent media outlets in Central America pursuing projects on innovation and physical and digital security.
- In Seattle, we curated our first photo gallery entitled Let's Leave accompanied by a panel discussion in which journalists based in the region shared their perspectives on migration in Central America.
- The Let's Leave gallery has been on display in Seattle and Honduras and, in 2020, will travel to Mexico City.
- We promoted and funded the creation and presentation of the first-ever live magazine in Central America, inspired by Pop-Up Magazine. Let's Leave (Nos Vamos) mixed theater and journalism, allowing journalists and actors to share their stories as migrants.
- We sponsored the Central American Journalism Forum ForoCap 2019 in El Salvador, which was attended by **1,500** Latin American journalists.
- We provided a grant to the Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) to bring **6** Central American journalists to the **11th** Global Conference on Investigative Journalism, which took place in September in Hamburg, Germany.

SOCIOS:





- **30+** grants were awarded to support youth organizations and collectives in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Belize (**31%** more grants than in 2018).
- **200+** participants attended our first Latin American Meeting of Young Women Activists We Decide (Nosotras Decidimos) in El Salvador.
- We co-organized the first regional workshop to end early unions and child marriage, hosted in Mexico. Additionally, we participated in the donor reception panel on child marriage in Central America and Mexico led by the Ford Foundation at the United Nations General Assembly, hosted in New York.
- We participated in the 2019 HIPLeders Program and the International Visitors Leadership Program held in the United States.
- We updated the CAMY Fund logo so it would better reflect the Fund's commitment to youth, equality and diversity in Central America and Mexico.
- We supported the following social media campaigns: **#TocarNiñasSiEsDelito** (TouchingGirlsYesIsACrime) **#JusticiaParaEvelyn** (JusticeForEvelyn) **#NosotrasDecidimos** (WeDecide) **#YoLeCreoALasAmorales** (IBelieveTheAmorales)



SOCIOS:





caadf

Central America Donors Forum 2019

- The Central America Donors Forum was held for the first time in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, under the theme “Progress at a Crossroads.”
- The 9th annual Forum included **450+** participants from **14** countries representing the corporate and philanthropic sector, as well as government and civil society.
- **40+** sessions, including panels, workshops and site visits, promoted discussion on mitigating migration, the democratic agenda and emerging social movements in Central America.
- The event was covered by over **50** journalists from more than **30** media outlets.
- CADF 2020 will be held in San José, Costa Rica.

“We are not investors one day and not the next. We are investors in the long-term”

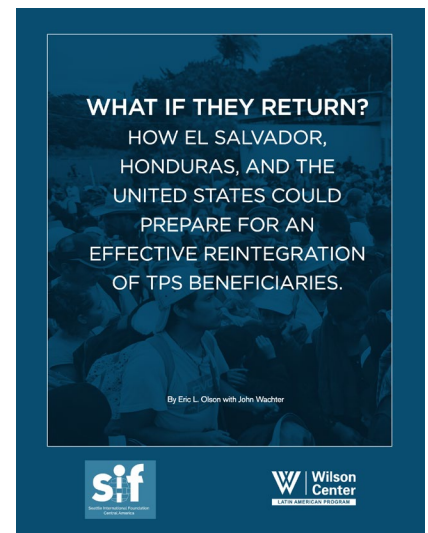
– Mauricio Ramos, CEO of Millicom.

SOCIOS:



CA in DC Initiative

- In partnership with various universities and organizations, we facilitated **5** presentations of the report by the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI) on the violent events that occurred in Nicaragua in 2018.
- Along with the Wilson Center, we held the first conference in Washington, D.C. on security, migration and rule of law in Central America and published the report: ***“What If They Return: How El Salvador, Honduras, and the United States Could Prepare for An Effective Reintegration of TPS Beneficiaries.”***
- In Central America, we provided civil society leaders with strategic advice for their visits to Washington, D.C.
- In Washington, D.C., we provided our partners in Congress and non-governmental organizations background and briefings on anti-corruption mechanisms in the region, including the renewal of the MACCIH (Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity) mandate in Honduras and the establishment of CICIES (Commission against Impunity) in El Salvador.
- We were a source of information and analysis relating to Central America for various international media outlets including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and National Public Radio.



SOCIOS:

**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



We champion
good governance
and **equity**
in Central America through
rule of law
and a **robust**
civil society.

Promovemos la
gobernanza
y la **equidad**
en Centroamérica
a través del
estado de derecho
y el fortalecimiento de la
sociedad civil.



Seattle International Foundation
Central America



Fondo de
Periodismo
Independiente

CA in DC
Initiative

The 2019 Annual Report, a comprehensive account of our impact and efforts throughout the year, will be published soon. Stay tuned!