

PROTECT THEIR JOURNEY

#GirlsWhoMigrate

FONDO SEMILLAS
MUJERES SEMBRANDO IGUALDAD



- Every year, **thousands of girls** migrate from Central America fleeing **violence** and **poverty**.
- More than **33 thousand migrant girls** and boys were **arrested** in Mexico in the first half of 2019, 130% more than in 2018.
- **1 in 4** travel **without** the company of an adult.
- **6 out of 10 girls** and women are **sexually abused** on their journey to the U.S. (Amnesty International)
- **Thousands** are **kidnapped** by criminal and trafficking networks or disappear on their way to the United States.

SUMMARY

Every year, **thousands of girls migrate** from Central America **fleeing violence** and poverty. Due to the increased difficulty of crossing the U.S. border, many are forced to remain in Mexico in vulnerable and precarious conditions.

Due to a lack of adequate response from Mexican authorities, many women-led community-based

groups are tirelessly providing shelter and basic services, responding to emergencies, and advocating with authorities to guarantee the safety and respectful treatment of migrants, particularly girls and women.

Fondo Semillas is a Mexican feminist fund that mobilizes resources to support, strengthen and connect women's organizations and grassroots groups. We currently support **13 organizations who work with migrant girls**, but with ever-increasing numbers of people fleeing, the needs continue to grow. With your support we can continue to fund more groups carrying out vital work across the country.

CHALLENGE

Although the reasons girls and women decide to migrate vary, women typically migrate fleeing from violence. **Strong triggers for young girls to migrate, either accompanied or on their own**, are to reunite with family or to escape an abusive household. While conditions are dangerous for all migrants, girls are particularly vulnerable and their needs are often the least visible when it comes to ensuring their safety.

SOLUTION

To respond to the problems faced by **#GirlsWhoMigrate**, Fondo Semillas has launched the Protect their Journey fundraising campaign. The funds raised will go to women's grassroots groups and organizations who provide services, shelter and legal support to defend the rights of migrant girls and women in Mexico.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

Fondo Semillas strongly believes that the leadership of grassroots women and girls is essential to achieve lasting social change, as they are the experts on the needs and priorities in their communities. Funds provided through Fondo Semillas not only meet the immediate needs of women and girls, but also work to strengthen women's organizations, challenge gender inequality, and ensure long-term well-being for entire communities. Over the past 29 years, Fondo Semillas **has directly benefited** more than **685 thousand** women and girls, and 2.5 million more people indirectly.

