



# General application data, 2016-2018

Around the world, women, girls, trans and intersex people are mobilising and leading efforts against injustice, inequality and oppression in its many forms. Feminist movements are making incredible advances in advocating for human rights, and there is so much more to do.

We are excited to share a snapshot of what we're learning, and hope it will be useful to the funders and movements that we collaborate with.

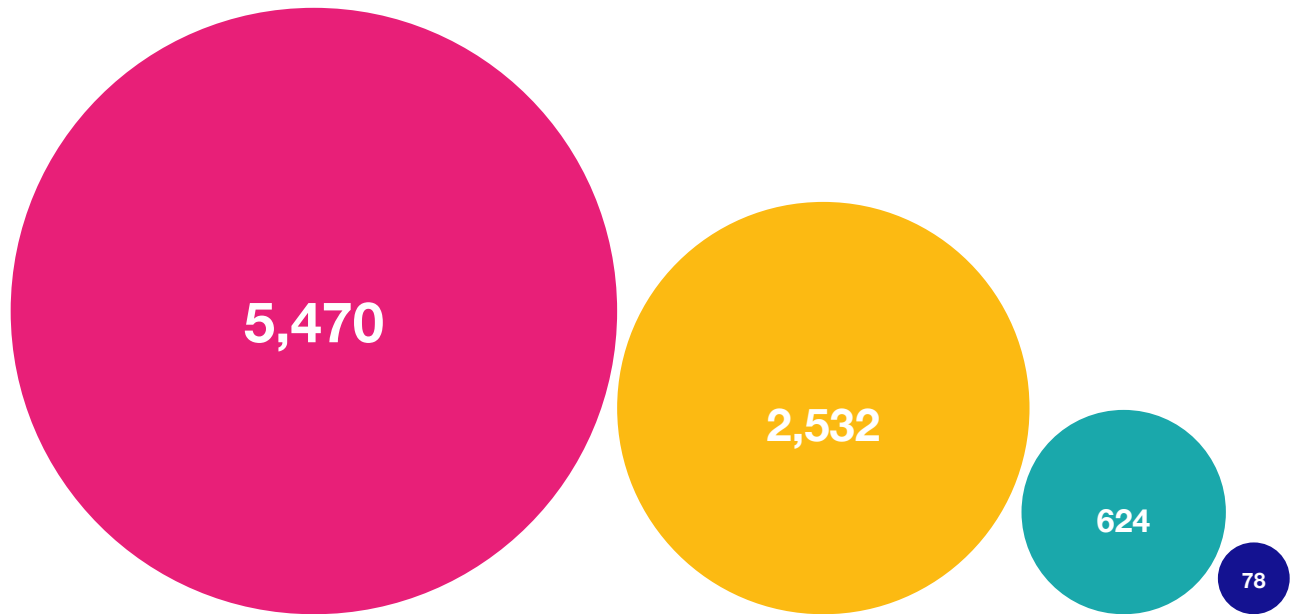
## A significant gap: feminist activists are ready for funding

Mama Cash analysed our grants application data for 2016-2018. We received nearly 5,500 applications, about half of which (46%) fit our grantmaking criteria: they were submitted by groups working on root causes and deep solutions, and led by the people most impacted by injustice.

Financial constraints make it impossible for Mama Cash to support all of this courageous activism. In addition, as a public funder, we have to consider our donors' earmarks as we review applications and make funding decisions. Of the 2,532 applications that met our criteria, we were able to closely review 624 that best fit our priorities and portfolio strategies and to make grants to 78 of these new applicants. Clearly, the gap between the demand and what we are able to fund is significant.

### New grants awarded, as a proportion of total applications received (2016-2018)

Total number of applications



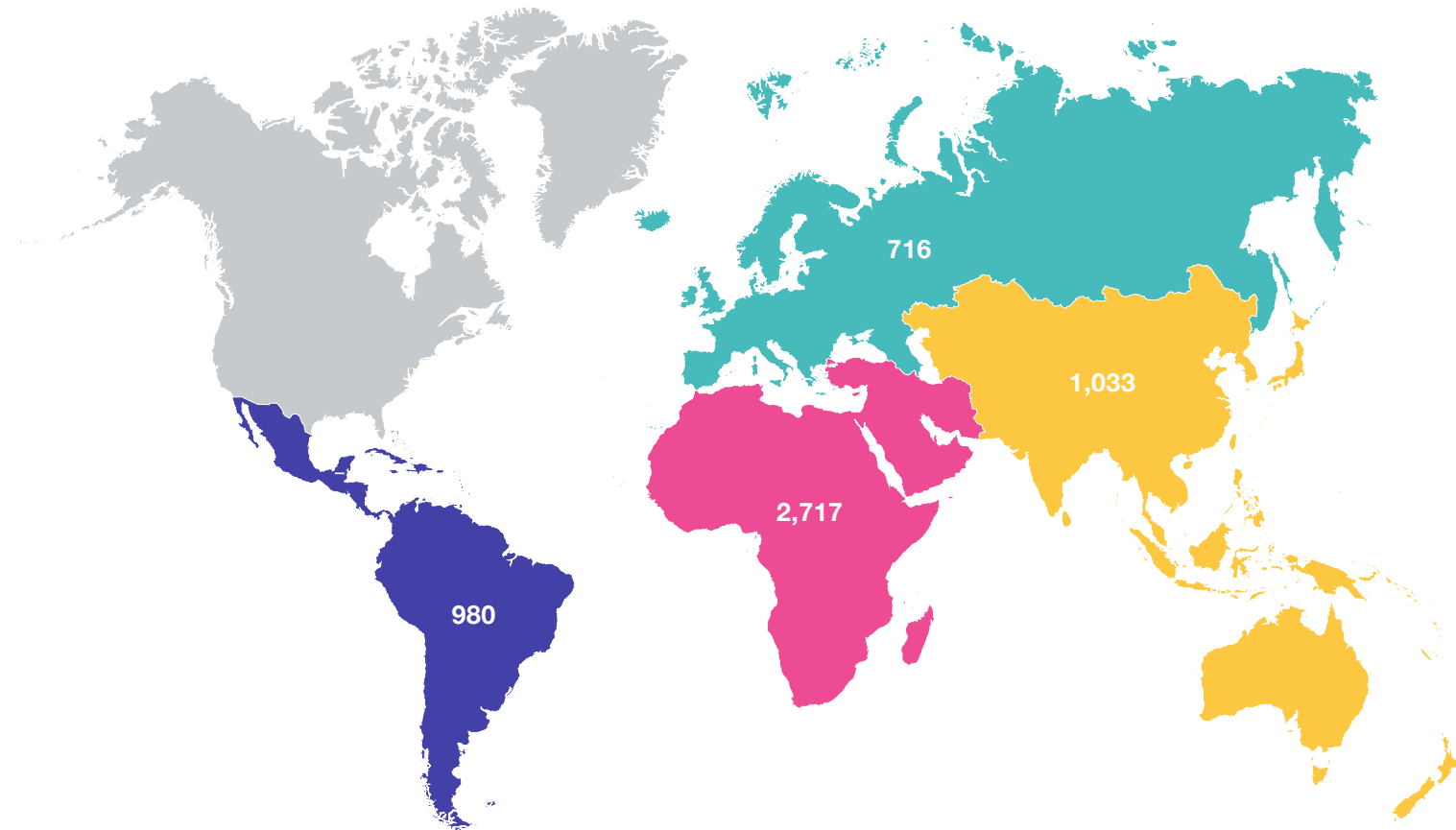
Stage	→ All applications	→ Met funding criteria	→ Second stage of review	→ New grants awarded
2016	2,115	999	137	31
2017	1,574	765	210	22
2018	1,781	768	277	25

## Feminist activism is everywhere

### Applications received by region (2016-2018)

Total number per region

We received applications from every region of the world: women, girls, trans people, and intersex people are organising everywhere.



	Africa / West Asia	East, South and Southeast Asia / Oceania	Europe / Central and North Asia	Latin America and the Caribbean
2016	1,040	391	259	425
2017	753	298	236	279
2018	924	344	221	276

\* We received 24 applications from the US and Canada during this period but these are not shown because these countries fall outside Mama Cash's geographical scope.

## Feminist activism is thematically diverse

Mama Cash organises our grantmaking in thematic portfolios: Body, Money (Labour Rights, and Environmental Justice) and Voice. Most applications fell in the Voice and Body portfolios, reflecting an organising focus on issues of bodily integrity, sexual and reproductive rights, freedom from violence, and the right to speak out and participate in decision-making.

However we also received a growing number of applications in our Money portfolio focused either on labour rights or environmental justice. Environmental justice is a growing area of organising, and we are encouraged to see an increase in applications from 2016 (3% of all LOIs) to 2017 and 2018 (7% and 6%, respectively).

In our thematic portfolios, we support groups led by women, girls, and trans and intersex people who are...

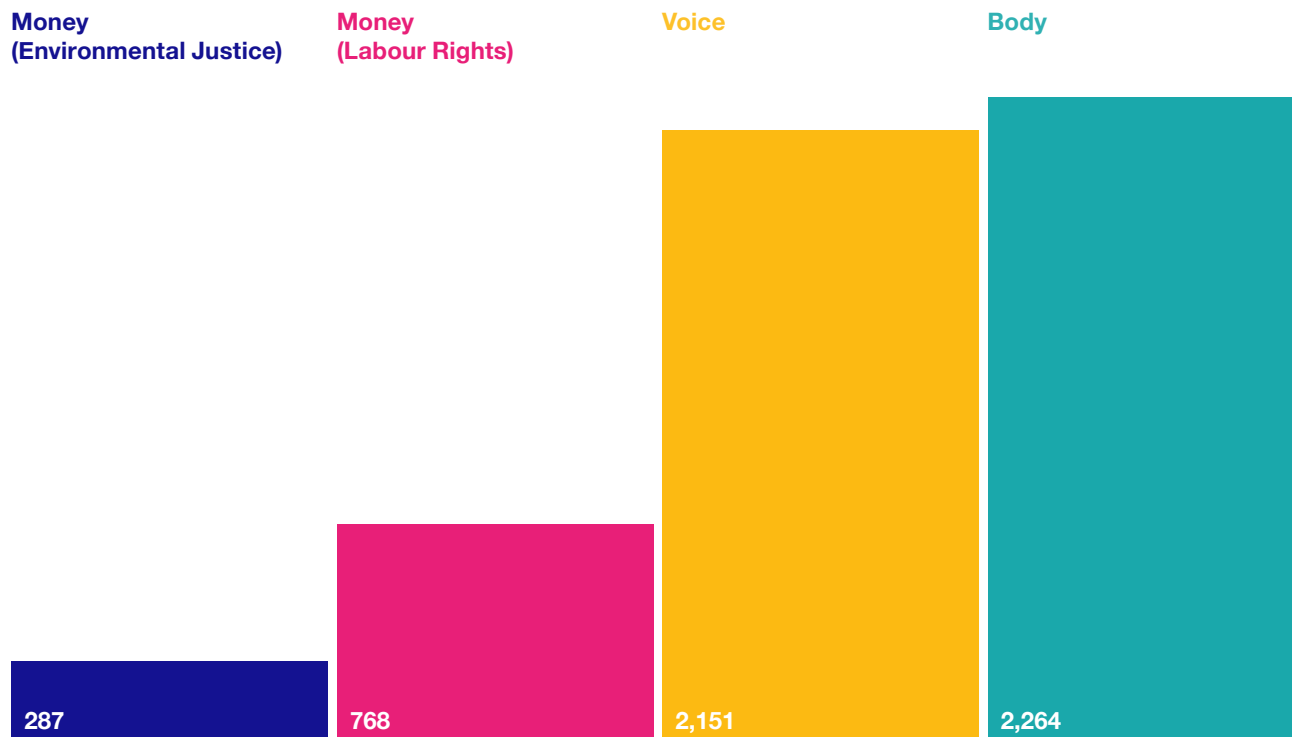
**Body** / ...celebrating and defending control over their lives, bodies and sexualities, and challenging practices, social norms and policies that limit their bodily autonomy.

**Voice** / ...advancing their rights to self-determination and artistic expression, and to bring their stories and knowledge to the centre of public discussions.

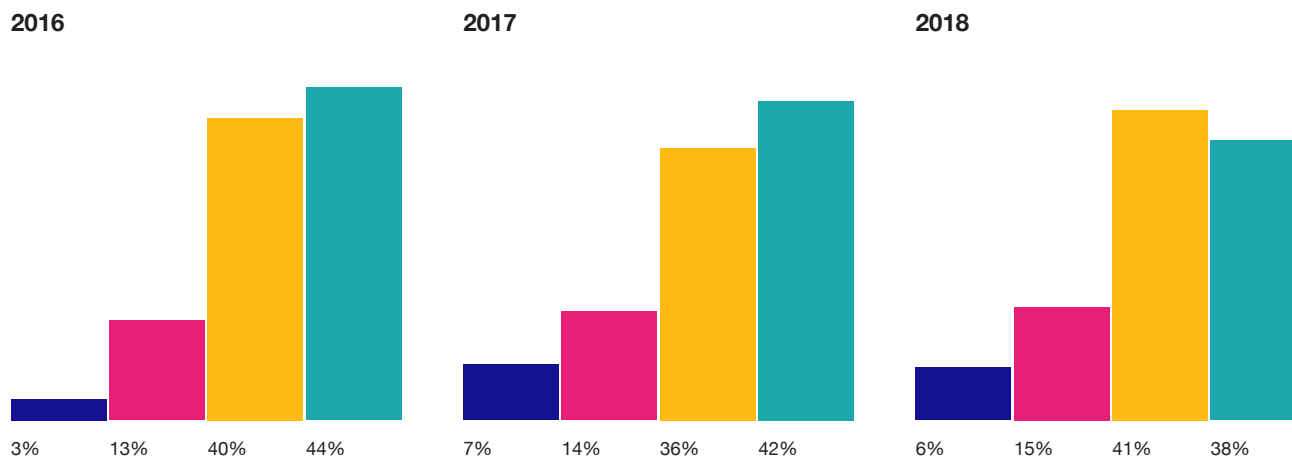
**Money (Labour Rights)** / ...demanding fair pay, decent working conditions and an end to violence in the workplace and that their work be recognised as work.

**Money (Environmental Justice)** / ...acting as frontline environmental defenders and demanding access to, control over and protection of resources like land, water and forests.

Applications received by thematic portfolio (2016-2018)



Comparison of the different portfolios in percentages (2016-2018)



# More detailed application data

Mama Cash supports groups that work from a feminist or women's rights perspective, are self-led by the women, girls, and trans and intersex people they serve, and focus on issues that are under-addressed and/or contested. In addition, we prioritise funding to groups and initiatives that fit our thematic focus areas and portfolio strategies, and have annual budgets below €200,000 annually.

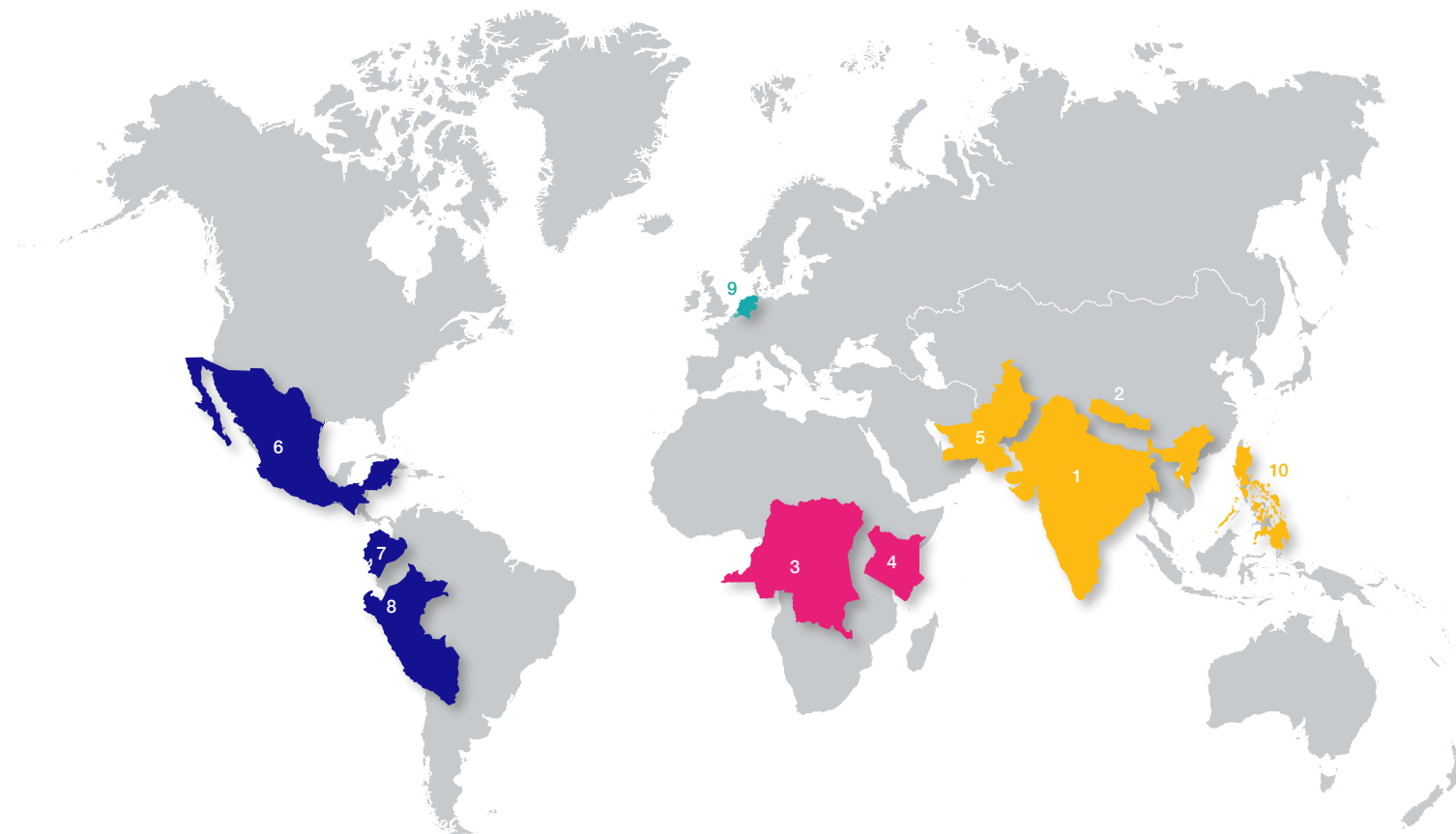
In our application review process, we determine which groups meet our criteria. Of those that fall within our criteria, we further decide which requests best fit our funding priorities and thematic portfolio strategies. Between 2016-2018, 624 applications met our criteria and best fit with our priorities and thematic strategies. Our Programmes staff collected additional information and completed a more thorough review (the "second stage") of these 624 to make final grantmaking decisions.

## Feminist groups are active around the world

### Top ten countries from which we reviewed applications (2016-2018)

These 624 applications came from 120 different countries, in every region of the world. This underscores that strong, active groups are organising everywhere.

The map at right shows the ten countries from which we received the highest number of eligible applications that moved through to a second stage of more detailed review. These ten countries are located in all four of Mama Cash's working regions.



● 1. India

● 2. Nepal

● 3. DR Congo

● 4. Kenya

● 5. Pakistan

● 6. Mexico

● 7. Ecuador

● 8. Peru

● 9. Netherlands

● 10. Philippines

● Latin America and the Caribbean

● Europe / Central and North Asia

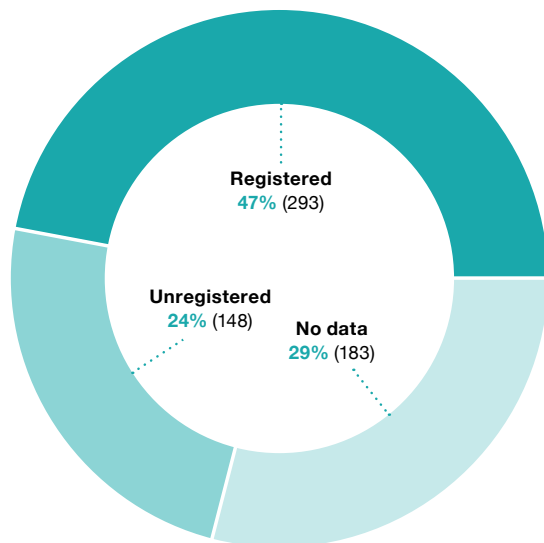
● Africa / West Asia

● East, South and Southeast Asia / Oceania

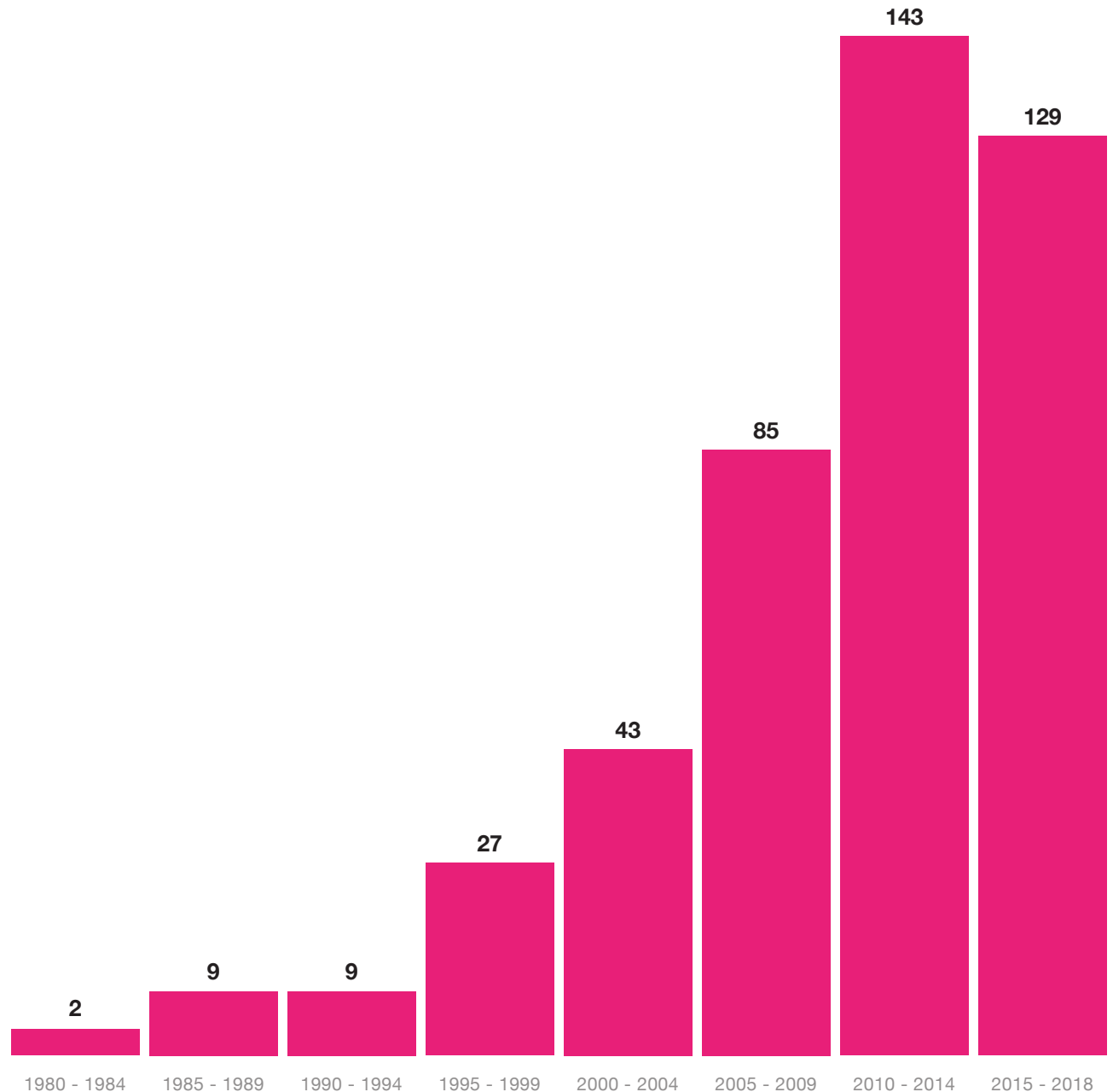
## Feminist activism is growing and dynamic

Our analysis shows that a majority of applications which provided data about the year of the group's founding came from groups that have been founded since 2010. This shows that activism is vibrant and that feminist movements are growing.

**Feminist groups are organising in many different ways.** Not all of them are, can or want to be formally registered – they find alternatives. Given the serious security threats facing activists, it is not surprising that a significant number of groups do not register as NGOs. This is a reminder of changing political contexts and the importance of finding ways to provide access to funding for dynamic and diverse forms of organising.



Number of applications reviewed, by year of group's founding (based on data from 447 of 624 applications)





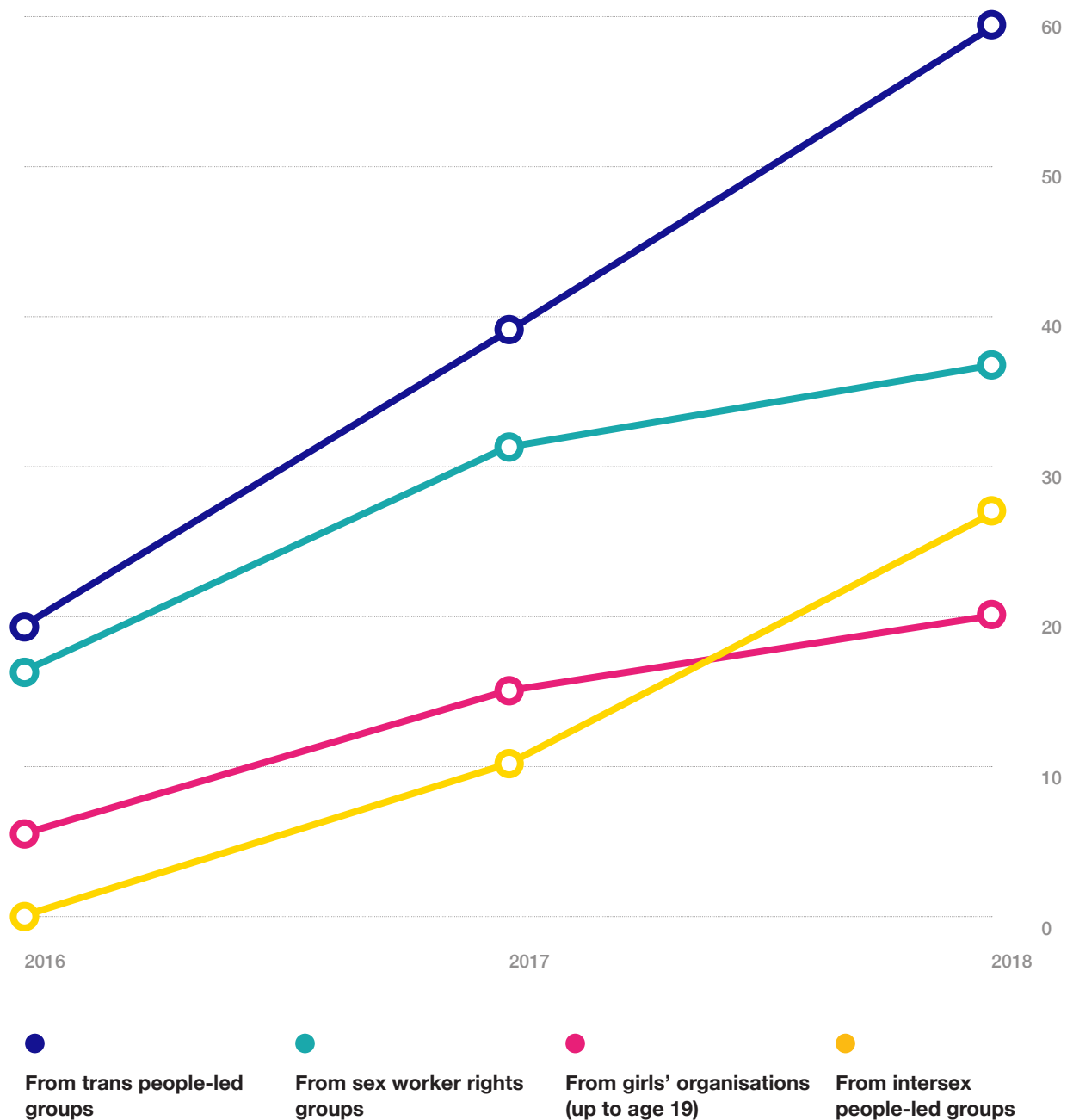
**Feminist groups are responding to contested and under-addressed issues**

Mama Cash prioritises supporting those activists that are leading the way on issues that are highly contested and that often have a harder time finding funding for their work. We see an increase in applications from groups focused on under-addressed and contested issues. The number of applications we reviewed from groups of trans people, intersex people, sex workers and girls grew markedly, reflecting movements that are growing, consolidating and becoming stronger.

In the case of increased applications from intersex activists, it is also significant that Mama Cash expanded our mission in 2017 to include intersex people, making it clear that we welcome applications from intersex groups. This is a reminder that naming people who have been actively invisibilised is important if we, as funders, want to shift power and ensure resources flow where they are needed.

A significant number of our grants to new applicants went to groups recently formed. Among the new grants awarded to organisations receiving funding from Mama Cash for the first time, 65% were founded since 2010 (of those supplying data about when they were founded). Thirty-two of the grants to new groups (41%) went to trans, intersex, sex workers' and girls' groups.

Applications reviewed by population group (2016-2018)



**Join us: Feminist groups are  
advancing the rights of millions**

**There is a lot more to learn!**

The data from our LOI window offers a peek into feminist activism globally. These groups push the boundaries of thinking and action in ways that advance the liberation of millions of women, girls, trans and intersex people worldwide. **Feminist groups' work matters, and it is imperative that we as funders resource them to put their plans into action.**

We will continue to fine-tune our data collection efforts to inform our learning and practice, and to deepen our analysis of the needs and trends of feminist movements. We are committed to sharing back what we learn with those who apply for and receive funding, as well as with the field more broadly.

Mama Cash gives grants to well over 100 forward-thinking initiatives each year that are led by women, girls, trans people and intersex people around the world.

Do you want to meet some of our grantee-partners? See [some examples](#) of the groups Mama Cash currently supports.

**“ I’m tired of being unheard and left out so I want you, everyone, to put down their cup of coffee and actually make us a seat at the table and listen to us because we are working where you want to be working, and we can help you, and you can help us. ”**

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**Girl activist, Poland, in the With and For Girls video  
“[What Do You Want Funders To Know?](#)”**

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Because feminist  
activism works.