

# Confronting power

to win the fight  
against inequality



**Fight Inequality Alliance  
Annual Report 2023**

February 2024





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# A note from the Global Convenor

The Fight Inequality Alliance [FIA] started in 2016 with a clear mission: to bring together a growing global movement to counter the excessive concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a small elite.

Seven years later we have grown from small beginnings to a movement of tens of thousands across the globe. This – our first - Annual Report is a celebration of all we have managed to achieve in the last 12 months and a reflection on the approaches we need to take to win our fight in the future.

**This movement is at a turning point.** Around the world inequalities of power, wealth, gender, race, class, caste and identity are increasing with devastating consequences for all but the very richest. This is a rallying call for our movement, to achieve the change we seek we need to scale-up over the coming decade to become the biggest movement yet challenging the power of the 1 percent.

As we fight for changes on the inequality issues that are affecting our members and societies across the globe, we also need to build alternatives - **a blueprint for the economic system that replaces neoliberalism, built by the people most affected.**

To meet this challenge, in 2023 we agreed a **new 10-year Roadmap** – which lays out our ambition and our strategy to galvanise mass mobilising and organising across the world. This will be accompanied by political education on the structural causes of inequality and organising skills. For me, this Alliance lives and breathes when





activists are building power and shaking the powerful. In October, to coincide with the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings in Marrakech, we held a parallel Peoples' Tribunal. We were not there to do gentle insider lobbying, our role was to **disrupt the official narrative and make noise about the devastating impact these institutions have on those living on the frontlines of inequality.**

My favourite moment was when Mahayle Khonziwe, a member of FIA in South Africa, bumped into Patrice Motsepe, one of South Africa's richest men – a billionaire worth a reported \$2.6 billion. They greeted each other as fellow South Africans before he saw the logo on her T-shirt and asked who we were. She replied: **“the Alliance exists to tax people like you.”** We have put the richest on notice: **we're organising, mobilising and we're going to make change.**

JENNY RICKS, FIGHT INEQUALITY ALLIANCE GLOBAL CONVENOR,  
JANUARY 2024.

# 2023 in numbers

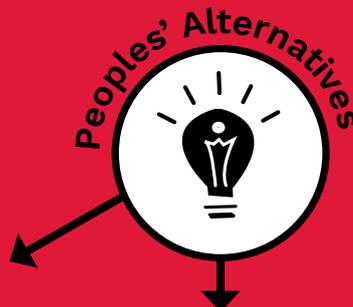


500+

Member organisations

50

Peoples' Alternatives in nearly 50 countries.



250

Approximately 250 organisations signed up.

2

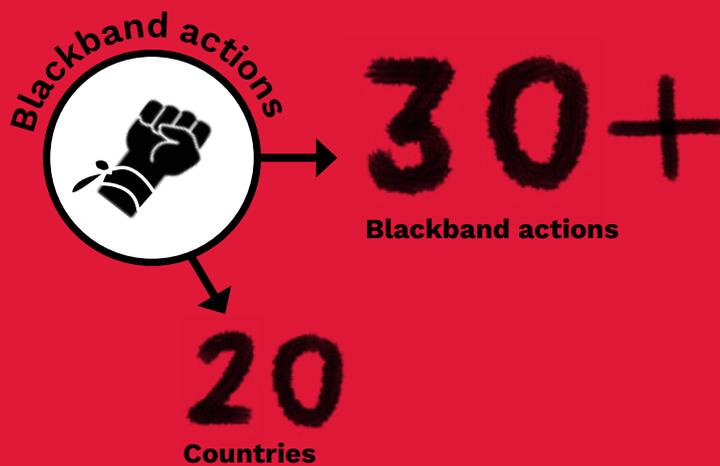
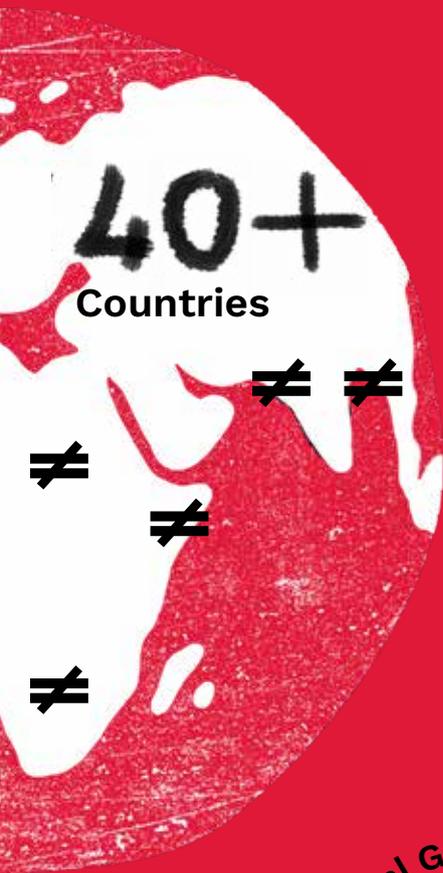
billion

People reached with the call to Tax The Rich.



Fight Inequality Alliance





# Vision, mission and how we work

## Our mission

We are a growing global movement, organising and mobilising to counter the excessive concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a small elite. Our fight against inequality is a fight for a just, equal and sustainable world.

We unite a wide range of social movements, grassroots and community groups, civil society organisations, trade unions, artists and activists from across the world who share a vision and purpose to fight the structural causes of inequality together.

**We will achieve this by building people power from the grassroots to the global-level and coming together to create systemic change.**

**“Systems of oppression and inequalities have existed in different forms and shapes throughout history. But people have worked together in broad alliances and movements many times before and built the collective power of people to achieve amazing victories.”**

**FIGHT INEQUALITY ALLIANCE  
FOUNDING VISION**



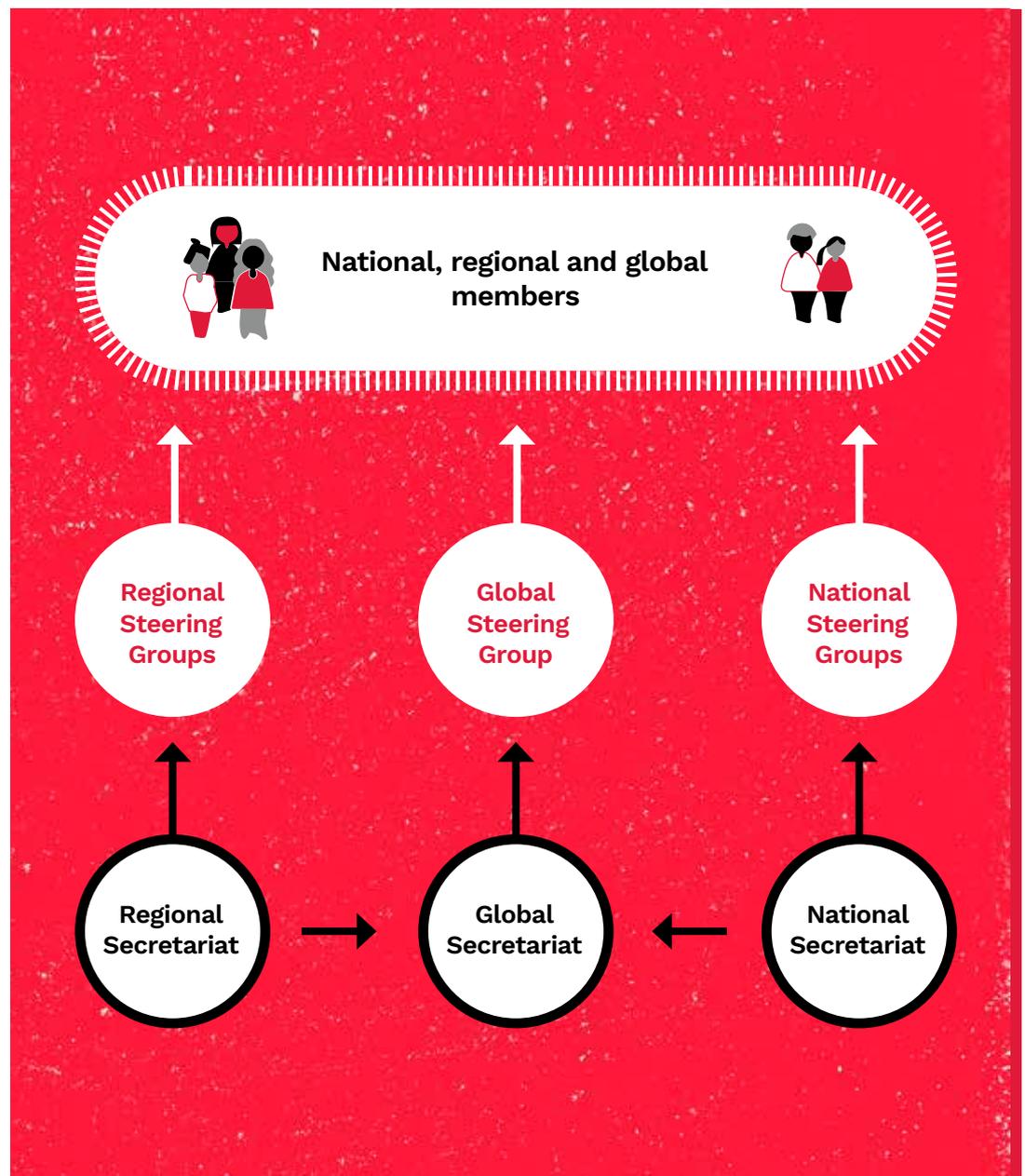
## How we work

People on the frontlines of inequality are at the centre of our organising for change and drive our strategy and actions. We are mobilising in over 40 countries across the world - with a growing and diverse membership.

Globally, regionally and nationally the Alliance is led by **Steering Groups**, made up of our members. They serve as the primary platform for discussions and decision-making on policy, political positioning and strategy.

The Alliance has a small **Global Secretariat** which coordinates global-level actions and supports regional and national alliances.

**National and regional alliances** operate with an increasing number of **Coordinators** whose function is to organise and motivate collective work in these locations with their membership.



Left: Participants at the Global Gathering, Nepal.

# Our Theory of Change



By strengthening people's power, the Alliance is helping to break the cycle of extreme concentration of power and wealth.



Real, systemic change to tackle the causes of inequality will only come from organising power from below and across borders.



National-level, grassroots action is primary, complemented by regional and global action to help achieve both a shift in narrative and policy, as well to develop on the ground organising.



Tackling inequalities requires influencing policies, the narratives that drive policies, and the imbalance of power and voice in society.



The current system and policies exist to work for the powerful minority on top. They won't change the system built by them to benefit them. We, the people, need to change the system. **Organising is the first step towards system change.**

# How we took action together in 2023

## Global Protest to #FightInequality

We kicked off 2023 with a statement of intent. While the world's political and economic elite rubbed shoulders in the Swiss ski resort of Davos for the World Economic Forum, our growing movement rose up to insist on change as part of the Global Protest to Fight Inequality.

Thousands of us took to the streets and online to demand our governments #TAXTHERICH. We protested in over 30 countries including:



Global Protest to Fight Inequality, Ecuador.



the Philippines, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Denmark, Zambia, Switzerland, Pakistan, UK, Malawi, South Africa, Chile, Panama, USA, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Nigeria, Australia, Indonesia, Germany, France, Netherlands, Norway and Belgium.

**“The excesses of a very small number of people and an unfair tax system have caused an unsustainable level of inequality.”**

**A PROTESTOR AT A #TAXTHERICH RALLY IN MEXICO.**

**We worked with global allies** (Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam and the Patriotic Millionaires) on **a report** which revealed that an annual global wealth tax of up to five per cent on the world’s multi-millionaires and billionaires could raise \$1.7 trillion a year (£1.4 trillion). A wave of media coverage of the report’s findings followed, and our messages reached over 2 billion people on social media across the world.

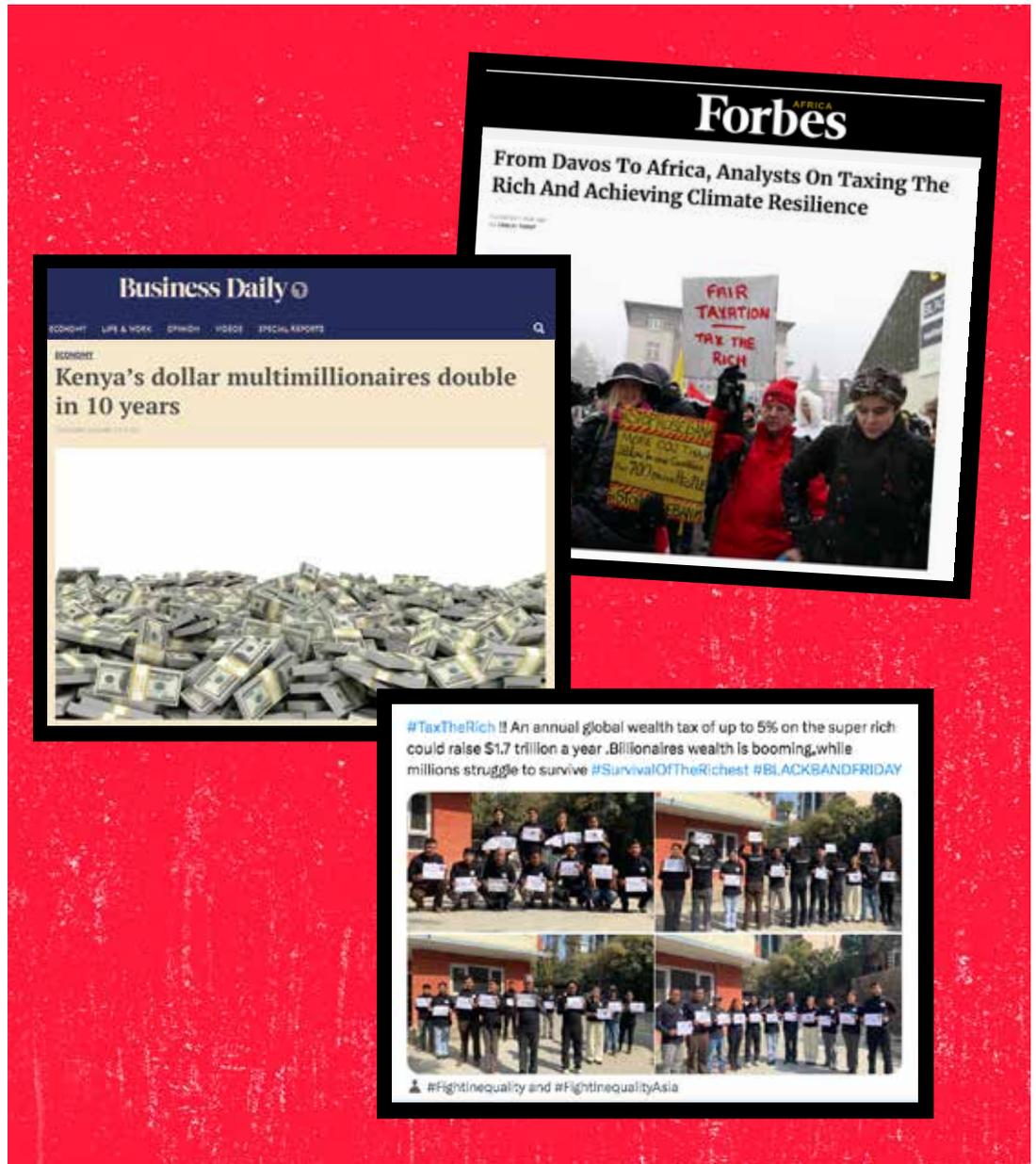
**On 20th January, we stood together in our first ever #BlackBand action**, which gained a momentum of its own and has now become the signature organising tactic for the Alliance.

We made a deliberate decision to have our headline call to #TAXTHERICH as well as participation in Black Band Thursdays not always ‘branded’ or owned by FIA. This meant it reached a wider audience and people



**SEE #BLACKBAND ACTION ON P.16**

Our call to #TaxTheRich creates a wave of media and social media.



took greater ownership of the message and action. As a result, the number and quality of actions taking place across the world grew, contributing to a huge uptick in support and political pressure for wealth taxes in different countries.

**“The Davos jet-set are once again taking in some rarefied Swiss mountain air whilst they claim to ‘fix a fractured world’. Meanwhile back down on earth, the crises of scandalous inequality and the climate emergency needs radical action not champagne and caviar. The World Economic Forum’s only function is to remind us how unequal the world is.”**

JENNY RICKS, FIA GLOBAL CONVENOR.

# Snapshot of actions across the world



In Panama young activists and women pasted posters in public spaces about the importance to tax the rich to improve public services.



In Mexico activists, artists and local organisations gathered in protest at the country's regressive tax policies, which benefit the riches at the expense of the rest.



In Ecuador young people organised gatherings and public assemblies to talk about the cost of living crisis, taxes and public services.



In Chile 'Break the Piggybank' brought together musicians and community leaders to discuss inequalities and public expenditure.



In Kenya the Usawa festival (meaning Equality in Kiswahili) brought together thousands of people to celebrate and imagine a world free from inequality.



In the Philippines hundreds marched through the streets of the capital Manila to the Ministry of Agriculture, demanding a Peoples' Recovery Plan to end inequality.



In South Africa members of the movement hung banners off a bridge on one of the main highways in the country, with their call to Tax The Rich on full display to passing traffic.



In Zambia hundreds mobilised in a march and community rally in support of the fight against inequality.



## #BlackBand Action



In January, at the Global Protest we tried a new approach with our first **Black Band action**. Those taking part wore a black band around their wrists to show their demand for change to confront the inequality crisis.

The support it garnered prompted us to establish it as a regular action, on the first Thursday of every month. It has now become a way for the movement to visibly and collectively take a stand against inequality, developing into a tool of solidarity and a way to show support for each other across countries.

Themes covered over the rest of year included: Solidarity with women's struggles in the fight against inequality, standing together against the World Bank and IMF, Peoples' Assemblies and other inequality themes.



First #BlackBand action at Usawa Festival, Kenya.

## The first SADC People's Economic Forum



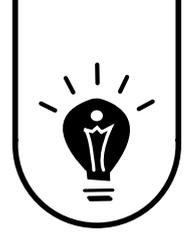
To contrast with the champagne-fuelled gathering of the 1% in the Swiss Alps, in Zambia we celebrated the inaugural SADC [Southern African Development Community] People's Economic Forum.

Here activists at the frontlines of the inequality crisis - from Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe - came together to shine a light on the demands of marginalised men and women in Southern Africa and to deliberate on possible solutions to address the crisis of extreme inequality in the Region.

**We rallied around calls for a greater redistribution of resources, more taxes on the richest in society and better quality health and education.** We took our demands directly to local leaders and the SADC Secretariat, succeeding in loudly pushing back against many of the practices propelling inequalities in the region.

Protestors rally at the first SADC People's Economic Forum, Lusaka, Zambia.

# We are the Peoples’ Alternatives



The dual crises of our time – inequality and climate change – have one thing in common: they are driven and fed by the greed of the rich and powerful. Their short-sighted pursuit of an ever-growing, unsustainable economy has brought us to a tipping point.

This is why we need to build Peoples’ Alternatives to an economy that serves the 1% and exploits the 99%. We need solutions that come from the people who are experiencing life at the hard-end of the inequality crisis – not those who are benefitting from the damage it causes.

In April, **we launched the Peoples’ Alternatives** as a global collective effort to achieve this. Inaugurated at the time of the World Bank/IMF Spring meetings we made clear our intention to organise large-scale mobilisations where people across the world could share their stories and join with others in creating solutions to fight inequality.

## The Road to Marrakech

After a launch to coincide with the IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in April, in May, we celebrated Africa Liberation Day with a rejection of the World Bank and IMF intending to hold their Annual Meetings on the African continent from African movement members of Peoples’ Alternatives.

“The campaign helped people in Côte d’Ivoire connect their problems related to the high costs of living, austerity and debt with the role of the World Bank and the IMF. This was a new approach and now a movement is ready to continue mobilising for change.”

ALEXANDRE AMANI DIDIER, FIA  
MEMBER, IVORY COAST.

**We also began organising local level Peoples’ Assemblies.** These created spaces for people to come together and share their testimonies and stories about the issues affecting them – from the cost of living and the unequal care burden, to the erosion of public services – and to discuss ways these issues could be resolved. Links were made between these local concerns and wider systemic issues across our economies, such as sovereign debt, austerity policy and taxation. In addition the Assemblies looked at the role of governments, the IMF and the World Bank in imposing these economic practices.

**Next came the Peoples’ Caravans,** which travelled through communities stopping at key landmarks, public spaces and government buildings to share the demands and alternatives raised in the Assemblies with passers-by, as well as with government officials. These caravans acted as moving billboards for the issues raised in the Assemblies, socialising the solutions that emerged and encouraging wider participation by inviting others to share their own experiences and opinions.



Assemblies



The Peoples' Alternatives in numbers



Tribunals



Festivals



Caravans



Left: Peoples' Alternatives Caravan, Shikarpur, Pakistan. Right: Peoples' Alternatives tribunal members take their verdict to the IMF & World Bank Annual Meetings, Marrakech.



In September, the stories and proposals gathered at the Assemblies and Caravans were collated into demands and alternative solutions presented at People's Tribunals, where some of those who had taken part in the Assemblies and Caravans shared their testimonies.

## “The Biggest Scam of the Century”

In October, at the global level, a mass protest and Tribunal was held alongside the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Marrakech, the first of these meetings on African soil for over 50 years. The jury was made up of leading experts in human rights, economics and social justice from across the world. They heard testimony from representatives of communities negatively affected by World Bank and IMF policies and practices in Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The testimony evidenced how the policies and practices of International Financial Institutions [IFIs] – in particular the World Bank and IMF - have favoured the rich at the cost of the poor, especially women and other marginalised groups. How their projects have violated the human rights of those very people they are supposed to benefit. How people's lives are being destroyed as a result of mounting national debts and austerity measures that have robbed schools and hospitals of vital financial resources, removal of fuel and agricultural subsidies, and left people to deal with the cost of living crisis on their own. How the IMF in effect acts as a debt collection agency on behalf of creditors and lenders, who are the richest actors in the world. As the jury noted, the testimony proved that the World Bank and IMF are “the biggest scam of the century.”

“We are here to protest what the IMF and World Bank has done to people all over the world, that has added to our impoverishment and exploitation, and the pushing of neoliberal policies.”

LIDY NACPIL, COORDINATOR OF THE ASIA PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBER OF THE PEOPLES' ALTERNATIVES TRIBUNAL JURY.

In her testimony, Clare Chobela Mukupa, a farmer from Zambia, described IMF conditionality as having resulted in “enslaving people in the rural areas.” She described the “misery” caused by the IMF’s policy conditionality in Zambia.

The jury came to a unanimous decision declaring the World Bank and IMF **“guilty of fuelling inequality by colluding with the financial sector and powerful multinational corporations.”** The testimonies made clear that IFIs continue to advise governments to pursue a neoliberal economic model that promotes trade liberalisation, privatisation of public services and a reduction in government spending – despite clear evidence of the devastating impact these policies have on the lives of all but the richest in society.

In their concluding verdict the jury made an urgent call for the IFIs to **“stop working for the richest and start working for the rest.”**

**“The IMF and World Bank policies have increased inequality, exploitation and subordination, and marginalisation due to the harsh economic conditions associated with their programmes.”**

CLARE CHOBELA MUKUPA, A FARMER FROM ZAMBIA.



# Snapshot of actions across the world



## Zambia

In Zambia the national alliance ran a series of Peoples' Alternatives Assemblies across the country – creating a powerful platform for citizens to articulate their concerns and advocate for transformative policies that directly impact their well-being.

“The Assemblies conveyed a powerful message: the strength of unity, dialogue, and collective action in shaping a brighter future. It went beyond being a mere gathering, it embodied the unstoppable Zambian spirit, dedicated to creating a fairer and more prosperous nation where citizens voiced their concerns and the need for government to put the interests of citizens as a priority.”

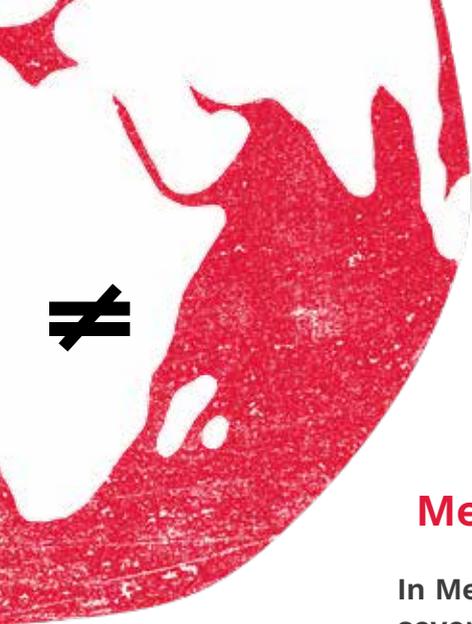
MPUTA NGALANDE,  
FIA COORDINATOR, ZAMBIA.

The Assemblies drew huge participation – **over 1,600 people took part in the Assembly held in the capital city Lusaka** – with a real diversity of attendance: from young people to market traders, farmers, community activists and members of local authorities. It was broadcast live on TV, reaching an audience of over 30,000 people. Further assemblies were held in the three rural districts in Mongu, Chipata and Livingstone where over 1000 citizens gathered. This included local leaders, persons living with disabilities, young and old.

Participants passionately discussed issues affecting them, such as: youth unemployment, access to subsidies for farmers, health challenges – as well as assessing the policies implemented by the government of Zambia and the IMF.



Assembly in  
Nugwenya community,  
Livingstone, Zambia.



## Mexico

In Mexico, Assemblies were held in a dozen different locations, with several hundred participants. People gathered to discuss the key issues affecting them: from access to housing to poor water quality and took part in a number of activities to encourage discussion and generate ideas.

At one event in Mexico City, a Lucha Libre [wrestling] show was organised to encourage local participation and convey key messages by tapping into one of the most popular cultural activities in the country. During the Lucha Libre the performers talked about the issues and demands of the Peoples' Alternatives, from the growing monopolies of the super rich to the need for progressive taxation.

**“The main problem I see in Mexico is inequality, the classism that exists between rich and poor means that there’s never equality. The rich don’t pay taxes and the poor do pay more taxes. I think it’s better if we all have more equality... Those who have the most should pay the most, and those who have the least should pay the least.”**

CHIPI TURCO, LUCHA LIBRE WRESTLER AND PARTICIPANT IN AN ALLIANCE EVENT IN MEXICO CITY.



Lucha Libre wrestling attracts the crowds to talk about fighting inequality, Mexico City, Mexico.



## South Africa

In South Africa Assemblies took place in three provinces as well as a caravan in four areas of the Free State province. A rally was held outside the World Bank office in Pretoria, where the inputs received during the Assemblies and Caravans were presented to the Head of the World Bank office.

“Austerity is a serious, serious challenge – it affects all of South Africa.”

PROTESTOR AT A RALLY OUTSIDE THE WORLD BANK OFFICE IN PRETORIA.

## Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the Alliance mobilised communities in 6 Assemblies and 4 Tribunals. Over 2,300 women, men and youths from 5 provinces affected by natural resource driven inequalities shared their stories and demands. People-to-people solidarity was strengthened, and the major demands were to tax the rich, not the poor, for better wages for formally employed workers and due recognition of women’s unpaid care work.

The Assembly demands were submitted to the Department of Mines, the Ministry of Finance, Local Government and the Office of the President. The Assemblies also demanded the IMF and World Bank unconditionally cancel Zimbabwe’s legacy debt dating back to the colonial era, and to end austerity.

Flyer for the Peoples’ Alternatives Tribunal, Pretoria, South Africa.



## Nigeria

In Nigeria a series of Peoples' Alternative events were held across the country. The inputs of attendees were captured in a communiqué which included proposed policy solutions. This was submitted to the Imo State Governor and State Assembly where it will be debated. Government officials committed to take greater action to address the inequality gap.

“Through the events, many of the participants came to know for the first time that wealth distribution in society is a product of government’s policies and programs and not some ‘divine’ arrangement.”

GIDEON ADEYENI, FIA MEMBER,  
NIGERIA.

## Pakistan

In Pakistan Peoples' Alternative events were held across the country, including major demonstrations in four cities. There was a great diversity of participants, including farmers, representatives of indigenous communities, fishermen and women and young people. Enough momentum was generated by these activities to create significant media coverage, which helped build public awareness about the issues and secure the attention of government officials.



Peoples' Alternatives  
Caravan, Pakistan.



# How we built the movement

## Global Gathering, Nepal

In July we gathered in Kathmandu, Nepal, as activists from 15 countries across Asia, Latin America and Africa for the seventh Global Gathering of the Fight Inequality Alliance. This Gathering marked the first global face-to-face meeting of the Alliance since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic and was a crucial opportunity for us to reconnect, learn, share and plan the way forward together.

Despite the huge increases in inequality and suffering over the past four years across our movements and beyond, we celebrated our successes and our collective strength in the face of adversity. **We discussed and analysed the current trends affecting our societies and the world through an inequality lens.** Whilst the manifestations of inequality affecting us every day and the struggles we are engaged in remain many, we agreed to focus our collective activism and energy over



Left: Solidarity protest during the Global Gathering, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Right: Traditional Nepali lamp lighting ceremony, Nepal



“We call on all like-minded movements, groups, trade unions, artists and activists to join with us in this struggle. Only together can we win a world of equality, justice and dignity for all.”

FIA GLOBAL GATHERING 2023 -  
CALL TO ACTION.

the coming year on: the gap between the rich and poor, the debt crisis, climate crisis, neoliberalism, regressive tax systems, shrinking civic space, and gender, race and caste based inequalities.

**We heard from national alliances in Mexico, the Philippines and beyond who shared their plans, strategies and stories, helping to strengthen our national alliance building.** We reflected on the progress of our Alliance and the lessons and challenges in our journey so far. The Alliance has grown from an idea into a reality, with national alliances running vibrant campaigns on the issues that matter most to people on the frontlines of inequality.

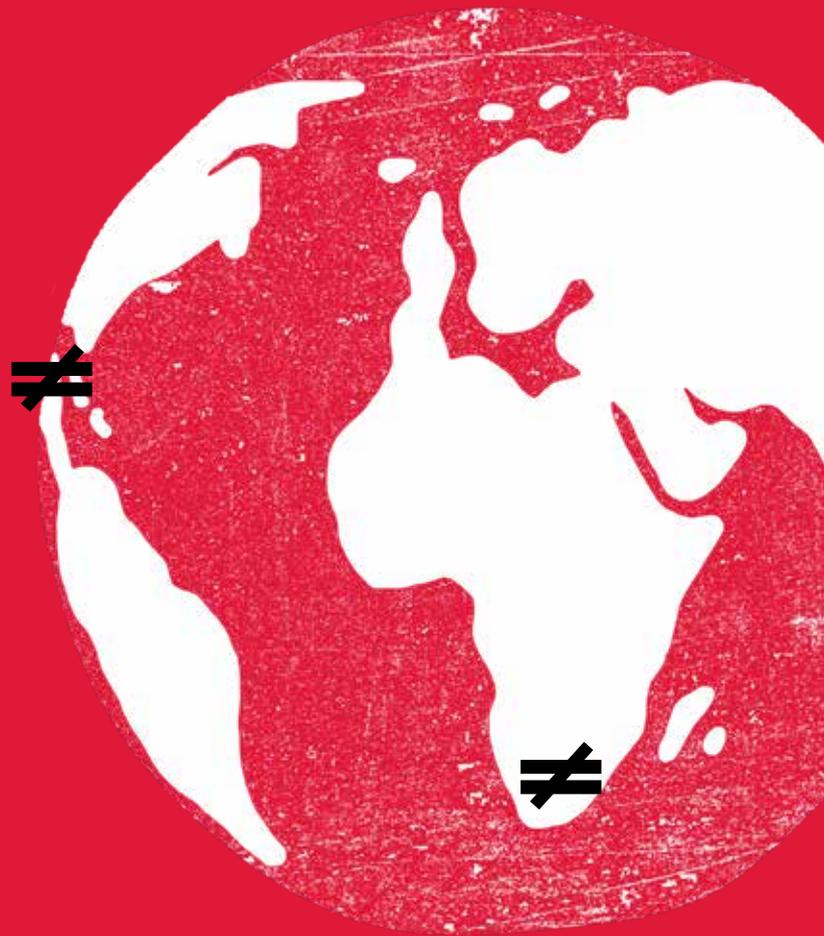
**Glimpses of an extremely powerful global movement, building solidarity between people across borders, have emerged.** But our work is far from complete. Despite some impressive strides, we remain far from the societies of justice, equality and dignity that we are fighting for.

There is a huge desire across the movement to grow in scale and impact over the coming decade from the solid foundation that has been built. While the crisis of inequality deepens we need more powerful movements to turn the tide. **In recognition of this ambition and need we celebrated a milestone for our movement with an endorsement of a 10-year Roadmap for the Alliance.**



MORE DETAILS ON  
P.35

## Meet the national Alliance members



“Something I’m really excited about since joining the Fight Inequality Alliance is that we’re actually managing to galvanise young people to talk about taxing rich people. To actually start talking about how money is being spent.”

FARAH ABDURAHMAN, FIA, SOUTH AFRICA.

**Farah  
Abdurahman**

Farah is on a mission to mobilise young people. She is advocating for change and incorporating art as a tool for her advocacy. She is demanding an economy that serves the majority of South Africans, not the rich. Her voice - like the voices of South African youth - is crucial in a nation facing a debt crisis and rising living costs.

**“We organise in 20 cities across Indonesia. We advocate for education, peace and labour. We want education to be free for all.”**

ULY MEGA SEPTIANI, FIA, INDONESIA.



## **Uly Mega Septiani**

Uly is helping build a movement and community to mobilise young people to tackle corporate land ownership, poverty and inequality. Their mission: free education and a fairer Indonesia.

**“We formed a collective of 11 artists to address the situation of violence in Mexico. We have created support networks for the local community and have designed a collective map where people can identify safe and unsafe places for people to meet in their local area.”**

SALMA SAENZ, FIA, MEXICO.



## **Salma Saenz**

Salma is determined to bring an end to violence against women in Mexico. Together with others in her community, she uses music as a tool to denounce violence and femicide [approximately 11 women are murdered everyday in Mexico]. The music acts as a call to women to build a community and create a self-care network to support one another.



## Bringing grassroots pressure to the global call to 'Tax The Rich'



In the last 3 years the Fight Inequality Alliance has been central to global calls to Tax The Rich and Abolish Billionaires – bringing grassroots pressure to existing policy discussions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we shifted our priorities, putting greater energy behind calls to increase taxation on the richest people and corporations.

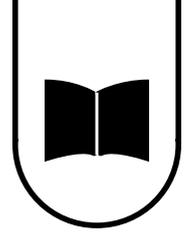
These calls were underpinned by popular education work with our membership - at the national and global level. This allowed us to draw connections between the issue of redistribution through greater taxation of the rich, to the daily inequalities that people experience such as lack of access to public services, unemployment and care provision.

We have seen the beginnings of political responses to this public pressure in Mexico, Zimbabwe, Kenya and South Africa.

Left: A young protestor joins the Global Protest to #FightInequality, Cape Town, South Africa.

Right: The pioneer cohort of the Global Organising School.

# The FIA Global Organising School



This year we celebrated the launch of the inaugural Fight Inequality Alliance Global Organising School [GOS]. This marked the beginning of a new approach for the Alliance, which recognises the need for large scale popular and political education to support, strengthen and drive national organising efforts.

“The school welcomed visitors from different nations, promoting diversity and knowledge of other people’s cultures, beliefs, and a plethora of other topics. This really caused me to examine the same issue from a variety of angles, methods, and viewpoints because the battle and the objective are the same, therefore what may have worked in Zambia might also be effective in another nation.”

LYDIA NAKAINGA, 23, ZAMBIA, PIONEER-COHORT MEMBER AT THE FIA GLOBAL ORGANISING SCHOOL.

This is fundamental to our Alliance’s theory of change, which maintains that inequality can be overcome by collective action driven and led by local movements organising, innovating, and building powerful new alliances across movements and borders.

Through political education we can encourage those on the frontlines of the inequality crisis to connect across issues, to join efforts and to find common cause in the systemic issues that drive our day to day struggles. **The GOS emerged as an initiative to support and connect a younger generation of organisers and leaders who will grow and strengthen the worldwide movement to fight inequality and injustice.**



“I appreciated meeting activists from different movements and regions of the world. I learned the specific struggles of their movements and countries and was able to compare and contrast the movements and struggles I’m part of with theirs.”

CHADLI A. SADORRA, 30, PHILIPPINES, PIONEER-COHORT MEMBER AT THE FIA GLOBAL ORGANISING SCHOOL.



Left and right:  
Global Organising  
School participants  
during the School's  
residential block in  
Arusha, Tanzania.

## Pioneer cohort

**We worked with allies across the world to identify a Pioneer Cohort of 24 activists from 13 countries to take part in our inaugural GOS.** This group co-created the School's first ever curriculum, made up of a series of virtual and in person learning sessions - including a two-week residential in Arusha, Tanzania, in February.

Issues covered in the curriculum included: Organising under conditions of repression - a feminist perspective; Why and how we organise?; Reflections on the COP27 and the route to COP28 in Dubai.

There was great diversity and complementarity among those who formed part of the cohort, both in terms of the issues they focused on and their methods of organising. Some had more of a local-level focus, while others were more tapped into national and global organising. This provided fertile ground for sharing ideas and approaches and for pushing and challenging each other.

**“Before joining the school, I was not aware of the struggles of campaigners and activists such as me from other countries. In the last year, I feel like I have found comrades for life in my fellow GOS participants! This would otherwise never have been possible for someone like me, who comes from a working class background.”**

AKSHAY ATMARAM TARFE, 30, INDIA, PIONEER-COHORT MEMBER AT THE FIA GLOBAL ORGANISING SCHOOL.

**During the residential gathering, participants developed ideas for field assignments to be completed on return to their communities.** All assignments had a focus on encouraging mass education and organising at the community level, thus creating a concrete way to apply and multiply the lessons from the School in different localities across all 13 countries. The themes and methodologies selected were varied, ranging from the creation of national assemblies on inequality, to the formation of small schools of political, artistic and labour training.

## Building blocks for the GOS 2024

In this inaugural year for the GOS we focused on building the institutional architecture and foundations for a co-designed School for young leaders and activists working on the frontlines of the struggle for justice and equality for all.

**“Participation in the School has been a watershed in my way of understanding the struggle and what we fight for, in Mexico, but also in other places. I now put greater emphasis on the importance of more complex analyses and on historical memory at the local and global level to better understand where we stand and re-think strategies in our current context.”**

DULCE UREÑA, 32, MÉXICO, PIONEER COHORT MEMBER AT THE FIA GLOBAL ORGANISING SCHOOL.

**Many lessons emerged which we will apply as we roll out the second iteration of the GOS in 2024.** Crucially, we saw the ideas and objectives behind this project become reality - as the cohort drew strength and learnings from the experience, which they will take forward as they shape the worldwide movement to fight inequality and injustice in the years to come. This in turn will contribute to forming and growing the critical base needed to achieve the mobilisation outcomes of our 10 year Roadmap.

**“The school instilled in me a profound sense of empowerment. It reinforced the belief that individuals, regardless of their background, can contribute significantly to social change. The experience fueled my passion for activism and provided a roadmap for effective and sustainable advocacy.”**

SARAH MAINZA, 25, ZAMBIA, PIONEER-COHORT MEMBER AT THE FIA GLOBAL ORGANISING SCHOOL.





# How we are achieving change

All over the world in 2023, our organising, innovating and building of new alliances across movements and borders began to gather momentum and achieve real change.

## Mexico

### Constitutional reform to #TaxTheRich

In Mexico the Alliance has catalysed Congressional representatives to introduce a constitutional reform for progressive taxation. This came about in the aftermath of the mass protests to #TaxTheRich held during the Global Protest action in January, when a Congressional deputy from the governing party responded to the demands with a legislative proposal to increase taxation on the rich.

FIA members joined a series of working groups - made-up of policy makers, congressional representatives and civil society organisations - who collectively worked on making an evidence-based case for the need for greater taxation of the rich and drafting the legislative text. They even succeeded in securing cross-party support for the constitutional reform which is now awaiting ratification in the first half of 2024.

## Zimbabwe

### New taxes on the rich

In Zimbabwe the Alliance **brought together** grassroots organisations and activists to demand the government Tax The Rich – and they **won!** Through mass mobilisation events, calls to action and direct petitions to the government, voices were amplified and a channel of communication was opened-up for those at the front line to speak truth to those in power.

FIA Mexico activists spread the call to Tax The Rich with a “paste up” action.



The government listened and responded in November by enacting a number of measures to increase taxes on the richest in Zimbabwe in 2024's budget. This included a wealth tax on high-value second homes, an increase in corporation tax and a tax on luxury vehicles. A hard-won success for the movement in the country.

## Local pressure forces mine closure

The FIA team in Zimbabwe continued mobilising against the impacts of mining on local communities. They held a series of assemblies and actions where community members shared testimonies about the displacements and environmental degradation suffered as a result of mining in their local areas.

There was overwhelming consensus among the mining communities that the extractive industry in Zimbabwe is a key driver of inequality, as mining companies take their natural resources and damage the local environment without sharing the benefits with the local communities. The communities emphasised the need for the redistribution of resources across the populations so that everyone benefits.

In the case of the Chinese owned Dangamvura Mountain Quarry in Mutare, sustained opposition and continued mobilisation against the mine from the local community, eventually forced the closure of the mine! Lessons on this success are being shared with others organising against mining in Zimbabwe.



## South Africa

### #PayTheGrants victory

During the COVID-19 pandemic the South Africa government introduced a social grant of 350 ZAR [approx. \$20USD] per month for the poorest South Africans. This quickly became a lifeline for many of those most in need. In 2022, when the government stopped the payments, the Alliance joined with others to form a mass movement to demand that the government continue to #PayTheGrants. Through mass protests and direct advocacy the grants were reinstated! This is a key milestone towards the Alliance's bigger fight to secure a Basic Income Grant of 1500 ZAR a month in South Africa.

## Philippines

### Making wealth taxes a popular solution to the inequality crisis

At least 300 participants from urban poor, vendor, peasant, and women's organisations marched to the Department of Agriculture in Manila which is headed by the Philippine President. Participants called for a people's recovery and system change to end inequality; including the imposition of a wealth tax. They highlighted the country's worsening food crisis, and demanded the government to impose a wealth tax. The march added to the public debate that wealth taxes are a critical part of the policy solutions that are needed to end the multiple crises that people are living through.



Left: A Global Protest march from 2022 in Manila, Philippines with the call to Tax The Rich.

Right: People voice out their concerns over the effects of IMF conditionality on their daily life at a Peoples' Alternatives Assembly in Zambia, October 2023.



## Zambia

### Sounding the alarm on IMF policy conditionality

In Zambia, as the IMF continued to impose strict policy conditionality on its loans to the government – which are known the world over to increase poverty and inequality – the Alliance was the only movement in the country speaking out about the loan’s devastating impacts. They undertook large-scale political education actions, through community assemblies in four provinces, radio programmes and social media.

These highlighted how the IMF’s insistence on the removal of subsidies, a decrease in spending on public services and a lowering of corporation taxes would result in higher food and fuel prices and a deterioration in key public services. The Alliance was a crucial voice challenging the government to take a different economic path and introducing critical alternatives to the public discourse.

# The Road Ahead

“By 2033 Fight Inequality Alliance will have created the most powerful global movement of people against the power of the top 1% in the world yet. This movement will have created the blueprint for an economic model that is built from equality, dignity, justice and sustainability for all people and planet.”

COMMUNIQUE FROM FIA GLOBAL STEERING GROUP.

In 2023 we developed and endorsed a 10-year Roadmap for the Fight Inequality Alliance. Bold, ambitious and informed by our journey so far, the Roadmap commits to building a mass movement to fight inequality and lays out how we will achieve it.



Participants at the Global Gathering, Nepal.



We learned that the deep transformation we need to fight the entrenched inequalities we face can only take place if we substantially grow our movement. We know that this global movement must be built from strong national movements. We will expand to build these national alliances in 60 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.



We have taken action on the streets to vocalise and visualise the mass popular support for a change to the system to fight inequality. We will build on this and mobilise 50 million people to create a wave of support for progressive policies that cannot be ignored in the elite corridors of power across the globe.



We mobilised and organised to hear the experiences of those on the frontlines of the inequality crisis and connected their proposed solutions to the changes we are pushing for. We will continue to build people-powered alternatives to the current system.



We have understood that political education is essential if we are to achieve mass, popular organising. We will grow our national and global organising schools in more countries with more participants who – in turn – will act as catalysts to share lessons, findings and experiences in their own communities.



By 2033 we will be a strong, broad alliance at the forefront of fighting the root causes of inequality around the world.

# Our supporters

The work of the Fight Inequality Alliance is only possible thanks to our members, allies and activists who contribute in diverse ways - offering their time, thought, care, money, voice and collaboration. They are many and the backbone of this movement. We move nowhere without this spirit of partnership and collective endeavour.

The FIA is also grateful to all our global, regional and national member organisations and donors who make our work possible.

With additional thanks to the following donors:

- Open Society Foundations
- Robert Bosch Stiftung
- Urban Movement Innovation Fund
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund



Feminist activists in Malawi join the Global Protest to #FightInequality.

# Annual accounts

## Global income and expenditure for the year ending December 2022<sup>2</sup>

### Income

	2022 USD
Balance from 2021	310,207
2022 income	1,048,802
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,359,009</b>

### Expenditure

Administrative Expenses	62,856
Global & Regional Secretariat Roles	226,999
National and Regional Alliance Support	244,626
Global Mobilisation	9,005
Communications	42,718
Core Costs	29,752
Membership Survey	19,051
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>635,007</b>

**Balance remaining 724,002**



2. 2023 income and expenditure will be reflected in the 2024 Annual Report.

## **Join the Alliance**

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