THE FONDO SEMILLAS
EMERGENCY PROTOCOL
After the 2017 earthquakes and the Covid-19 health emergency, Fondo Semillas identified the need to create a protocol to provide a humanitarian response to emergencies from a feminist perspective. To that end, we have used the principles in the Sphere Project to offer a response in accordance with humanitarian principles whose aim is to ensure the right to life of individuals affected by emergencies.

The premise of our feminist humanitarian response is a long-term vision of the effects of crises and emergencies, one that seeks to benefit the populations that have suffered most due to the multiple forms of oppression of the patriarchal capitalistic system. What we want to develop is a comprehensive response with a cross-cutting collective, community, and mutual support dimension, integral to all cultural aspects of the affected areas.
INTERVENTION BY FONDO SEMILLAS IN THE FACE OF AN EMERGENCY

Given the context of vulnerability of the countries in the global south, created by the effects of climate change, and the insufficient response by the authorities to emergencies and crises, it became clear that we, as a Feminist Fund, needed to carry out complementary actions. This protocol is a tool that helps to evaluate whether an intervention is required and if so, enable Fondo Semillas to navigate emergencies and crises being always mindful of placing at the center the sustainability of life of the populations with which we work.

THE MISSION OF FONDO SEMILLAS IS TO MOBILIZE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONS, NETWORKS, AND GRASSROOTS TO ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF GIRLS, WOMEN, TRANS* AND INTERSEX PERSONS IN MEXICO.

We seek to provide a humanitarian response to emergencies from a feminist perspective, because disasters and emergencies mainly affect the rights of girls, women, and trans* and intersex persons. The objective of our intervention is to ensure the equal access of these groups to their rights during the response to an emergency.
Specifically, Fondo Semillas will participate in an emergency response by providing support with financial and information resources to those grantee partners that operate where an emergency arose. We will examine the profile of the affected grantee partners when deciding whom to give support. An essential requirement is that girls, women, and trans* and intersex persons lead or have decision-making power in the organization in question.

The selected grantee partners will be responsible for the humanitarian response with a feminist perspective in the area where the emergency arose. The safety of the grantee partners responding to the emergency should be guaranteed. In addition, they will actively work with other sectors of their community and the affected population to identify risks and opportunities regarding the recovery of livelihoods after the emergency.

Protocol Definitions

An unforeseen situation brought about by natural, social, and health phenomena that threatens the livelihoods and the physical, financial, and/or emotional integrity of the Fondo Semillas team, grantee partners, former grantee partners and their communities, and calls for an immediate response on our part.

Unexpected Events:

1. **Natural Phenomena:** Due to its geographical location, Mexico is threatened by different natural phenomena. Because of climate change, these phenomena are increasingly more frequent and severe, unleashing disasters that disproportionately affect the populations with whom Fondo Semillas works (girls, women, and trans* and intersex persons).
• **Meteorological** (atmospheric and climate): hurricanes, cyclones, tornados, storms, floods, extreme climate changes, droughts.

• **Topographic and geotechnical** (Earth’s surface): landslides, avalanches, spills.

• **Tectonic and geological** (Earth’s internal forces): earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, seaquakes (tsunamis).

### Anthropic or social disasters.
Damages caused by humans or society.

• **Human exclusion** (basic livelihood conditions): poverty and discrimination that create a crisis.

• **Wars and criminal activity** (destruction and abuse): murders and crime, displacement, violations of international humanitarian law.

• **Public and private administration abuse** (abuse that destroys human life and livelihoods): human rights violations. In the case of threats to the safety of human rights defenders, a relevant protocol will be used.

• **Accidents** (lack of foresight): industrial and technological, transportation, energy-related, structure collapse.

### Health:
Depending on the negative impacts on grantee partners, girls, women, and trans* and intersex persons, a health emergency may include:

• **An outbreak:** A term used in epidemiology to refer to the sudden emergence of a disease caused by an infection in a given place and time.

• **An epidemic:** A disease that disseminates actively because an outbreak is out of control and remains constant over time. Thus, the number of cases increases in a specific geographical area.

• **A pandemic:** An epidemic of an infectious disease that complies with two criteria. First, the outbreak has spread across more than one continent. Second, the cases in each country are no longer imported but caused by community transmission.

**A crisis:** A situation that complies with one criterion, namely, it started as an emergency and affected a larger number of grantee partners over time.
The General Directorate of Fondo Semillas (FS) will be responsible for deciding whether to respond to an emergency. The decision will be made based on a report provided by the FS Programs team, which is responsible for keeping abreast of events that may become an emergency. If the Executive Director or the Director of Operations were not available, the decision would be made by the Board or its designee.

Programs will work in collaboration with grantee partners, allied organizations, agencies, and government to collect information about the status of the emergency. It will also gather data about unmet needs and what is being received by the affected population, including:

**Existence and awareness of the risk:**

Information about threats and awareness of risks or potentially dangerous events that can have a negative impact on the FS team, grantee partners, and former grantee partners and their communities. This information may come from the grantee partners located in the area where the emergency arose. Monitoring will be conducted based on the number of requests from the FS Rapid Response Fund.

**Technical support:**

Request support from scientific-technical institutions or entities responsible for Disaster Risk Management so that FS can justify the monitoring, follow-up, and evaluation of a threat/event as part of the decision to intervene.

Having prepared the report, Programs will inform the FS General Directorate of the status of the emergency, including any potential threats. With this information, the General Directorate will determine whether to declare a situation of emergency.
**Type and magnitude of the disaster:** This is measured by the number of affected girls, women, and trans* and intersex persons in the communities where actions will be implemented based on the information provided by the grantee partners that serve or will serve the area. Further, official data or information from relevant international agencies can be used.

**Grantee partners that will deal with the emergency on the ground:** FS will have grantee partners that are willing and trained to deal with the emergency.

**Risk assessment for the response:** The negative consequences, including safety risks, will be evaluated when developing a humanitarian response for both the FS team and the community where the emergency arose.

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**Emergency Classification**

**FS will determine the emergency category** based on the number of girls, women, and trans* and intersex persons being affected by the emergency or the number of grantee partners affected by the situation. Having determined the category, FS will respond with an operations model that focuses on coordinating an immediate response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Response Scope</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1</td>
<td>Rapid Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 2</td>
<td>Rapid Response -&gt; Emergency Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 3</td>
<td>Rapid Response -&gt; Emergency Response -&gt; Integration into the Resilient Communities program</td>
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After an emergency is declared, the estimated response time will depend on the nature of the situation (magnitude, type, location, grantee partner reach, financial resources available to FS). The response will be defined with the process described in the **FS Emergency Response Plan**.

### EMERGENCY PROTOCOL - RESPONSE PROCESS

1. **Programs** informs **DG** of the situation
2. The Report of the Emergency is passed on to **DG**
3. **DG** determines if FS intervenes in the emergency
   - **NO** The decision is made not to intervene
   - **YES** **FS** determines the Emergency Category
4. **FS** determines the Emergency Category
5. Response Plan is activated

**END**
APPENDIX I
REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY

The Programs team will ask the following to collect basic information about what is happening and how Fondo Semillas (FS) may respond:

- What is happening?
- What do we know about what is happening?
- What don’t we know about what is happening?
- Who has the most accurate and reliable information about what is happening?
- What is the approximate number of people affected by the emergency (an approximate percentage of girls, women, and trans* and intersex persons)? What is the emergency’s differential impact on girls, women, and trans* and intersex persons?
- What are the total numbers of negatively affected people on record?
- Are there any population sectors that have been affected more than others? Which and how many? Magnitude of the problem.
- Can we meet some of the needs? (With the actions that FS will carry out)
- Do we have the resources to meet those needs?
- What organizations have good local contacts or contacts with counterparts?
- What weather conditions are expected in the short and medium term? Could weather conditions and seasonal changes worsen the situation in terms of public health or ongoing care provision?
- Are telecommunication systems operational?
- What do we know about the conditions to access the affected areas? Are they reachable?
- What are the first safety risks?
APPENDIX II
RISK ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GRANTEE PARTNERS

What are the threats, risks, and vulnerabilities in terms of protection for the FS target community? What skills does the grantee partner have to minimize them?

Are there groups exposed to specific risks? Why? Certain factors should be considered, such as whether they are racialized groups, as well as social class, sex-generic characteristics, age, disabilities, and sexual orientation.

Are there obstacles that hinder people from getting help or from taking part in decisions? This may include, for example, lack of security, physical or social barriers, and the way information is made available.

How can grantee partners support and not undermine these efforts? Are there risks for people that exercise self-protection?

Do the people involved carry out activist work that could put them at special risk? What can be done to mitigate underlying vulnerabilities?

Do humanitarian activities have negative and unexpected consequences? For example, do they put people in danger at distribution points or create divisions at the heart of the community or within the host community? What can be done to decrease this risk?