



Philanthropy Trends in Latin America and the Caribbean:

Key Findings from the WINGS Latin America and the Caribbean Working Group Report (2026)

This summary has been prepared for non-Spanish speakers who are interested in the report **Tendencias de Filantropía en América Latina y el Caribe**. It presents the main findings and trends identified by the WINGS Latin America and the Caribbean Working Group.

Philanthropy in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is undergoing significant transformation, shaped by shifting global funding flows, persistent inequality, and growing social and environmental pressures.

This report identifies eight trends shaping the region's philanthropic ecosystem, based on collective analysis by members of the WINGS LAC Working Group. Together, these trends highlight a sector that is adapting to a changing funding landscape while exploring new forms of collaboration, community leadership, and financial innovation. These trends reflect both challenges and opportunities for strengthening the region's philanthropic ecosystem and the infrastructure that supports it.

KEY STATISTICS:

32 million

people in Latin America and the Caribbean are migrants, refugees, or internally displaced.

+50

community and territorial foundations are currently active across the region.

<0.15%

of GDP estimated level of domestic philanthropy in countries where data exists.

<10%

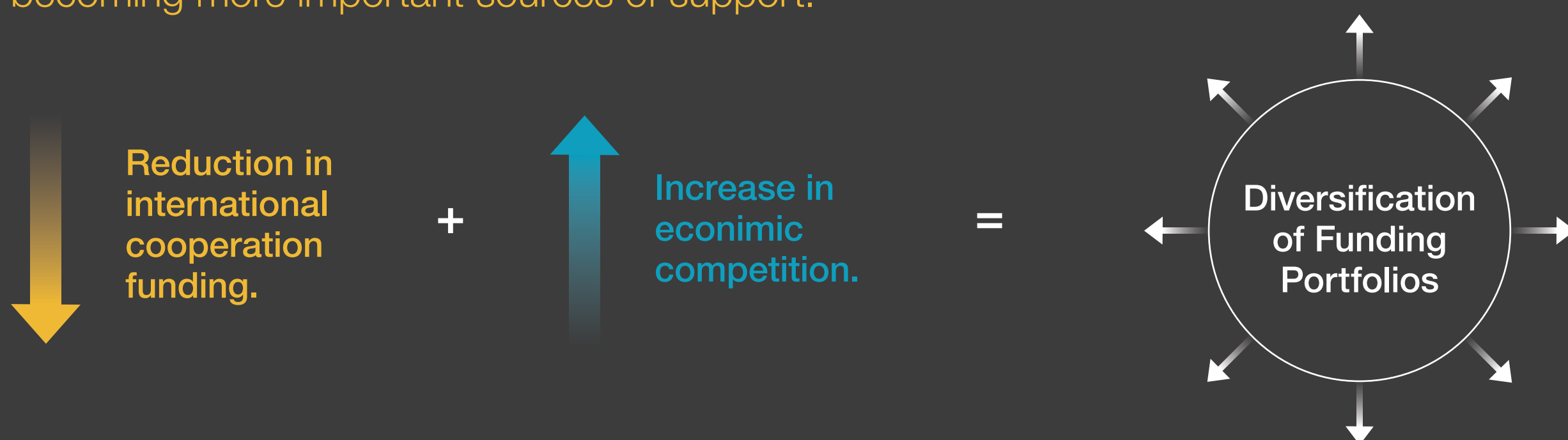
climate finance in the region reaches Indigenous and community organisations directly.

KEY TRENDS:

Changing Funding Landscape:

1. Diversifying Beyond International Cooperation

Civil society organisations in the region are facing reductions and volatility in international cooperation funding, particularly from the United States. At the same time, competition for resources and economic pressures are increasing. As a result, **organisations are diversifying their funding portfolios, with private donations, donor-advised funds, and individual giving becoming more important sources of support.**



Rise of Community and Territorial Foundations:

2. Locally-rooted Philanthropy

Community and territorial foundations are consolidating as important vehicles for local development. These organisations are characterised by local governance, long-term presence, and collaboration among multiple actors within a territory. While the model originated in the United States, in LAC it took root and developed more strongly in Mexico. **Community foundations have expanded across the region following support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the work of organisations such as Comunalia, Costa Rica por Siempre, TerritoriA, Mosaico Laboratorio, IDIS, Comunidad Organizaciones Solidarias and LAB Público-Privado, among others.**



Corporate Foundations at a Strategic Crossroads:

3. Grantmaking or Programme Implementation

Corporate foundations are increasingly debating whether to prioritise grantmaking to civil society organisations or direct implementation of social programmes. Many are adopting hybrid models that combine both approaches. While these models may strengthen strategic alignment with corporate priorities, they also raise concerns about the potential displacement of civil society organisations and the concentration of resources within corporate-led initiatives.

Climate and Environmental Philanthropy:

4. From Conservation to Climate Justice

Environmental philanthropy in the region is shifting from approaches centred on mitigation and conservation toward frameworks that integrate climate justice, human rights, and territorial perspectives.

The report highlights that climate change in the region is deeply intertwined with structural inequality, territorial conflicts, and violence against environmental defenders.

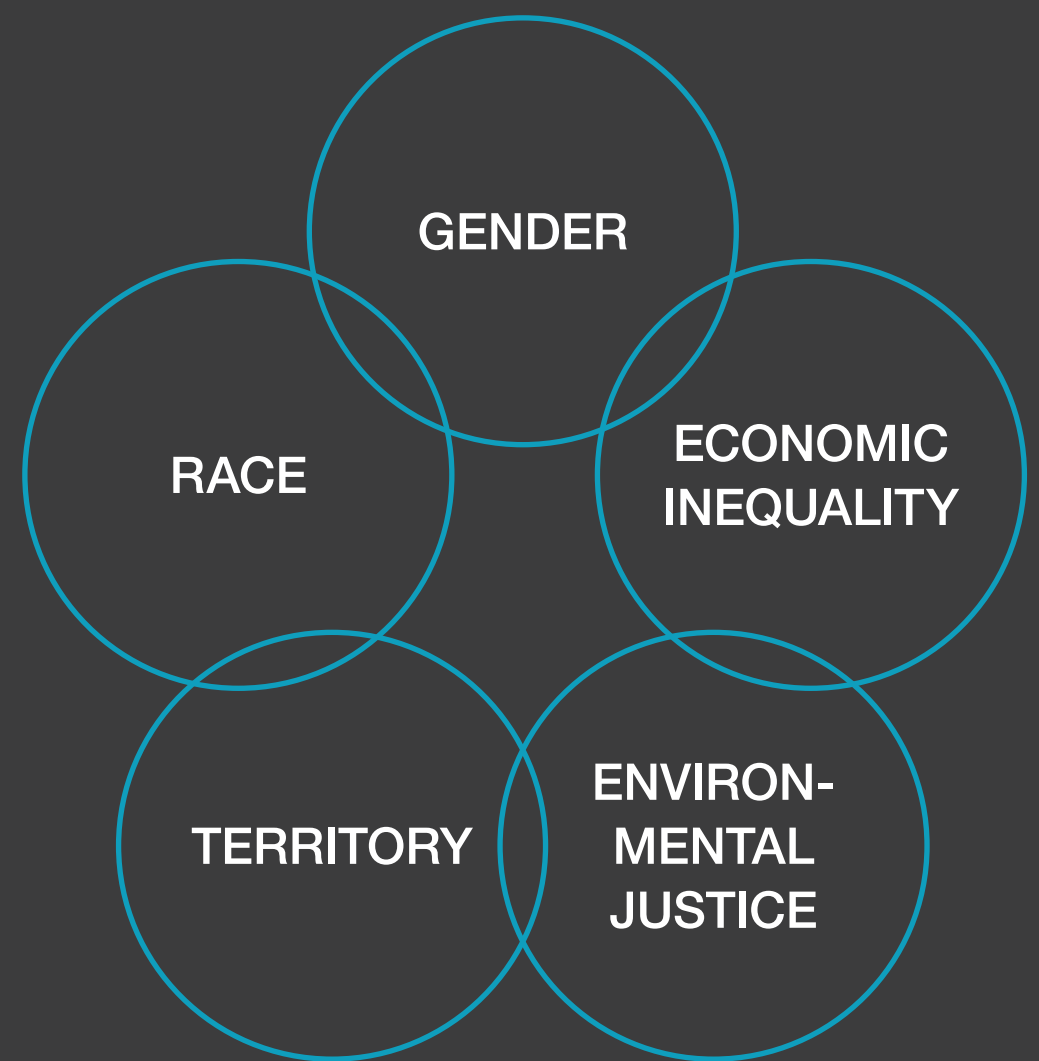
Regional frameworks such as the Acuerdo de Escazú are reinforcing expectations around transparency, participation, and environmental governance. At the same time, growing digitalisation of environmental and climate information through data platforms and early warning systems is expanding knowledge infrastructure. However, access to climate funding and usable information remains uneven, particularly for Indigenous, rural, youth and community organisations.



Intersectionality and Diversity:

5. Expanding Philanthropic Approaches

Intersectional approaches—connecting gender, race, territory, economic inequality, and environmental justice—are becoming more influential within the region’s philanthropic ecosystem. Organisations such as ELAS+, Fondo Semillas, Lunaria, and regional feminist funding networks have pioneered models based on flexible funding, trust-based relationships, and long-term support for grassroots organisations. Despite these advances, intersectional initiatives remain significantly underfunded globally.



Philanthropy and Human Mobility:

6. Beyond Humanitarian Response

With more than 32 million people in mobility across the region, philanthropy has traditionally focused on humanitarian assistance. Emerging approaches are moving toward long-term support, rights-based advocacy, and leadership by people in mobility themselves, recognising them not only as beneficiaries but also as protagonists.

This shift is reflected in:

Participatory methodologies.

Co-designed strategies.

Efforts to strengthen leadership and support networks among migrant, refugee and displaced communities.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

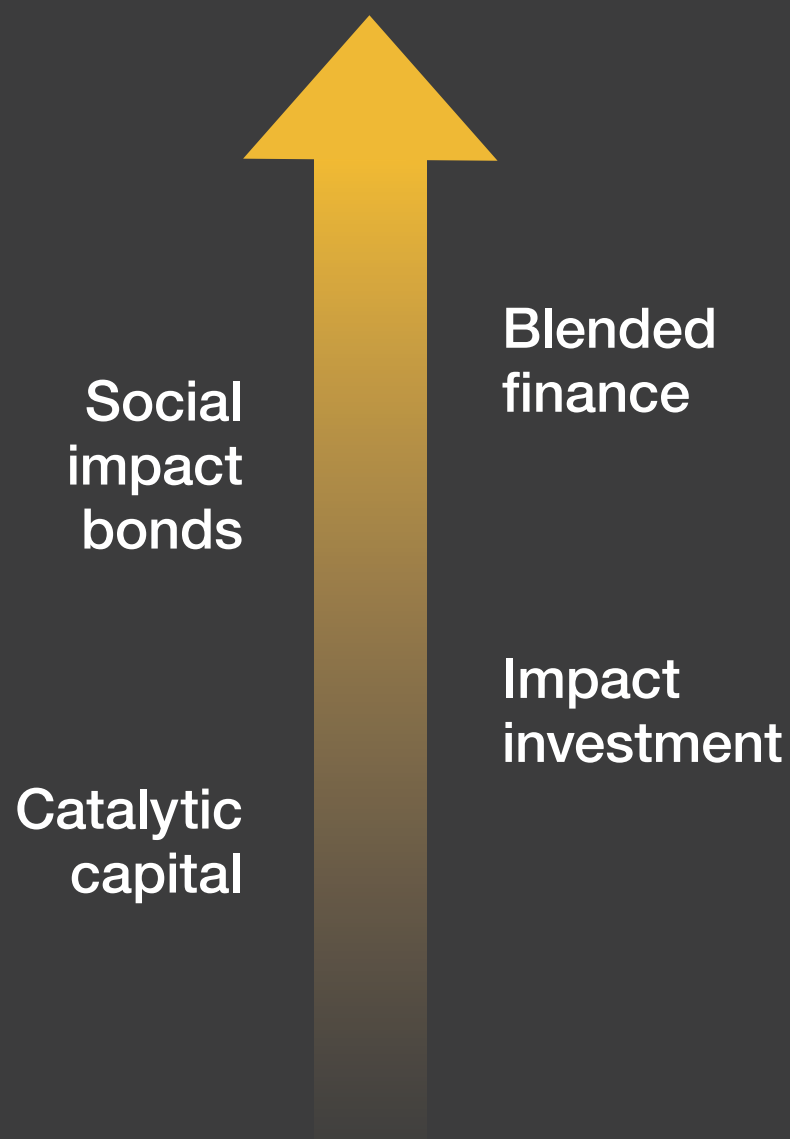
Comunidad M:

led by Hispanics in Philanthropy.

Global Fund for Children initiative:

‘El Derecho de Ser y Pertenecer’.

7. Innovative Finance: Mobilising capital for social impact

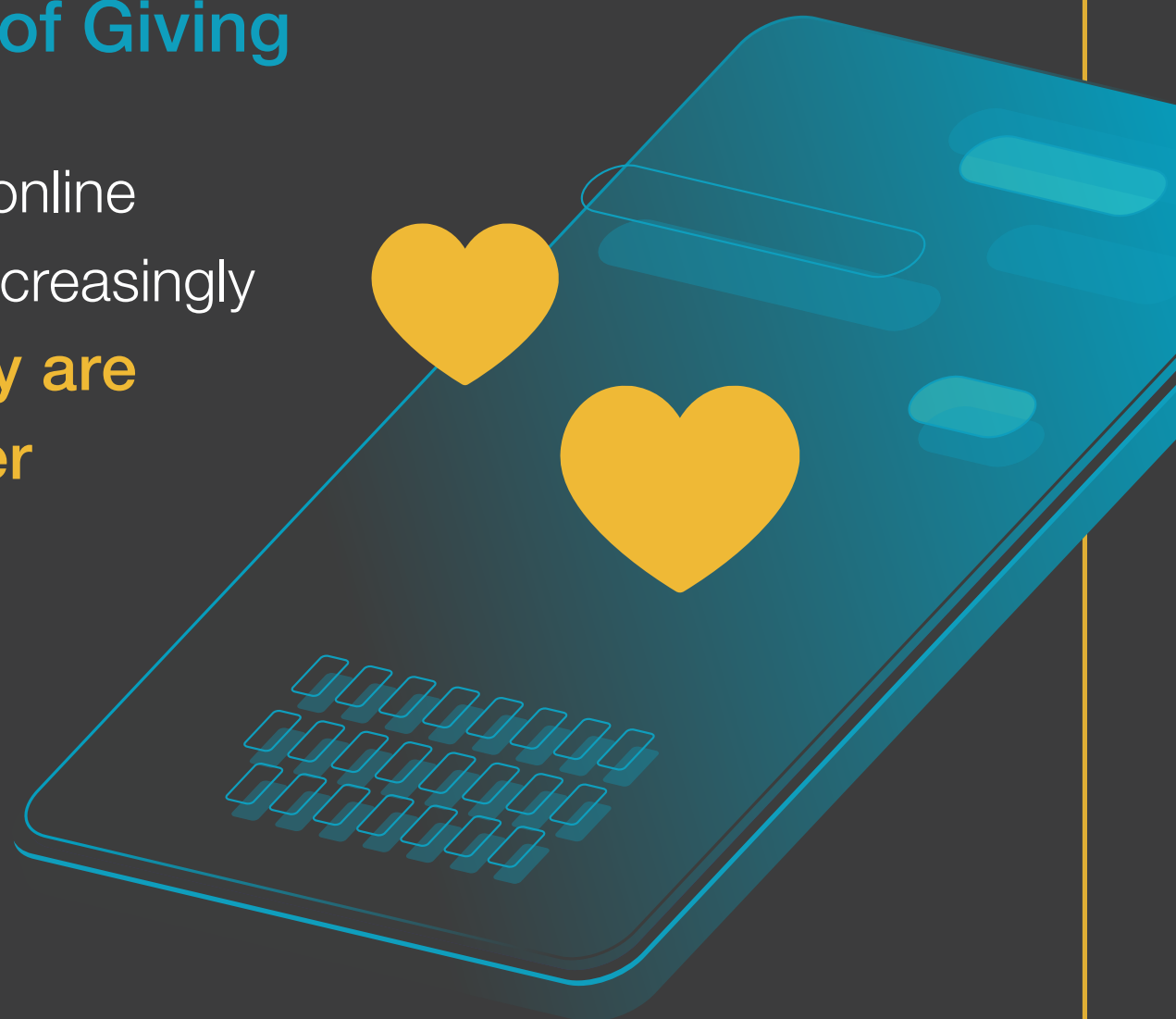


Philanthropy is increasingly exploring innovative financial mechanisms to address large-scale social and environmental challenges. These include blended finance, social impact bonds, impact investment, and catalytic capital. Philanthropic funding can help absorb early risk and enable private investors to participate.

Organisations such as **Latimpacto** are working to strengthen the regional ecosystem supporting these approaches.

8. Individual Giving: A More Digital and Diverse Culture of Giving

Individual giving across the region is evolving, with online donations, crowdfunding, and youth participation increasingly visible. At the same time, **trust and transparency are becoming critical factors influencing whether individuals choose to donate.** Strengthening communication and accountability is, therefore, key to building a sustainable culture of giving.



Looking Ahead



The philanthropic ecosystem in Latin America and the Caribbean is navigating a period of significant structural change. Across the region, philanthropy is becoming more locally rooted, collaborative, and open to new financial and governance models. At the same time, major challenges remain, including funding instability, political polarisation, and persistent inequality.

Strengthening the infrastructure that supports philanthropy—including networks, knowledge production, data, and enabling policy environments—will be essential for philanthropy to reach its full potential as a catalyst for social progress in the region.