



CRif Children's Rights
... Innovation Fund

decolonize!

Learning Brief. vol 1. no. 2.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

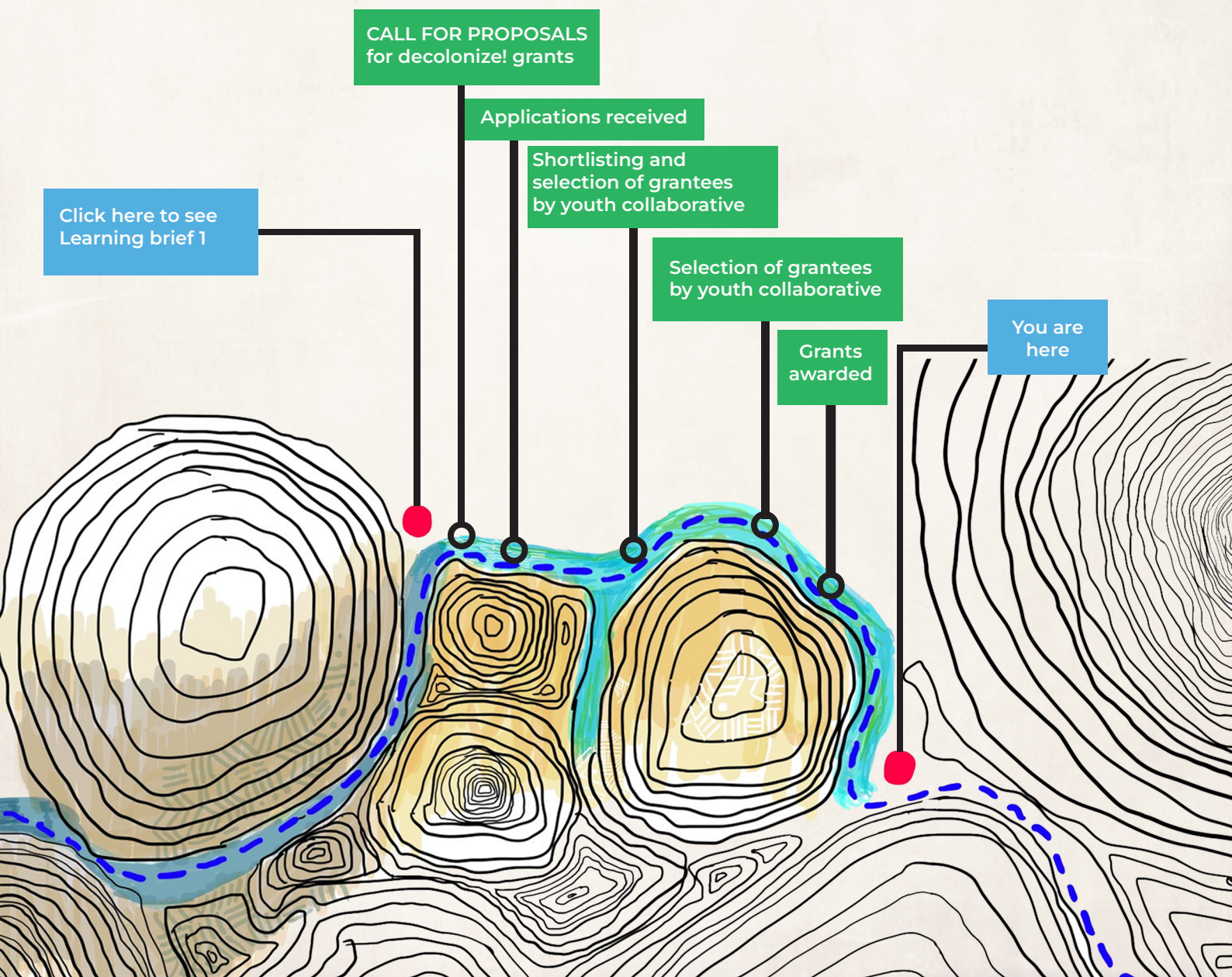
decolonize! Learning Brief. vol 1. no. 2.

About <i>decolonize!</i>	03
History and context of <i>decolonize!</i>	04
Selected Grantees	05
<i>decolonize!</i> collaborative	06
Acknowledging families and communities that make youth activists who they are	07
5 things we learnt about decolonising children's rights	08

About

decolonize! is CRIF's flagship grantmaking portfolio. The objective of this portfolio is to radically re-imagine how the children's rights movement can be resourced, by explicitly addressing legacies of colonialism, anti-Blackness, and adultism as experienced by youth activists.

The first round of the *decolonize!* grants traced the trans-atlantic slave trade, with the aim of supporting the work of youth activists responding to the effects of colonialism and racism in their communities, of West Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the USA.




History and context of decolonize!


In 2020, the confluence of urgency—both of a global health pandemic and long-standing racialized state violence, put a spotlight on the heightened vulnerability of young people as they marched through the streets, masked, powerfully defending their rights and standing together in solidarity all over the world. But the children's rights sector was silent. And so, CRIF created decolonize! to support Black children and youth to launch new or strengthen existing initiatives to combat racism and colonialism and to learn from and share these initiatives with those in the children's rights sector.




Selected Grantees





 451 applications

 45 applications shortlisted

 26 grantees selected

 USD 150,000 moved

 11 countries

 5 languages

Grantee information

Name	Location
Network for Children Empowerment Sierra Leone	Bo, Sierra Leone
Local Development Agency on Reproductive & Maternal Health	Duayaw Nkwanta, Ghana
The New Generation Sierra Leone	Tonkolili District, Sierra Leone
Girls Unite Sierra Leone	Lunsar, Sierra Leone
Nigeria Youth in Action	Owode, Nigeria
Health awareness initiative for adolescents and Adults	Kano, Nigeria
The Pioneers	Freetown, Sierra Leone
Collectif des Femmes Engagées pour l'Emancipation (CFEE)	ZE, Département de l'Atlantique au Bénin
Afrique Jeunesse Initiative (AJI)	l'Ouémé, Avrankou, Bénin
Betty Zambrano zabaleta	MARIA LA BAJA, BOLÍVAR, Colombia
Ilu Oshum	Bogota-Colombia
Posá Suto	Bogotá, Colombia
Fundación Despertar por los Derechos Humanos	Guapi Cauca- Colombia
Coletivo Violeta Formiga	Fortaleza-Ce, Brasil
Fruto de Favela	Jacaré, de Maranguape 1, Cidade do Paulista, Pernambuco, Brasil.
NAF - Núcleo Artístico de Favela	Salvador/BA, Brasil
Jacaré Basquete	Rio de Janeiro - RJ - Brasil
Mobak Foundation	Trinidad and Tobago
Foundation for a Healthier Senegal	Senegal/ Harlem, New York
Humanity Barbados	Barbados
Campamentos momentos alegres	Sabana grande boya, Dominican Republic
Sonrisa Familiar	República Dominicana
Muñecas Negras RD	Monte Plata, República Dominicana
MARIJÀN Feminist organization	Haiti
AKJT, Asosyasyon Kore jèn Tènye	Lavale, Haiti/ Ayiti
Fritelnor Marcadiou	Laskawobas, Ayiti



decolonize! collaborative

Eight Black child and youth activists served on the inaugural Collaborative for decolonize! This group collaborated across 5 languages over nine months to design the grantmaking strategy, select grantee partners, support movement building and keep CRIF accountable to our joint vision of challenging the legacies of colonialism, anti-Blackness, and adultism in philanthropy.

Prior to the shortlisting process, all eligible applications were translated across the different working languages and made available to all collaborative members.

Shortlisting

During the process of shortlisting, collaborative members met within their regional groups to discuss which applications from their respective regions they wanted to support and bring to the bigger group.

Selection

Selection was carried out over 3 days, where regional groups advocated for their regions passionately, and upholding a rigorous criteria of integrity and community contribution. These sessions saw passionate debate and group consensus based on a commitment to common goals.



MY AFRODESCENDENT ANCESTRY HELPED ME FIND MY PEOPLE

IT HELPED ME TAKE UP MY SPACE AS A BLACK & AFRO-FEMINIST

AS I SAW THE RACISM OF FEMINIST SPACES

Acknowledging families and communities that make youth activists who they are

MY MOM STARTED A PROJECT WHERE I LIVE SHE STILL CONTINUES. SHE KEEPS INSPIRING ME TO HELP PEOPLE



MY DAD, A BLACK MAN, THE PERSON I LOVE THE MOST...

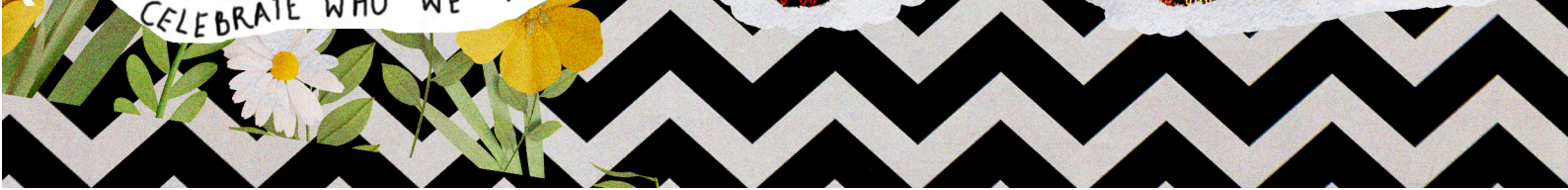
THROUGH HIS PRIDE, MUSIC, FOOD, I GOT A POSITIVE REFERENCE FOR WHAT BLACKNESS IS - I ALSO UNDERSTOOD ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF BLACK MEN



MY GIRLFRIEND HAS ALLOWED ME TO REMEMBER

ABOUT NOT JUST FIGHTING BUT TO

CELEBRATE WHO WE ARE



5 things we learnt about decolonising children's rights

- 1. Consistent communication matters** *more than perfect results* when collaborating with young people.
- 2. Young people raising concerns in collaborations matters** - there are deeply held values usually informing these actions.
- 3. A tree can weather a storm if it has deep roots** - *trust and respect are the magic ingredients* in funders' relationships with youth activists.
- 4. Language justice will slow you down and cost you money** *but it is key to trans-cultural and transnational collaborations.*
- 5. They will not always do what 'we' want them to** - *Acknowledge adultism as an operating logic and find ways to manage frustration that emerges in youth led work, without letting it spill over into their processes.*

