Activity Report
2012

Presented by Caroline Brac de la Perrière
February 2013
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I. ACTIVITY REPORT

“What is the point of the revolution if I cannot dance?” was the question of 2012, and the theme of our Gala and photography competition.

Formulated in response to surging ultra-conservatism in the aftermath of the revolutions, the question subtly expresses the values defended by the Mediterranean Women's Fund (MedWF): equality between human beings, justice, peace of course, but also freedom to be, to express oneself, to create and to make the most of the beauty of the world.


Since the MedWF began, the “Strengthening the Women's Movement" programme has focussed much of its work on “Supporting associations”. This activity is critical for the women's movement to survive and become a force capable of driving change. Women’s associations are in vital need of financial support, both for their day-to-day operations and to carry out their projects: MedWF is committed to maintaining this support at the same level as last year (at the minimum) while extending its scope of action to new countries around the Mediterranean.

However, it has become apparent over the past few years that this support alone is not enough to give rise to a real collective movement; associations can each independently develop their activities without necessarily working together. MedWF consequently realized it was necessary to propose a remedy for this shortcoming.

It stepped up its activities in 2011 by adding two other components to its programme. They are intended to enable the structural strengthening of associations and of the women’s movement by learning to work together and develop a collective feminist intelligence.

To liberate spaces, liberate speech, to think about power relations, to integrate change into the way even activists and associations operate, and to build, starting from right now, the world that we wish by developing together a better way of being: this is what the Mediterranean Women's Fund is seeking to achieve at a time when most countries in the region are undergoing crises and profound upheavals that bode ill, particularly for women.

Our success in 2012 inspires us to stay on course and continue to look further ahead.
1.1 “Strengthening the women’s movement” programme

The programme has three axes:
   a) Supporting associations
   b) Organization of spaces for strategic reflection
   c) Training in collective intelligence

a. Support to associations and networks

   • Financial support for projects and operations

   The requests received by the MedWF come from all over the Mediterranean region, but particularly from certain countries: for example, Palestinian women’s associations in Israel, which face difficulties in finding funding due to their particular situation, have submitted numerous requests.

   In addition to associations in Egypt and Algeria -- and Tunisia to a lesser extent -- which are contacting the MedWF with increasing frequency, Syrian associations have begun to submit requests for projects to help women in the armed conflict and to document the violations to which they are subjected.

   In Southern Europe, requests come above all from France as the Fund has participated numerous times in meetings held by the women’s movement in different towns; these requests are covered by individual donations collected in France. Requests from the Balkans increased this year and, for the first time, requests from Albania and Spain were submitted and accepted.

   Of the 89 grant requests received since January:

   • 64 were rejected, of which 19 were from outside the region, 20 did not meet our criteria (most often, personal artistic projects), 17 came from organizations that proposed a project that was not a priority for the Fund or that local advisors advised against. Eight were turned down due to the limits of our own budget and we had to regretfully fix priorities.

   • 22 projects were selected by the selection committee and 1 project was funded by a local enterprise after being introduced to the association by MedWF.

   Furthermore, 1 project was reviewed and selected by Filia, and another project by the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders: in both cases, the MedWF served as an intermediary for their funding (see Table 1).
### Table n°1. List of initiatives supported by the Mediterranean Women’s Fund in 2012 (in italics where the MedWF served as an intermediary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Beneficiary association</th>
<th>Project goal</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Albania</td>
<td>AWEN Albanian women empowerment network</td>
<td>Strengthening of women’s participation</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Algeria</td>
<td>Asurif</td>
<td>Tamettut akwmani – conscientisation of rural women</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Algeria</td>
<td>Femmes en communication (Rec’art project)</td>
<td>Participation in the Moroccoan artisan fair</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Algeria</td>
<td>Femmes en communication</td>
<td>Evaluation of the womn’s rights caravan</td>
<td>9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Bosnia</td>
<td>Impuls</td>
<td>Empowerment and awareness raising against domestic violence</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Croatia</td>
<td>Centre Rosa pour les femmes victimes de guerre</td>
<td>Fight against violence against women</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Egypt</td>
<td>Radio Girls only</td>
<td>Young feminist radio</td>
<td>5400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Egypt</td>
<td>Nazra for feminist studies</td>
<td>Participation in the AWID forum of a youth from the association</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Egypt</td>
<td>Nazra for feminist studies</td>
<td>Programme on sexuality</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Egypt</td>
<td>Association Egyptian Female Lawyers</td>
<td>Legal clinic for victims of sexual violence</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Spain</td>
<td>Pal’ante</td>
<td>Strengthening of South American migrant women</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. France</td>
<td>Femmes contre les intégrismes</td>
<td>Documentary of the meeting concerning women and the revolution</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. France</td>
<td>Osez le féminisme</td>
<td>Feminist meetings</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. France</td>
<td>Etincelles</td>
<td>Theatre forum training with LDDF Morocco</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Israël/Palestine</td>
<td>Muntad'a-Le forum arabe pour la sexualité</td>
<td>Trainings for sexual rights</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Israël/Palestine</td>
<td>Assiwar</td>
<td>Crisis fund to support volunteers</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Israël/Palestine</td>
<td>Centre féministe Isha l'isha -haifa</td>
<td>Security index of women</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Lebanon</td>
<td>Nasawiya</td>
<td>Summer camp projet for young &quot;geek&quot; girls</td>
<td>3700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Palestine</td>
<td>Women for Women's Rights</td>
<td>Summer camp 2 for girls and young women</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Syria</td>
<td>Aide urgente</td>
<td>Syrian refugee women</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Syria</td>
<td>Sourya pour le développement humanitaire</td>
<td>Assistance for Syrian women</td>
<td>3900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Tunisia</td>
<td>Association Femmes et progrés</td>
<td>Training of unemployed women</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Turkey</td>
<td>Mavi kalem</td>
<td>Women’s health magazine</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Turkey</td>
<td>Kaos</td>
<td>International feminist forum</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1. Breakdown of grants per country

Breakdown of grants per country
January-December 2012

- Algeria: 13%
- Israel/Palestine: 14%
- France: 13%
- Egypt: 16%
- Croatia: 5%
- Turkey: 8%
- Tunisia: 5%
- Palestine: 5%
- Syria: 7%
- Lebanon: 4%
- Bosnia: 3%
- Spain: 3%
- Albania: 4%

Figure 2. Breakdown of grants per type of project

Breakdown of grants per type of project
January-December 2012

- information and documentation: 21%
- networking: 15%
- capacity building: 15%
- armed conflict situations: 6%
- young women training: 20%
- migrant women: 3%
- against violence against women: 11%
- sexual and bodily rights: 9%
• **Assistance in seeking funding**

When the grant selection committee was interested in a project but the Fund could not finance it entirely or even in part, we systematically provided the association with the addresses of other donors likely to provide a grant. The Fund also has had the occasion to introduce associations to donors. This is the case with local enterprises, as well as with private foundations, feminist funds such as UAF this year, and Mama Cash for Algerian and Tunisian associations.

To maintain this reactivity, the Fund's team maintains close relations with donors working for human rights and stays informed to identify lesser known donors. The team also maintains close relationships with the associations to be better able to recommend them.

• **Support in design and formulation**

The Fund accompanies newly created and inexperienced associations at two levels:

- Once funding has been secured to help them implement their project as effectively as possible: this is the case for newly created youth associations. The Fund in this way advised the Tunisian association, “Women and Progress”.
- When projects are being put together to help them set up their structure and activities and to articulate their plans for other donors: this was the case, for example, with the Algerian association, "Asurif".

b. **Strengthening of the women’s movement through discussion, reflection, and training**

In 2011, the MedWF decided to develop a means to help feminist activists to deploy their activities and their ideas as effectively as possible by forming coalitions over the long term, accepting to undertake ambitious projects, and taking time to define and implement strategies.

This support takes place at two levels:

• **Offer to organize space for discussion and strategic reflection**

The sudden revolutions forced us to implement this programme sooner than we had planned. During periods of upheaval such as those underway in Tunisia and Egypt, we knew (based on experience in Algeria) that it would be very difficult for women’s organizations to find a space to consider the strategy they should implement, alliances they absolutely had to consolidate, and activities that they had to undertake together. This situation was accentuated by the sudden liberty of expression coupled with a political redeployment that led to interminable debates over points of disagreement regarding minor issues that tend to end in frustration and lassitude.

A first attempt was made in Egypt in 2011, with the concept improved in 2012 in Tunisia and Algeria.
Tunisia strategic reflection of women’s associations

On May 26 and 27, in collaboration with Urgent Action Fund–Africa, a space for strategic reflection was offered to Tunisian association activists so they could meet and consider projects to defend women’s rights.

27 people accepted the invitation: 19 representatives of 14 associations, of which 6 came from the interior of the country (these associations were invited to come in pairs to break their isolation); one representative of the association, Femmes en Communication (Women in Communication) in Algeria (who came accompanied by another member); one representative of the Ytto association in Morocco; and the five representatives of three feminist funds: UAF-A, Mama Cash and MedWF. The representative of Nazra association in Egypt was unable to obtain her visa in time to attend.¹

As this workshop was meant to allow an in-depth discussion between the associations -- the outside guests facilitating and enriching the discussion with their ideas and experience, while taking care to remain within the framework of Tunisian concerns – it was organized to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the associations.

At the close of the workshop, the associations decided to meet again in June to define the foundations of a campaign for an egalitarian constitution.

Algeria: the meeting of the Movement for Equality in Alger 7-8 December 2012

In 2011, the MedWF organized numerous meetings with 6 long-standing feminist associations with the aim of organizing a meeting of the movement for equality in Algeria. The MedWF participated on the organizing committee as facilitator and financial manager of the project for UN Women, the project donor.

This project was designed by the associations to take place in two stages: a first stage consisted of a self-analysis carried out by women's associations with over five years experience; the second stage was the organization of a large meeting gathering not only women's associations but also mainstream associations sharing the values of equality between women and men. In 2012, ten women’s associations produced their self-analysis, which was published in the form of a synthesis document entitled, “The March Toward Equality”.

¹ See Annex I for the report on the meeting in Tunisia

Mediterranean Women’s Fund – 2012 Activity and financial report
This document was presented during the national meeting held on December 7 and 8, which gathered 130 people from 16 cities and belonging to 46 different associations.

The great success of this meeting was due in part to the fact that 60% of the participants were under the age of 30 and 20% were men (an overwhelming majority young) and to the highly participatory structure that provided a tranquil framework for the meeting and strategic discussions by taking into account the diversity of the participants. The task of accompanying and coordinating the process demanded a sustained effort on the part of MedWF, but the complete success of the project confirmed our vision of how to build a movement.²

- **Offer of training in collective feminist intelligence**

The analysis of the weaknesses of women’s associations and, in consequence, of the women’s movement, convinced us to reflect on how to reinforce the capacities of activists themselves. One of the priorities that MedWF has held since it was founded is the training of the next generation of activists, too often neglected by associations due to their heavy workloads.

This priority, which was confirmed through our participation with other feminist funds in a gathering to consider and discuss how to reinforce young women’s groups, strengthened our decision to dedicate part of our activities and budget to the training of girls and young women. We therefore chose to invite 5 young women, none of whom had ever participated in an international feminist meeting, to the International AWID Forum, which was held in Istanbul in April 2012: members of associations or of women’s networks in their home countries, they came from Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco.

Photo 1. Atiqa (Algeria), Hasna (Morocco), and Wafa (Tunisia).

² See Annex II for the report on the meeting in Algeria
Furthermore, MedWF developed this year a new kind of training meant to reinforce associations and their members in their collective engagement. There are few (the word is inadequate) trainings related to the psychological aspect of constructing a social movement (power relations, self-esteem, capacity to work together). This is why MedWF decided to assume this task: design, test trainings (offered preferably to young people) which will valorize collective intelligence. The training was scheduled to be held in Alger at the end of the year; however, due to the obstacles impeding the presence of most of the students at that time, the event was postponed to March 2013.

1.2 Communications and fundraising

To extend and consolidate its activities, the Mediterranean Women's Fund must make itself known, broaden its networks, develop its analysis, explain its strategy and demonstrate the results of its work: this involves producing videos, articles and other media forms, organizing events, and participating in meetings. This demands considerable effort but it is absolutely necessary for the Fund to base its work on a solid foundation of support and sympathy.

a. Publication of a twice yearly letter

A twice-yearly, 4 page letter presenting the Fund’s activities has been produced since January 2010 on the Internet and on paper in both French and English. The primary purpose of the letter is to provide information to donors, particularly individual donors who do not receive the annual activity report, regarding the projects financed with their support. A high level of demand from women’s associations in the region has led us to broaden our list of recipients, first to include the associations supported, and then more broadly to make ourselves better known in the region. The paper version is destined to people who expressly request it and above all for the local, regional, and international meetings that we attend.

In 2012, the French edition of newsletters n° 5 and 6 were mailed to about 700 individuals and associations, and the English edition to 400 individuals and associations. Most recipients relayed the information and a statistical analysis of downloads shows that between 2011 and
2012, there was a 58% increase for the newsletter in French and a 116% increase for the newsletter in English: our newsletter thus reaches several thousand intended recipients. In addition, 300 copies in each language are printed and distributed during regional and international meetings. (See attached newsletters n° 5 and 6).

b. Constitution of a documentary collection

Thanks to the efforts of the person in charge of the documentary collection, some twenty Fund beneficiaries already have been interviewed and audio-visual documents in several formats have been produced. In addition, international and local feminist meetings have been systematically filmed and archived: the AWID Forum in Istanbul in April, the MedWF Gala in Paris in June, the meeting of the movement for equality in Alger in December.

The interviews filmed by the MedWF are listed in the box below. About a dozen are now available with sub-titles and have been very useful during public presentations of MedWF activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The interviews filmed by the MedWF involved:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Group of young feminists: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia (French, Arabic, ST English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Harassmap /Egypt (/English ST French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Nazra for feminist studies /Egypt (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Engagement Citoyen /Tunisie (/French ST English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Association femmes et progrès /Tunisia (Arabic ST English and French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Association FEC/ Algeria (French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mada el Camel /Palestine Israel (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Zakher Palestine / (Arabic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mountada / Israel-Palestine / (English)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Aswat Palestine-Israel (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fondation Ytto / Morroco (French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Nassawiya / Lebanon (English)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Working Group / Palestine-Israel (English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Assiwar / Palestine-Israel / (English)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Organisation of a photography competition

Originally established to advertise the 2010 Gala, the photography competition has become an additional way to publicize the Fund. Picked up not only by dozens of professional photography magazines, but also by daily newspapers around the Mediterranean, radio stations, and internet sites featuring Mediterranean culture or women’s issues, the competition encourages an audience we otherwise would have difficulty reaching to go to our website and find out about our activities.

During the competition period, the number of visitors to our site increases considerably and diverse entities (donors, journalists, women’s associations) have asked us for permission to use the photos with increasing frequency.
The theme chosen this year, “What is the point of the revolution if I cannot dance”, caught the attention of candidates from 16 different countries (Algeria, Bosnia, Egypt, Spain, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Libya, Palestine, Portugal, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey).

A top notch jury, composed largely of individuals with internationally reputations for their commitment and talent such as Souad Belhaddad, Pierre Yves Gimenez, Sylvie Hugues, Frédérique Jouval, Caroline Laurent-Simon, Catalina Martin-Chico, Marie-Paule Nègre, Reza and Lizzie Sadin, chose 16 photos out of the 197 submitted. The selected photos, and four supplementary "MedWF special selection” photos were presented for the exhibition planned in March 2013 in partnership with the city of Paris on the theme, “Women and Revolutions”.

The first three prize winners – awarded with the help of the Mayor’s Office of Paris – were:

1st prize, Samara Sallam, Syria

2nd prize, Loubna Awidat, Syria
“Resist and stand up before you disappear”

3rd prize, Marisol Rifai, Lebanon
“It is only at dawn that I can free myself of the city”

Lastly, another important fruit of this activity is the opportunities offered to the photographers thanks to their participation in the competition: Samara Sallam, a young Palestinian refugee from Syria and the first prize winner, has just been invited to a one month artist’s residency in Norway by the Fjord Summer Festival.
d. Organization of events

One component of our action plan is to organize a series of events in several cities in France to share with a wide audience the activities of the Fund and find new donors. Several types of meetings were organized.

✓ **In Montpellier**, an aperitif-debate was organized February 21 at the home of one of the leading feminists of the city to reunite feminist leaders and institutional figures likely to support the Fund. This meeting aimed to familiarize the guests with the Fund so that they could act as relays and contribute their support to a larger event.

✓ **In Montpellier**, an aperitif-debate was organized on March 21 at Paul Valery University in the framework of the week against discrimination on the invitation of the head of the Mission for Equality.

✓ **In Istanbul**, the AWID Forum on April 22: MedWF organized a workshop on the theme, “The relationship of women with money: does this affect our activist work?” which brought together 80 people in the "Donor Corner”.

✓ **In Paris**, on June 18: MedWF Gala on the theme, “What is the point of the revolution if I cannot dance?” at the Théâtre Edouard VII for an evening dedicated to supporting women in countries undergoing revolutions. Alya Chérif Chammari, a Tunisian lawyer and the feminist director of the collective 95 Maghreb Egalité, and Samar Yazbeck, a Syrian feminist writer, took turns at the podium to share with the audience the situation in their countries. Thanks to these unforgettable artists, it was magical, wonderful evening full of humour and emotion.

**The Mediterranean Women’s Fund Gala**

278 people attended to support women’s struggles to defend their liberties in countries undergoing revolution. The evening earned a profit of 3114 euros which was given to a Tunisian association working for equality. The Gala was well publicized through radio spots (France Inter, Radio Nova), newspaper articles (Libération, Métro), TV coverage (Journal 13h on France 2), internet sites (Médiapart, Paris.fr, Figaroscope, AFP), city of Paris display panels and Facebook.
Other events

- **Associations in Montpellier.** On September 14, the MedWF maintained a stand at the « Antigone des associations », a gathering of all of the associations active in the city.

- **With business leaders in Paris.** On October 17, the MedWF organized a dinner with women business leaders likely to support the Fund and become a member of its corporate philanthropy club: 10 women company heads attended, five of whom promised to support the MedWF.

### e. Participation in local, regional and international meetings

MedWF participated in numerous meetings and events with women’s associations, donors, and a broader public in France and in the region. These events offer the opportunity to make the Fund's work better known, to gather information, and to refine its analysis and develop future strategies with the donors and associations encountered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>France, Paris</strong></td>
<td>12 January</td>
<td>Participation in the conference on “the National Constituent Assembly and democratic process in Tunisia”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Algeria, Algiers</strong></td>
<td>January-February</td>
<td>Coordination of the &quot;National meeting of the movement for equality&quot; project, including assisting the self-analysis process of women's associations and follow-up of the summary document. Meeting with grant recipient associations and participation in the meeting on discrimination against women organized by CIDDEF and the discrimination observatory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tunisia, Tunis</strong></td>
<td>27-29 February</td>
<td>Participation in the meeting organized by the collective, Maghreb Egalité, and the network, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders with some thirty human rights organizations in Tunisia to write recommendations for the constitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Netherlands, La Hague</strong></td>
<td>29 February to 6 March</td>
<td>Presentation of MedWF at the meeting of the Ariande network, Human rights Funds (Fonds pour les Droits Humains Ariande), then in Amsterdam to present the MedWF to donors and the expanded team at Mama Cash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>France, Paris</strong></td>
<td>7 March</td>
<td>Participation in the evening of questions for the Presidential candidates organized by 45 associations united under the banner Feminists in Motion (FEM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>France, Paris</strong></td>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Intervention of MedWF in the roundtable « Feminism and Islam » animated by HIA Network France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turkey, Istanbul</strong></td>
<td>16-23 April</td>
<td>Participation in the pre-meeting of the AWID Forum gathering 80 leaders of the Middle East-North Africa region followed by participation in the 12th Forum «Transforming economic power», including holding a MedWF led workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tunisia, Tunis</strong></td>
<td>21-25 June</td>
<td>Organisation and facilitation of a strategic discussion workshop jointly organized by the MedWF and UAF-A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nicaragua, Granada</strong></td>
<td>2-4 August</td>
<td>COP meeting of feminist funds regarding funding groups of young girls and women under the age of thirty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>France, Paris</strong></td>
<td>12 October</td>
<td>Invitation of the feminist collective G.A.R.C.E.S to their day « to be Mediterranean Women’s Fund – 2012 Activity and financial report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and to declare oneself feminist and student »

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France, Paris</td>
<td>22-23 September</td>
<td>Participation in the meeting « Grundvig Educational Partnership » organized by the HIA with 5 other partners, coming from 4 European countries committed to fighting discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France, Marseille</td>
<td>16 October</td>
<td>Intervention in the WeMeeting of the Jeune Chambre Economique de Marseille at the Palais de la Bourse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France, Paris</td>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>Intervention during a day organized by Amnesty International entitled: Between hope and disillusion, the discrimination facing women from Morocco to Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa,</td>
<td>12-17 November</td>
<td>Participation in the meeting of the INWF international feminist fund network: workshop on monitoring and evaluation and the general assembly of the network</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannesburg</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>France, Paris</td>
<td>6 December</td>
<td>Participation in the FIDH Gala dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>12-13 December</td>
<td>Invitation by the Fondation Prince Klaus to a ceremony awarding an Algerian artist for her works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>France, Paris</td>
<td>26 November -16 December</td>
<td>Partnership with Cartooning for peace, during an exhibition of Cartooning aux Métallos artists, the MedWF presented two videos of its activities and projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France Paris</td>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>Participation in a Terra Femina dinner for Yamina Benguigui, Minister of Francophonie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 Fundraising

a. Institutional donors

Since 2011, the MedWF has benefited from multi-annual donations given by Sigrid Rausing Trust and Mama Cash, which allow us to serenely plan for the years ahead. Other donors which have supported the Fund since it was founded, for example, the Global Fund for Women and the Rita Fund, have renewed their support. Their contributions allowed us to maintain our grant programme at the same level as 2011, consolidate the Fund's operations, and to carry out activities by engaging additional staff since October (still, however, on a part-time, short-term basis).

A new feature this year was the opportunity to successfully implement, thanks to the support of UN Women Algeria, and in cooperation with the Norwegian technical cooperation agency, the part of our "Strengthening the Women's Movement" programme which involves the organization of spaces for strategic reflection.

Lastly, in addition to several collaborative partnerships with four other funds to serve as an intermediary for grants (see chapter on partnerships), great efforts have been made beginning from the second semester to contact local government agencies in France: we in this way received a grant from the Mayor’s Office of Paris; other requests will only receive a response in 2013.
While we have reached, thanks to the success engendered by our work, an important milestone this year regarding donor relations, we have not yet succeeded in significantly increasing our revenues for 2012 or for coming years. This is due to the difficult position in which we find ourselves: undertaking large projects with our programme to reinforce the women’s movement requires a considerable amount of time, attention and energy, and due to the small size of our team, fundraising has unfortunately been neglected. We hope to resolve this issue by systematically dedicating ourselves to fundraising in 2013.

b. Local donors

Since 2009, MedWF has been seeking to obtain donations at the local level: this involves convincing entrepreneurs and individuals to help fund women’s projects in their countries, either by donating directly to the Fund or by using the Fund as an intermediary.

i) Businesses

MedWF follows two approaches:

- In the first, the Fund is not the recipient of donations, but acts rather as a mediator between an enterprise and an association, offering to serve as a form of security for both parties. The Fund identifies businesses likely to participate at the local level, contacts them, invites them to help a women's association, and introduces them to the latter. In general, the projects that can benefit from financial or material assistance from a business tend to be oriented around development – for example, economic integration projects – or humanitarian themes (such as battered women’s shelters).

- In the second approach, businesses are requested to help the Fund's activities: either by organizing an event, or by supporting projects through the Fund. The Fund then is the recipient. This approach is for the time being only pursued in France, where the Fund is headquartered and is authorized to provide receipts to donors for tax reductions.

  ✓ **In Algeria** MedWF succeeded in persuading two entrepreneurs to donate regularly to women’s associations.

  ✓ **In France** Since 2011, MedWF has been making efforts to lobby businesses more systematically, starting first in France. A team member was trained in corporate philanthropy and, with the support of an experienced consultant; she identified businesses likely to help the Fund and produced a document on the Fund’s activities likely to interest them. This dossier was sent to some fifty businesses, and in 2012, 4000 euros were collected from them. In October, a dozen women, all heads of small businesses, were invited to a dinner where they were invited to become part of the MedWF corporate sponsor’s Club. The proposal was well accepted, and several are now providing regular support.

ii) Individual donors

We believe, with ever increasing conviction that MedWF’s goal is to weave a net of solidarity – a tangible movement – in which everyone holds a stake.
We believe that everyone may not be able or willing to engage in the daily fight on the ground, but many are convinced that without the fieldwork of feminist associations, the status of women would not have changed: the call for donations, while renewing contact with donors, also provides information on the development of the Fund. It is, with our biannual letter and the different events that we organize, a bridge between the associations in the field and the individuals who support their efforts. This carefully maintained link with people interested in the Fund’s activities is reinforcing itself because more and more small donations are being made over the course of the year by donors who have become regular contributors.

**The letter calling for donations** was mailed in November to 400 people in France and sent to 500 people by email. The results (about 3000 euros in donations averaging 50 euros each by December 31, 2012) show that this letter is necessary. By giving the latest information about the Fund’s fundraising activities, this letter, which comes between the publication of the biannual letters providing greater detail about the projects, allows us to remain in contact with those sympathizing with our work over the course of the year (see Annex III, the fundraising letter).

**The on-line donation** option set up at the end of 2011 was not immediately effective. By the middle of the year, we questioned whether it was profitable and the question was raised as to whether to close it down as it seemed more trouble than it was worth. It is possible we did not adequately advertise the on-line option.

However, a small number of donations have been made on-line over the past few months that are made the investment profitable (€900 in revenue for a €200 inscription cost) and we consider that this fundraising avenue will develop in the future.

**The events** organized by the MedWF were always considered to be opportunities to raise funds. However, it is not through this that the MedWF has had the most success: is it because in France, requests for donations during a festive event are viewed poorly, or is it because the attitude of the Fund’s team remains too reticent with regard to their guests? Following the slightly disappointing results of the Gala organized in Paris, the team felt that it would be good to hold a discussion on the relationship MedWF members, and more broadly, French women, have towards money.

**c. Strengthening of collaborative partnerships with other donors in the region**

For two years now, the MedWF has collaborated with other donors in the region; in 2012, these collaborative efforts were reinforced and new ones are developing, a sign of the recognition accorded to the Fund’s expertise and flexible management.

Several forms of partnership were established in 2012:

- **UN Women-Maghreb:** the partnership, established in 2011 around the national meeting of the movement for equality project, gave MedWF the role of mediator and facilitator between the women's associations and UN Women. MedWF assumed the role of intermediary and manager of this one-year project which ended in December.
• **Urgent-Action Fund Africa (UAF-A):** The example of the meeting in Tunisia illustrates the very productive partnership between UAF-Africa and MedWF: UAF-A provided the financial resources needed to organize this meeting while MedWF provided its expertise to set up and create a space conducive to discussions.

• **Filia Frauenschiftung:** the partnership began in 2010 on the proposal of Filia that MedWF assume responsibility for distributing Filia funds to women’s organizations that MedWF considered important to support and that Filia could not reach directly. It also happens, as it did in 2011 and again in 2012, that MedWF assumes a role of an intermediary for Filia to give a grant to a young Egyptian feminist organization, “Radio Girls Only”.

• **The Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders:** a similar situation arose with this foundation. MedWF was requested to act as an intermediary between the foundation and an association of a southern Mediterranean country that could not receive funds.

• **Calala.** Since 2011, both funds recognized the need to form a partnership, as Calala is based in Spain and MedWF includes Spain in its sphere of action. This partnership began timidly this year with the co-financing of a group of migrant women in Spain.

• MedWF also requests funds to assist associations that the Fund does not have the resources to support: this was the case this year with Urgent Action Fund, which donated to MedWF a grant dedicated to a Syrian association with which the Fund was in contact.

Lastly, another form of collaboration is developing with other funds for women: this consists of exchanges of experience, and the transmission of tools and know-how.

• MedWF, still involved in a project launched by the Central American Fund for Women (FECAM) and Mama Cash to finance young women and girls, joined a meeting to discuss and exchange experiences between 10 funds for women organized in Granada in August by FECAM and Mama Cash.

• The meeting of the IWFN network of feminist funds in Johannesburg in November was an opportunity for the director of the Fund to learn from more experienced funds, particularly regarding monitoring and evaluation, domains in which MedWF is still a novice.

• A two-day meeting was held in December with Ana Criquillon, founder and Board member of several funds including Calala, Frida and FECAM, to benefit from her experience.
1.4 MedWF internal organization

We shall conclude with MedWF’s internal organization because the immense work undertaken by the Fund would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of a team composed of (a very few) salaried employees, (a couple of) consultants, and (more numerous) volunteer friends of the Fund, each working in their own way to develop our programme and improve our work.

The team remains too small given the extent of the work. While 4 people worked part-time with the Director in 2012 to carry out different programmes, this was short-lived: the person in charge of the documentary collection hired at the end of 2011 under a state-supported, one-year contract, saw her contract come to an end in September 2012; of the three consultants hired on a half-time and quarter-time basis, only the contracts of the consultant in charge of corporate philanthropy and of the consultant in charge of designing and setting up the database could be renewed.

The year 2012 thus ended without our being able to continue even part-time contracts; this remains a challenge for the Fund.

However, the working conditions have improved. In 2012, we opened an office in Montpellier, in addition to that of Paris: these are small spaces that allow a better organization of work and greater contacts with friends of the Fund.

For example:

- On October 5, the MedWF team in Paris invited all of the Paris Friends of the Fund (some thirty people) to a meeting in which they were provided a detailed account of the activities of the Fund, thereby enabling them to better able relay information to others.
- On December 22 in Montpellier, the meeting of the Friends of the Fund, open to those people close to the Fund in the area, gathered some dozen people to plan activities in the region.

These meeting are in addition to those of the Board of Directors, to which the most active Friends of the Fund are invited regularly to provide them an account of the Fund’s activities and discuss possible developments.

Transparence, dynamism, creativity, trust and good humour are the foundations of the relationships between the people taking part in the MedWF adventure.

And seeing what the MedWF has been able to accomplish to date with a very small team, it is clear that a team with more salaried members, and of course the continuing support of our friends, will be able to accomplish miracles...