



Annual Report 2025

Mediterranean
Women's Fund

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EDITORIAL

A YEAR OF CONTINUOUS RESISTANCE

253 feminist initiatives supported in 2025.

Finally, we intensified our presence in spaces for dialogue with public and private donors, tirelessly advocating for sustainable and flexible feminist funding adapted to the scale of current challenges.

Indeed, the budget cuts currently affecting organizations working for equality are neither neutral nor accidental: they primarily weaken those who resist. This hemorrhage must urgently stop.

Despite the difficulties linked to this uncertain period, the MedWF has demonstrated resilience and strategic adaptability that deserve to be highlighted. More than ever, the team is ready to face what lies ahead. The year 2025 marked a renewal, with a change in leadership and two new hires. Particular attention was also given to care. In a demanding activist environment, we took the time to reflect on our practices, strengthen our internal solidarity mechanisms, and take care of one another.

For now, the MedWF stands firm. A precious stability, hard-won, built on collective commitment, strong alliances, and constant advocacy.

The year 2025 will remain in our history as a year of trials, but above all as a year that confirms the relevance of our model. It shows that women's funds are not peripheral actors but essential levers for social transformation, the defense of human rights, and the future of feminist movements.

We warmly thank the partners who place their trust in us, the networks with whom we co-construct transformative responses, and all those who make this essential work possible.

**Amina Izarouken
 and Marion Duquesne**
 Co-directors of the
 Mediterranean Women's Fund

Once again, the year 2025 reminds us that women's rights are never permanently secured. They are part of a continuous, collective, and deeply political resistance.

In a global context marked by wars, escalating conflicts, the tightening of many political regimes, and the erosion of fundamental rights, feminist movements are facing increasing pressure. Added to this is a significant and worrying decline in Official Development Assistance, of which gender equality already receives only a small share, as well as the withdrawal of several long-standing donors and the rise of reactionary discourses and policies that fuel an anti-gender backlash.

Across the Mediterranean and beyond, 2025 has been marked by the deployment of hostile campaigns against sexual and reproductive rights and by an increased stigmatization of feminist movements.

In this context, resisting is not only a political act: it is a condition for the survival of feminist and democratic movements.

Throughout the year, the Mediterranean Women's Fund (MedWF) has maintained its commitment alongside its partners, both in the South and in the North of the Mediterranean, in order to respond to increasingly numerous and complex emergencies.

Thus, in 2025, we are proud to have supported 253 feminist initiatives, reaffirming our commitment alongside grassroots organizations, the cornerstone of change. Our exchanges with them have reminded us that it is through proximity, attentive listening, and a fine understanding of local realities that fair, useful, and sustainable support can be built.

Beyond this close relationship with organizations on the ground, the year also led us to support numerous feminist activists, whose voices are too often marginalized, by enabling them to participate in major international spaces such as the CSW69 in New York, the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, and the 4th Ministerial Conference on Feminist foreign policy in Paris.

At the same time, we strengthened our alliances with other feminist funds and partner networks, a crucial step in consolidating a community of practices based on trust, complementarity, and transnational solidarity.



Strengthening the feminist movement in the mediterranean

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01

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

Across the Mediterranean, women's organizations face numerous challenges. Beyond the difficulties linked to the reduction, or even the complete withdrawal, of funding dedicated to gender equality, and the additional workload this generates for already overstretched teams, they must also contend with wars and conflicts, increasing repression by public authorities, and hostility from fundamentalist and masculinist movements.

In this context, we are committed to funding the feminist initiatives that we consider strategic, within the limits of our available resources.



01 Our financial support

Amounts allocated

€1,843,565

including:

€317,850
for emergencies

€1,525,715
to 209 initiatives.

In 2025

253 INITIATIVES
SUPPORTED

Average grant size
€7,287

Emergency support

17,24%

of the initiatives
supported in 2025
concern emergency
support (mainly in
Lebanon and Palestine)

Total amount:

€317,850

44 specific grants



Geographic distribution

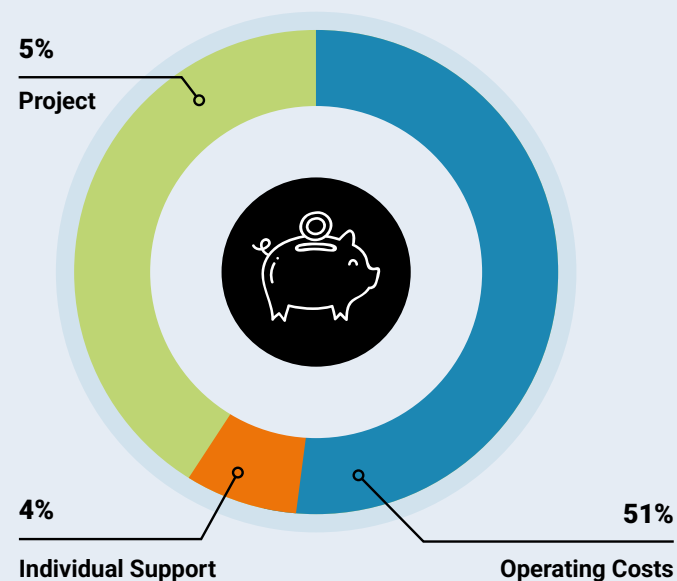
We funded 253 out the 275 eligible initiatives
presented to the selection committees

more than 92% of applications funded



Grant allocation by country

Use of grants by organizations



Supported audiences and causes

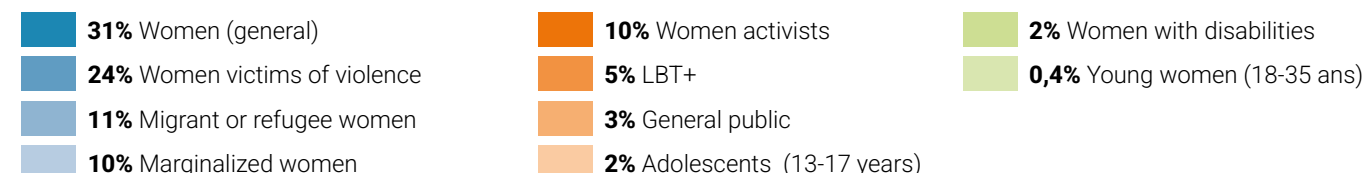
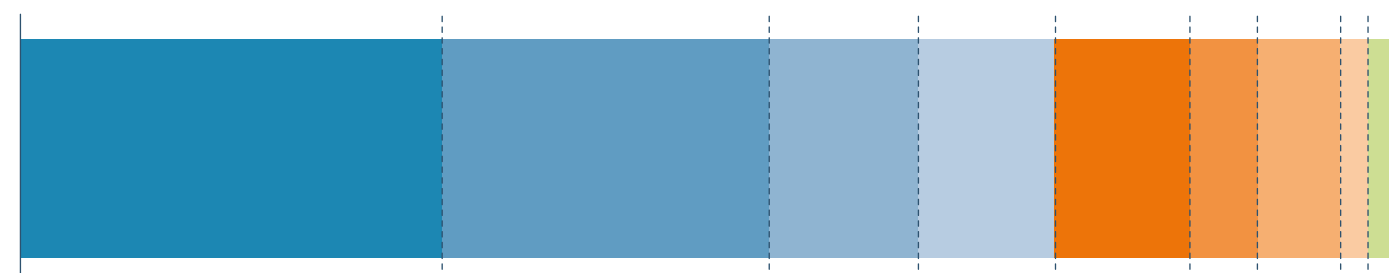
Populations supported

Most of the initiatives supported are aimed at all women, regardless of age, socio-economic situation, disability, or sexual orientation.

We prioritize supporting the most marginalized organizations and those furthest removed from traditional funding channels.

However, we still receive relatively few applications from organizations representing women with disabilities, often in small numbers depending on the national context..

Populations supported



Issues funded

The main areas of intervention of the supported initiatives remain the fight against violence against women, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Proportions of funded issues

Ecofeminism / Climate Justice

Antiracism Political Participation

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Media Culture and Arts *Gender Equality*

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Migration Economic Rights Family rights

Peacebuilding

Operating Methods

Strategies

32%

Awareness-raising

28%

Service providing

9%

Capacity Building for Participants

9%

Advocacy

8%

Network-Building and Collaboration

5%

Organizational Capacity Building

4%

Information/Documentation

4%

Research

Means

37%

Training/Workshops

20%

Housing

18%

Awareness-raising Campaigns

12%

Culture and Arts

12%

Meetings

1%

Caravans

The most funded strategies are awareness-raising activities on women's rights and gender equality, service providing such as welcoming and housing shelters, and capacity building.

To fulfill their missions, organizations mobilize a variety of means: they organize training sessions, conduct awareness-raising campaigns, create safe spaces, and use cultural or artistic expression as a tool for mobilization and social transformation.

02

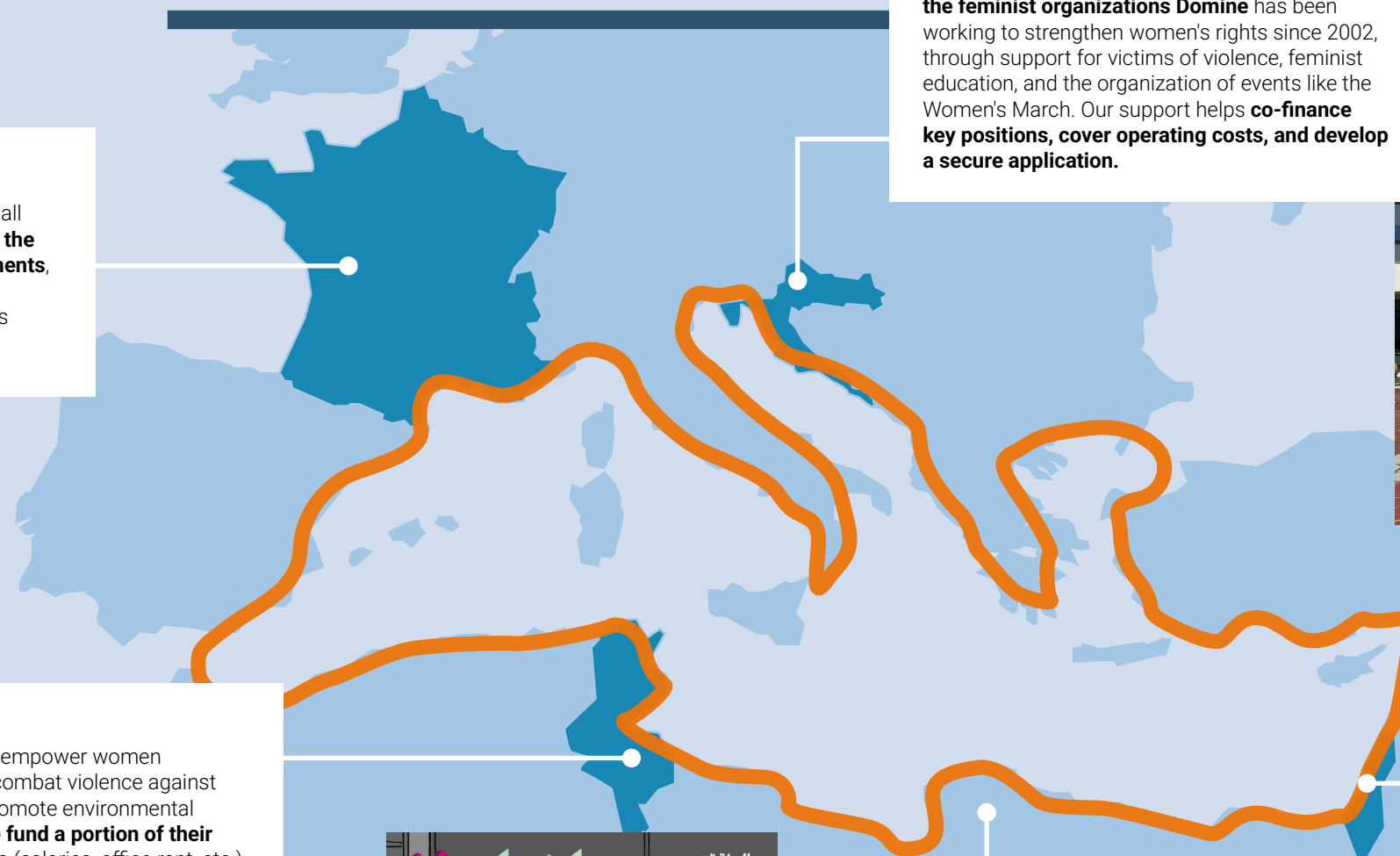
What individual giving contributes to

The initiatives we support use our funds in a variety of ways. Trust is at the heart of our model: the organizations and activists on the ground know best how to use the funds we succeed in mobilizing for them, according to their realities and needs.



In France

Basket pour Toutes makes basketball accessible to all. Our support funds the organization of basketball tournaments, advocacy projects, and anti-racist and anti-sexist training in the sports community.



In Split, Croatia

the feminist organizations **Domine** has been working to strengthen women's rights since 2002, through support for victims of violence, feminist education, and the organization of events like the Women's March. Our support helps co-finance key positions, cover operating costs, and develop a secure application.



In Tunisia

Calam aims to empower women economically, combat violence against women, and promote environmental awareness. We fund a portion of their operating costs (salaries, office rent, etc.).



In Gaza

we contributed to the establishment of **Camp Hayat**, a crucial facility for expanding the protection services of the Center for Women's Legal Research, Counseling and Protection (CWLRCPC). This camp provides a haven for women and children who survived violence after the destruction of the original center during Israeli bombings, which forced them to flee urgently.



On the southern shore of the Mediterranean

Jeem, a multimedia platform active within the Arab-speaking diaspora, creates safe spaces where women share their stories and strengthen their solidarity. Jeem uses our funding to produce critical content, finance journalism workshops, and develop self-sustaining funding strategies.



Focus on feminist funding

03

When it was created in 2008, the MedWF became France's first women's fund, which implemented the principle of feminist financing. This funding model, which has become essential, is crucial for supporting the women's movement wherever it exists and for delivering funds to women who are fighting for their rights, even when they lack access to basic resources such as bank accounts.

The year 2025 was no exception: we offered the organizations and collectives we support flexible, easily accessible funding tailored to small organizations.

Unlike traditional funding methods, this funding is not necessarily tied to a specific project but can also cover operating costs, emergencies, or grants to support activists. In the current context of reactionary backlash, rise of anti-gender movements and collapse of Official Development Assistance which only funds feminist movements to the tune of 0.2%, this mode of support is proving more essential than ever.

I Testimonials from grantee-partners:

Monstra • France

"The procedures of the Mediterranean Women's Fund are extremely relevant and perfectly suited to our capacities as a small organization. The application forms are relatively short and simple. Compared to other calls for projects that constantly ask us to 'innovate' or imagine new approaches, the Mediterranean Women's Fund allows us to strengthen our projects by focusing on the benefits of repeated and long-term actions. Since our administrative work and fundraising are done on a voluntary basis, we are very grateful for your simplified procedures."

Feminist Fon İnisiyatifi • Turkey

"The funding from the Mediterranean Women's Fund represents invaluable support for small organizations like ours, which work primarily with volunteers and have limited resources. This boost is essential for continuing our feminist commitment and fosters solidarity among the various organizations. Administratively, the procedures remain simple and straightforward, allowing us to dedicate our time and energy to our fieldwork. The ease of access to these grants is a major advantage, as it enables organizations like ours to grow and continue to operate effectively. We particularly appreciated the flexibility granted by the MedWF, which allowed us to adapt certain activities to the actual needs of the beneficiaries and the constraints encountered in the field. We would like to emphasize the importance of the support we received throughout the project development process, characterized by genuine availability and attentive listening. We also greatly appreciated the simplicity and clarity of the procedures, which were free of bureaucratic red tape and allowed us to focus our efforts on implementing activities and supporting women victims of violence."

Leading hands • Lebanon

"We found the MedWF's grant allocation process to be highly participatory and tailored to the realities of women's organizations working in challenging contexts. We particularly appreciated the application criteria, which were realistic and clear. The Fund demonstrated an excellent understanding of the specific needs of women's organizations in the Middle East, especially those affected by conflict, such as in Lebanon. Timelines were established, which are essential for ensuring program continuity and the stability of our organization in an unstable environment. The MedWF is among the most active and generous donors to women's rights organizations. It provided crucial support to our feminist organization, which defends and empowers women, especially during the darkest hours in Lebanon, where women were and still are in urgent need of assistance. In general, the Fund distinguishes itself from other donors through its genuine partnership approach, which values and respects the experience of women's organizations working on the front lines for gender justice."

02

02

SUPPORTING BEYOND FUNDING

As a women's fund, we go beyond financial support. We also provide guidance, facilitate connections, share knowledge and skills, and contribute to strengthening networks among grassroots actors.



01

Non-financial support to organizations



Connecting with other donors

Our non-financial support for organizations takes various forms. **When we cannot directly fund an organization, we connect it with other potential donors.** In 2025, we recommended around ten organizations, primarily from Lebanon, Egypt, and Palestine to other donors. Furthermore, this year again, many donors have sought our expertise to identify and understand how best to support organizations.

Advising

Beyond simply connecting donors, we can offer guidance to organizations that request it, mainly by phone and videoconference. This support covers a range of topics depending on their needs and context: project management, fundraising, governance, etc.

These sessions, whether by phone or online, are also a way to maintain contact with them and stay informed about what is happening on the ground throughout the Mediterranean region. For some organizations, which have more difficulty communicating by email – sometimes due to literacy issues – these calls are crucial. For our team, this requires the ability to speak several languages. At the MedWF, we are fluent in French, English, Spanish, Italian, and the Arabic dialects of the Maghreb and Mashreq, as well as German, Luxembourgish, and Vietnamese. In 2025, we conducted approximately 260 informal calls and 40 more in-depth online meetings.

In-person gatherings

Our support for organizations also involves meetings: whenever possible, we visit them, invite them to our offices, or participate in their activities.

→ **This year, for example, we hosted organizations such as WeTalk, Shams, Ytto, Biznagra, Les Déclassées, as well as migrant and refugee journalists in France supported by the Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe.** We also visited the Association des Femmes de Franc Moisin for the presentation of their 2024 annual report and spent time with members of the Elle's s'imaginent organization (which supports women victims of domestic violence), the team at the Front d'Habitat Lesbien (which offers social support and safe housing to lesbian women in exile or under protection), and the Femmes Entraide et Autonomie organization (which provides individual and collective psychosocial support for women in precarious situations through therapeutic groups, art therapy, yoga, and empowerment activities). During these visits, these organizations presented their workspaces and discussed ongoing projects, the challenges they face, and the strategies they are implementing to overcome them and gain greater autonomy.

→ **We also took advantage of a trip to Croatia to visit two Croatian grantee-partners:** Brave Sisters, in Omish (which enables marginalized women – including migrants, Roma and victims of violence – to access abortion safely and with dignity) and the Croatian Women's Network, in Zagreb (which strengthens the country's feminist movement by coordinating organizations, advocating for laws that protect women's rights and ensuring that the government respects its commitments to gender equality).

02

Sharing and transmission of knowledge and skills

For the feminist movement, networking and knowledge sharing are a major lever against reactionary, anti-gender, and anti-rights policies that seek to divide and isolate us. Throughout the year, we dedicate ourselves to this task wherever we can.

Feminist Cooperation in the Balkans

In May, we hosted a delegation of twelve representatives from six feminist organizations in the Western Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and Montenegro) to discuss their respective contexts. Discussions focused on women's health, post-conflict resilience, advocacy, support for women in rural areas, and organizational capacity building, as well as the common challenges faced in the region. This meeting identified converging interests and opened up avenues for collaboration.

Facilitating the Network of women's organizations from working-class neighborhoods

As we have done every year for the past six years, we co-coordinate a network of women's organizations from working-class neighborhoods. Monthly online meetings and occasional in-person meetings at a dedicated venue allow us to strengthen the bonds of solidarity and share experiences among members. With the idea of integrating care into the network, we also organized a training session this year on the impact of racism on mental health, with psychologist and expert in racism and discrimination Racky Ka-Sy, as well as an online conference on the same topic.

Finally, we co-authored, with members of this network, a call to integrate crucial issues for migrant women into the proposed French "Comprehensive Framework Law against Gender-Based and Sexual Violence." The appeal, signed by 43 elected officials and prominent figures and 15 organizations, was published online in Politis in December. It was subsequently decided to join the Coalition for a Comprehensive Framework Law as a network.

Launch of the Kulthumiat Feminist Collective

Also in May, the MedWF traveled to Amsterdam to participate in the first meeting of the Kulthumiat feminist collective, launched by Palestinian researcher Lana Sirri. This network brings together artists, researchers, and activists in a spirit of decolonial solidarity and shared experiences. Since then, the collective has received several grants, including a contribution from the MedWF, to strengthen and sustain its activities.



Deciphering European Frameworks and Advocacy

In June, as part of the SEE Change project (funded through the European Union's CERV program), the MedWF organized a webinar on European values, led by Karin Heisecke – a specialist in regulations, particularly those related to gender-based and sexual violence in the EU – which was attended by fifteen people from six different countries. During the workshop, we explored the main European mechanisms relating to gender equality and combating violence against women, such as the Istanbul Convention and the 2024 EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence. Small group discussions allowed us to examine how EU commitments are translated into national laws and policies and to consider advocacy opportunities.

Strengthening Mediterranean Alliances

In September, the MedWF organized a Mediterranean meeting on sexual and reproductive health, bringing together fifteen activists and committed professionals from Mediterranean countries to discuss sexual and reproductive health issues. The discussions fostered the sharing of experiences, analyses, and practices from diverse contexts. This collective time allowed participants to strengthen ties, identify common challenges, and reflect together on strategies to better address this issue in our respective environments. The diversity of perspectives contributed to in-depth discussions and opened new avenues for collaboration.

International Mobilization Against Fundamentalisms

In September, the MedWF traveled to Warsaw to participate in a meeting initiated by On the Right Track (OtRT), a network born from the collaboration between the European and Latin American chapters of Prospera-international Network of Women's Funds. In Poland, 60 activists, feminist funds, and organizations leaders gathered to exchange strategies for combating the rise of fundamentalism and the far right. Our work for OtRT doesn't stop there: throughout the year, we coordinate the working group on sexual and reproductive health, notably through online meetings. As part of this work, we also organized an online presentation on the growing presence of conservative and far-right movements in multilateral institutions, led by a representative from IPAS.

Strategic Management of the SEE Change Project

In October, we met in Croatia with the other members of the consortium managing the SEE Change project: the Spanish fund Calala Fundo de Mujeres and the Croatian fund Ecumenical Women's Initiative. We used these two days to evaluate the project at its midpoint, formulate strategies for the coming years, and share tools and experiences.



Supporting Emerging Feminist Funds

In 2025, we also hosted the recently created Italian feminist fund Semia at our offices, with the aim of supporting this promising organization, of which we were the first donor. Our co-director, Marion Duquesne, is also a member of their advisory board.

Sharing Expertise on Grant Redistribution

In November, we organized a meeting at our offices with the European network WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe) to initiate a peer-learning process (sharing concrete experiences) to inform its strategic thinking on the topic of reganting. In this context, we were able to share our experience in supporting grassroots feminist organizations and managing solidarity funds. We particularly discussed the application and selection processes, governance mechanisms, requirements for proportionate accountability, and the balance between control, flexibility, and trust in the allocation of funding.

Participation in the Feminist Alchemy Community

For the fifth consecutive year, the MedWF participated in the Feminist Alchemy community, a space for learning, reflection, and solidarity conceived and facilitated by the Global Fund for Women, bringing together feminist funds committed to supporting movements facing crises. Our exchanges take place through regular plenary meetings, thematic learning cycles, and support for the production of feminist knowledge on crisis responses. In 2025, our discussions focused on the issue of protracted crises affecting different regions of the world, the intersection of climate justice, economic justice, and gender justice, as well as strategies for supporting movements in contexts of emergency and repression. We also continued our work of collective structuring.

Strategic Analysis of Violence Against Women in France

In November, we organized a strategic reflection meeting in Paris as part of the SEE Change project. This meeting, which brought together fifteen participants from ten women's rights organizations across France, aimed to analyze the national context of violence against women and identify the common challenges faced by frontline organizations. The discussions highlighted several difficulties, including institutional barriers, a lack of resources, and the need to strengthen alliances within the feminist movement. Through plenary discussions and working groups, the participants defined common priorities, including the development of sustainable alliances between organizations, the strengthening of collective advocacy efforts, and more effective participation in the development of public policies at the national level.



01 Supporting our partners' feminist advocacy

The first advocacy work that we carry out, as a fund, focuses on the issues faced by the organizations and activists we support. At the very least, we act as a relay for their voices. Whenever possible, we also support them in accessing spaces of dialogue, both with our donors and within multilateral and institutional arenas.

Feminists in Action

For several years, the *Féministes en Action* project, funded by the French Development Agency and implemented through a consortium, has constituted a major advocacy lever for the MedWF. In April, we officially closed the first phase of the project. On this occasion, we co-organized an advocacy event in Paris bringing together activists supported by the project, French policymakers, foundations, media, and civil society organizations.

In a context marked by announced reductions in France's Official Development Assistance, this moment made it possible to reaffirm the strategic importance of funding feminist organizations and placing gender equality issues back at the center of the political agenda. The end of this first phase was also marked by a celebratory event bringing together partners, activists, and members of the consortium around inspiring exchanges and a strong collective dynamic, highlighting the concrete impact of the project.

Supporting Francophone feminists

Since 2025, one of our most structuring advocacy tools has been the Francophone Feminist Alliance (AFF). Implemented in consortium with Equipop and the International Federation for Human Rights, and funded by the French Development Agency and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Alliance aims to facilitate advocacy for our francophone feminist partners.

This year, we supported delegations from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, France, and Lebanon in participating in several multilateral spaces.

- **In March**, for example, we accompanied seventeen Francophone feminist activists to New York for the 69th CSW (Commission on the Status of Women). It was also on this occasion that the AFF was officially launched.
- **In June**, a delegation of eight activists attended the Gender session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Two activists were able to share in front of governments in plenary session, raising awareness about the fight against gender-based violence and the importance of including feminist civil society in multilateral forums.
- **In the summer**, five activists traveled to Seville for the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development. This provided an opportunity to advocate for greater inclusion of civil society in these financial spaces, to bring feminist demands to the table, and to call for the application of feminist funding principles.

- **In September**, we published an opinion piece in the newspaper *L'Humanité* entitled "80 Years of the UN: For a Feminist, Inclusive, and Ambitious Multilateralism."
- During the 4th Conference on Feminist Diplomacy in Paris **in October**, four activists were able to attend the main event as well as the parallel events organized by French civil society: lunch with parliamentarians at the Senate, a day of meetings and roundtables, and an evening of discussions. We also hosted a breakfast meeting between donors and activists at our offices. Several bilateral meetings were also organized, notably with Aude Maïo-Coliche, Ambassador for Equality at the European Diplomatic Service, and with MEP Chloé Ridet—with whom we filmed a series of videos.
- **At the end of 2025**, we also organized three trips to Brussels with activists. They were able to participate in a roundtable co-organized with UN Women in Brussels and exchange ideas with permanent representations from several European countries, such as Germany, Spain, Greece, Croatia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Ireland, Lithuania, and Slovenia, as well as with representatives of the European Commission and the European External Action Service.
- **In November**, we participated remotely in the 80th United Nations General Assembly.

03

MOBILIZING INSTITUTIONS AND DONORS: OUR STRATEGIC ADVOCACY

As a women's fund, one of our missions is to conduct advocacy work that is actually twofold: on the one hand, we amplify the voices of the feminist organizations and activists we support and help them access spaces that allow them to make their voices heard. On the other hand, we carry out advocacy work more directly linked to philanthropy and support for the women's movement.



Reflection on philanthropy and the financing of women's rights

As a women's fund, feminist funding is at the heart of our expertise and constitutes a central pillar of our way of working. It is not only about financial resources, but about redistributing power, enabling organizations to define their own priorities and to respond to structural inequalities.

Together with the French Coalition for a Feminist Philanthropy (CPF), co-founded in 2021 with eleven funds, foundations, and philanthropic organizations, **we commissioned the Phare Agency to conduct a study on the place of gender equality in French philanthropy.** Presented at the European Day of Foundations and Donors, in partnership with the French Center for Funds and Foundations, this survey, unveiled to over 120 participants, reveals a still insufficient commitment: 75% of foundations allocate no funding or only a marginal share to this cause, and less than 7% of philanthropic flows target it. For the MedWF, the study is a key tool for convincing more donors to support women's and feminist organizations.

In parallel, we are continuing our advocacy with other NGOs towards public institutions to increase gender-targeted Official Development Assistance (ODA).

We were thus in Madrid for the FFF4 Financing for Feminist Futures meeting, co-organized by the Walking the Talk consortium to defend this principle alongside activists, researchers and political leaders from all countries. This meeting resulted in the development of twelve calls to action that can serve as a basis for strategic and collective advocacy

Strengthening links with our peers

Faced with the funding crisis and the global geopolitical context that is weakening financial support for women, **we are also committed to strengthening our links with other donors,** both in spaces we already frequent and in new ones.

→ As every year, we attended the annual meetings of two funders networks to which we belong: **Ariadne's Annual Reconnect, held in Zagreb, and the EDGE conference in Bogotá in April.**

→ **We also continued our advocacy work through the Knocking on EU's Door project.** This initiative, led by Women's Funds Europe (WFE), aims to convince policymakers involved in European gender equality policy to implement funding mechanisms better suited to small women's organizations. To date, this has enabled them to secure a total of €17 million through the CERV program ("Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values"), 70% of which has been allocated to direct grants for smaller organizations. This year, a further step was taken: the European Commission officially invited WFE to join the steering committee of the third Gender Action Plan (GAP III), marking an unprecedented recognition of feminist funds as political partners rather than recipients. Our participation in the official mid-term review processes of GAP III allows feminist funds to influence GAP IV, which will be launched in 2026. Furthermore, to ensure the systemic sustainability of funding for European feminist movements during the next seven-year budget cycle, WFE has developed and submitted a comprehensive position paper proposing a dedicated budget line for feminism within the EU's multiannual financial framework (2028-2034), amounting to €1 trillion. The groundwork laid during this period by Knocking on EU's Door's advocacy thus positions feminist funds for exponential growth and influence during the next EU budget cycle.

→ **In addition, 2025 provided us with the opportunity to attend the 37th Swiss Foundations Day in Aarau, Switzerland.** The event, which brought together 200 people, was themed "Acting with Creativity and Courage" and sought to explore how foundations can fulfill their public service mission in innovative and committed ways, particularly in the face of current socio-political challenges.

→ **In June, we participated in the Philea Forum on the theme "Power and Equality: A Balancing Act,"** which brought together more than 800 participants from Europe and around the world. This event facilitated rich discussions on crucial issues, with increased participation from feminist funds.

→ **In October, we were invited to the 23rd meeting of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) GENDERNET.** Its members are the gender equality advisors within development agencies and foreign ministries of the 33 DAC member countries. These open sessions provide a peer-learning space for development professionals from different institutions and countries to share their experiences and innovative approaches to gender equality in development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

→ **At the beginning of 2025, we also took on the coordination of the MENA Philanthropic Initiative for the Middle East-North Africa region, launched by the Global Fund for Women,** with support from the Ford Foundation and the Open Society Foundations. The MENA Philanthropic Initiative brings together a dozen donors from the Middle East-North Africa region committed to collaborating to provide more and better support to women's organizations in the region. The first step was to re-engage with the foundations that had participated in the January 2023 meeting in Rabat, Morocco, to remobilize the group. Those contacted were pleased to see this initiative revived, particularly given the difficult circumstances the region is currently facing and the trends in funding. All affirmed their willingness to get involved, but with one caveat: their limited availability. Several meetings were organized to identify the most urgent actions to take. We determined that the priority was to conduct research, studies, and surveys on two main areas: firstly, the challenges faced by the women's movement and its achievements despite the context, in order to build a strong case for increased funding for feminist organizations; and secondly, the current donor landscape in the region, to understand who is funding what, who is withdrawing, and to identify alternative sources of funding. As coordinator of the initiative, the MedWF was therefore responsible for hiring the consultants and supporting their work.





Levers to amplify our impact

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AMPLIFYING OUR VOICES

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A STRONG ORGANIZATION TO FACE CHALLENGES

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01

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY

01

Diversifying our resources

While we are not (yet) directly experiencing the drastic cuts in funding dedicated to gender equality worldwide, diversifying our resources is more crucial than ever to cope with the shifts in direction (or even the disappearance) of some donors or the reduction in Official Development Assistance. Thus, while private foundations – including other feminist funds – still represent most of the support we receive, the share of our public funding continues to grow, and we are fully committed at several levels to mobilizing new resources.

A closer look at individual donors

We place great importance on our individual donors, who support us year-round but also know how to respond to our emergency fundraising appeals, as we did during the summer to support our partners in Gaza.

Many of these donors have been loyal supporters of the MedWF for many years. In 2025, there were 160 of them. To maintain our relationship with them, and to ensure they have the best possible understanding of the initiatives and struggles we support, we regularly organize meetings with them, both online and in person.

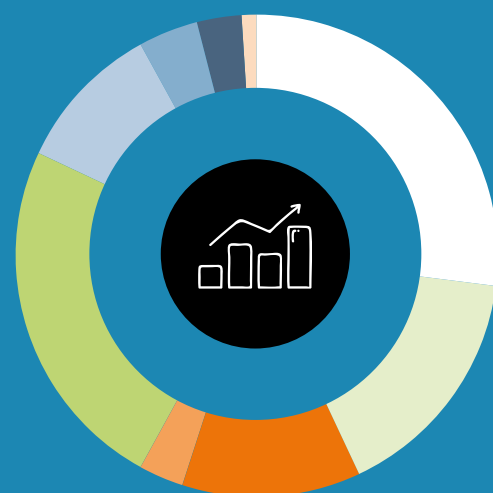
For example, this year, we organized two meetings between partner organizations and the "Friends of the Fund": one in Montpellier and the other in Paris. Furthermore, in May, we also organized an online meeting for our donors, focusing on the reality of feminist movements in Turkey, with Ezgi Khan and Balacan Ayar from the Feminist Fund Initiative, and Nazli Mayuk from the DEMOS organization. In Turkey, women's organizations play a vital role in promoting gender equality, combating gender-based violence, and supporting the rights of LGBTQIA+ people.



02

FOCUS ON OUR 2025 FINANCES:

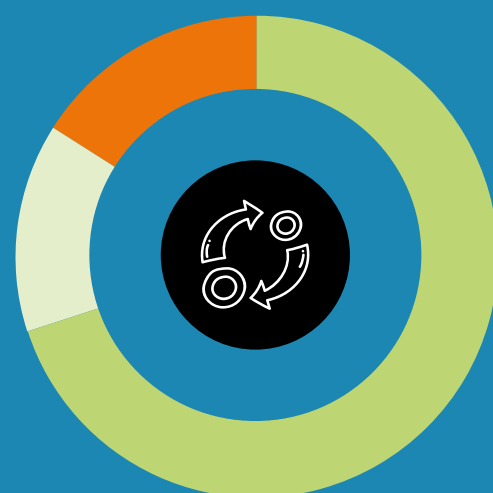
INCOME



The MedWF's funding comes primarily from international actors, such as private foundations and feminist funds. French corporate foundations still represent the majority of locally mobilized resources.

- 27% International private foundations
- 16% Feminist funds
- 12% Multilateral donors
- 3% French private foundations
- 24% French corporate foundations
- 10% Bilateral donor (France)
- 4% Individual donors
- 3% Miscellaneous (carried-forward funds, bank interests, travel grants, etc.)
- 1% In-kind contributions

EXPENDITURES



The MedWF's expenditures are primarily directed towards strengthening the women's movement. A smaller portion is also allocated to advocacy, communications and resource mobilization, as well as the organization's general operations.

- 70% Strengthening the women's movement
- 14% Advocacy, communications and resource mobilization
- 16% General operations

02

AMPLIFYING OUR VOICES

Amplifying our impact

For many years, we have been committed to making our actions and those of the initiatives we support visible through various points of contact with the public: website, social media, etc. For the organizations we support, these channels are essential: not only are they a way to show our support, but they also help to amplify their struggle and raise their voices. Occasionally, it is also through these channels that we can raise emergency funds. In August, an appeal for Gaza, shared by several influencers, raised €35,138 from individual donors.

Raising awareness on the challenges of feminist funding

Moreover, these channels are also important for our advocacy for better funding for the women's movement. They allow us not only to continue reaching an audience of experts but also to seek out an audience less familiar with the subject. Raising awareness among this latter group about the issues surrounding feminist funding is one of the objectives we have set for ourselves in the coming years.

Amplifying voices
**VISIBILITY
OF ACTIONS**
SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATIONS
ADVOCACY
Resource mobilization

€35,138
raised

in August during an appeal for Gaza, which was amplified by several influencers, mobilizing donors on a large scale.

A communications overhaul launched for 2026

While communications is essential, it cannot be done effectively without the right tools and strategies. Therefore, in 2025, we launched an ambitious project to overhaul our communications. With the help of the Grenoble-based communications agency Intrépide, which supports numerous feminist organizations, we are working to rethink our artistic direction, our website, and our overall communications strategy. The results of this work will be revealed in 2026.



03

A STRONG ORGANIZATION TO FACE CHALLENGES

01

A feminist approach to work organization

As feminists, we place great importance internally on exercising leadership that is as aligned as possible with these values. Between 2024 and 2025, collaborative work with the Spanish Calala Fondo de Mujeres led us to reflect deeply on these issues, resulting in the publication this year of a report entitled "Collaboration on Feminist Leadership."

In it, we highlight a number of best practices, including:

Trust & Transparency

The importance of trust and transparency, especially among team members. For us, feminist leadership must encourage self-management, shared and diverse power, and horizontal communication. Everyone working within the organization must be informed about how resources are managed, how they are spent, and the reasons for this spending. At the MedWF, this translates, for example, into clear communication about everyone's compensation.

Continuous Questioning

The importance of questioning, far from being a sign of weakness, is, for us, an empowering practice. At the MedWF, we are committed to maintaining open dialogue on many issues, whether they relate to our values (who we fund, for instance) or to how we organize our work—a topic we address several times a year when we review, with the entire team, the charter that governs our day-to-day operations.

The Importance of Setting Boundaries:

Because it is necessary and exciting, our mission can be exhausting. In this context, it is essential to promote an organizational culture that encourages all team members to identify and communicate their boundaries, but also to be attentive to those of others. Attention to boundaries particularly translates into attention to specific needs and the very legitimate challenges of daily life. In this context, we have, for example, implemented menstrual leave, a practice still very rare in the French workplace.

The Importance of Care:

Care, understood as attention to specific needs and vulnerabilities, has its rightful place in our organizations. But it is sometimes difficult to prioritize it: the pressure to obtain funding, the burden of administrative tasks, and the need to make quick decisions are all constraints that create contradictions between ideals and practice. At the MedWF, care is particularly embodied in our desire to foster a joyful, warm, and inclusive feminism. As much as possible, we try to embody this welcoming atmosphere whenever people come to us, whether as a new team member, as a guest at our meetings or gatherings, or even as an unexpected visitor. We also place great importance on birthdays and, more generally, on celebrating our successes.

In 2025, the importance we place on care was also reflected in the implementation of a cycle for our team. Specifically, this involved setting aside one day a month to explore a number of practices, somewhere between team building and collective care. Within this framework, we practiced yoga, feminist self-defense, improv theater, compassionate communication workshops, and outdoor bodywork.



02

The Women of the MedWF

The team

As a fund dedicated to women's issues, the quality of our work particularly depends on our ability to mobilize a wide range of knowledge: understanding of feminist issues, the Mediterranean region, a nuanced grasp of geopolitical challenges, and a strong familiarity with the world of philanthropy, as well as with how organizations and activist groups work, etc. We must also be able to draw on numerous skills: fluency in several languages, the ability to present complex advocacy cases, and a high level of responsiveness to support organizations and activists in emergencies, etc.

To this end, we can rely on a highly qualified team, which in 2025 was strengthened by two new members: one in charge of administrative work and accounting, and the other in charge of communications and care.

The Board of Directors

In addition to its team, the MedWF relies on its Board of Directors, composed of eleven members.

Our Board members are all seasoned feminists from various regions of the Mediterranean world and representing different generations.

To help Board members and team members get to know each other better and work together as effectively as possible, we laid the groundwork in 2025 for a Board/Team seminar to be held in 2026. The seminar aims to strengthen ties between these different entities, facilitate open and honest conversations, and address global events of the past year with candor.

A Change in Leadership

In 2025, the MedWF underwent a leadership change: Amina Izarouken and Marion Duquesne took on the co-directorship of the Fund. This decision to co-direct, with one person from the southern and one from the northern shores of the Mediterranean, reflects the desire to further align the Fund's values and mission with its practical organization.

Caroline Brac de la Perrière, for her part, stepped down from her position as director after 18 years of dedicated service to the cause of women at the MedWF. We felt it essential to mark this occasion in a way that reflected all she has accomplished. An evening event held on a barge in Paris brought together many people close to the MedWF and our causes. This event was an opportunity to celebrate the richness of her career, the strength of her convictions, and the consistency of her commitment to women's rights.

The Mediterranean Ideas and Action Lab

Now free from her duties as director, Caroline Brac de la Perrière has joined our Board of Directors and, in parallel, has finally been able to lay the foundations for the Mediterranean Ideas and Action Lab (LIAM), a new space for meetings and reflection in the form of "action research," tasked with gathering, conceptualizing, updating, and disseminating our advocacy and training tools in different countries, collecting analytical data on global developments, as well as the best practices that women—and others—have devised to organize and transform the world.

A strategic challenge: organizing resistance

For the MedWF, organizing resistance is crucial and urgent: women's organizations must not only exist in their diversity but must be able to unite despite their differences and even embrace them.

A laboratory fueled by committed expertise

Our Laboratory has been joined by members of the Citoyenneté Possible organization, who bring to this initiative some twenty years of experience in the fight against sexist, racist, and antisemitic discrimination.

Capitalizing on feminist training in collective intelligence

The Laboratory has also launched a project to capitalize on our Feminist Training in Collective Intelligence. In line with our broader research on feminist organizing, this capitalization will highlight the levers of individual change that then enable change at the collective level. The analysis of the results should allow us to develop the most crucial modules for change and prioritize them in their transmission and dissemination.



A WORD

FROM THE FOUNDERS

It is with heavy hearts, but also with immense gratitude, that we see our dear friend Caroline retire from her position as director of the MedWF.

As co-founders of the Mediterranean Women's Fund, we wanted to pay her a heartfelt tribute.

Caroline helped create the MedWF and led it for over 17 years. She invested all her energy, conviction, intelligence, and passion into making it the solid, credible, and remarkable organization we know today and of which we are deeply proud.

Throughout these years, she demonstrated that it was possible to be a feminist, brilliant, innovative, visionary, and extremely funny—sometimes all of this in English as early as 7 a.m.

Through her boldness, rigor, and commitment, she raised the MedWF to a very high level of expertise and know-how. Her in-depth knowledge of the ground, as well as the women's movement and feminist struggles in the region, is unparalleled.

She forged close ties with activists, many of whom she knew personally, always making herself available to the team, partner organizations, and all those who contributed to this collective struggle.

She has also succeeded in sustainably strengthening the financial stability of MedWF, earning the respect, esteem, and trust of our individual donors and funders.

Beyond this monumental work, Caroline is above all a visionary and a thinker. She understood early on the importance of intergenerational transmission, and designed and implemented the Feminist Training in Collective Intelligence to support and empower younger generations of feminists, so that they can develop their confidence, autonomy, and solidarity and fully realize their potential.

Amina and Marion, our new directors, are products of this training—a tangible and invaluable legacy.

She leaves behind a new generation of feminists ready to take up the torch, but also a great void in our hearts and within our team.

What reassures us is that she will remain by our side in another way: she is joining the board of directors and will simultaneously dedicate herself to an exciting new project, which we will undoubtedly discuss again soon.

We will always be infinitely grateful for her guidance, her down-to-earth nature, her strategic and political vision, as well as for everything she has shared and continues to inspire.

Thank you, Caroline; it was an honor to work alongside you and to have you as our director.

**The founding team of the MedWF:
Christine, Fawzia, and Marta.**

A WORD

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The 2025 report highlights the work of the MedWF team and management, who are dedicated to supporting organizations in the Mediterranean region operating in a context of extreme tension and repression due to conflicts, wars, budget cuts, and other challenges.

The MedWF team, given the diversity of its members' geographical origins, has had to make significant psychological and physical sacrifices to continue supporting these organizations, despite the anxiety experienced by some regarding the safety of their families and friends. We therefore wish to commend the unwavering commitment and resilience demonstrated by the team during these difficult times.

We thank them for their strong commitment to the women's and feminist movements and for ensuring the necessary continuity of the MedWF's missions, both in mobilizing resources and in supporting organizations in the region.

A huge thank you and congratulations!

Thank you

The work accomplished in 2025 would not have been possible without the commitment and support of all of you: partners, donors, allies, friends... We are deeply grateful; you sustain us every day.

FROM ALL OF THE MEDWF: THANK YOU



**AGAINST DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING,
LET US STRENGTHEN OUR SOLIDARITY.
LET US FIGHT, SUPPORT, AND RESIST.**


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