

# Happiness... within reach?

The *World Happiness Report*, published by the United Nations last March, measures the success of countries in terms of the happiness of their inhabitants. Drawing from the experience of the Covid crisis, this report shows that in the face of serious emergencies, trust and a community's cooperative social norms not only facilitate rapid mutual aid responses that improve the happiness of its citizens, but also show to each individual that others are ready to perform acts of kindness for them and for the community as a whole. This inspires in turn a desire to be of service and generates the joy of helping others.

The report highlights the positive effects of living in a more generous, trusting and supportive society. Human happiness is all the greater when shared, redistributed and guaranteed by fundamental rights, such as food, housing and civil rights (in other words, equality, freedom, respect and security).

The women and men committed to creating a more harmonious society are convinced that the only way to pull the planet out of the crippling impasse is to develop, practice and teach altruism, benevolence, care, recognition and respect for each other.

But as obvious as this may seem, they feel increasingly alone when reaching out to the far too many

people who are suffering humiliation. Only because they differ from those who have the privilege of falling within mainstream norms (in terms of gender, colour, origin, class, physical or mental characteristics, etc.).

Yet it is precisely the happiness of a society's most vulnerable members

that is the measure of the society's success.

So even if we have a long way to go, we will press on against the wind, strengthening the bonds of love and solidarity that are the source of a happiness that leaves no one out.

## The Mediterranean Women's Fund at the European Parliament!

Earlier this year, at a conference in Brussels organized by the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Maria Noichl, coordinator of the EC Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, the 13 European feminist funds of the Prospera network presented their feminist funding model to an audience of MEPs, members of the European Commission, regional representatives, networks and donors. In their document entitled «*Achieving gender equality through feminist funding: the women's fund model*», they presented their funding principles, illustrated by concrete practices, and concluded with recommendations for public and private donors wishing to support the work of grassroots associations.



# Since the beginning of 2023, we have supported over a hundred associations that are...



... fighting violence against women

## EGYPT



**Banat Offline**, an association founded in Ismailia in 2022, works as a knowledge dissemination and feminist awareness-raising platform. It denounces various forms of discrimination, launches advocacy campaigns and creates solidarity spaces on social media. “**Ta: Tadwein Tahleel Taghyeer**” (integration-analysis-change), is a women’s school aimed at tackling sexual and domestic violence in the private sphere through art.

## FRANCE



**Maison Perséphone** is a social cultural cooperative, created in 2020 in Bessèges. It organizes recovery stays for people in difficulty, host artists with projects with a social aim, permaculture educational kitchen gardens or open-air galleries and stage. Its project, “**L’apaisement du boucan**”, is a place of physical and emotional reconstruction for women victims of violence.

## TUNISIA

Founded in 2011 in Kasserine, the **Tigar** association provides listening and counselling to women victims of violence. It also manages **shelter for women victims of violence**, in collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Women’s Affairs.



... building capacities and self-confidence

## ITALY

Founded in Palermo in 2022, **La Mala Fimmina**’s mission is to create a strong Sicilian feminist identity. It conducts **training and awareness-raising to tackle gender inequalities and economic disparities in southern Italy**. The association has a textile e-commerce business with which it aims to be self-sufficient.

## FRANCE

Founded in 2012 in Grigny, **Rêv’elle toi** is an association aiming to promote the place of women in working-class neighborhoods through community activities (mobilization workshops, cultural outings...). The project “**Rêv’elle toi et trace ta route**”, offers workshops and role models (female doctors, engineers, teachers...) to young girls from working-class neighborhoods.

## MOROCCO

**The Women’s Association for development and cooperation**, founded in 2006 in Zagoura, is dedicated to the economic, social and legal empowerment of women and girls in 10 remote villages in the Zagora region. They set up **literacy and legal empowerment centers, fight violence and run medical campaigns on reproductive health**.

... overcoming barriers ...due to disability

## MOROCCO

**Al Nour** was founded in 2018 in Marrakech, in order to defend the rights of women with physical disabilities to enable them to live and be financially independent, but also on a personal level to feel good and increase their self-esteem. It provides a range of services for women with disabilities, such as special-needs transportation or healthcare benefits. Al Nour is launching a **women’s training and child-care nursery service project** - enabling women to participate in employment opportunities from which they would have been excluded otherwise.

## FRANCE

Founded in 2020 in Paris, **PositiveHandi** is dedicated to supporting disabled women in France. It organizes **self-esteem workshops for people - particularly women - with disabilities**, and works to raise awareness on disability and its visibility and inclusion in society.

... or age

## GREECE




**People Behind** was founded in 2017 in Athens. Its mission is to include senior citizens in society through seniors’ rights, active aging and digital inclusion. In particular, the association runs the “**Outside Sisterhood**” project, aimed at older women, too often forgotten even in projects dedicated to women.



... defending the planet

Run by Palestinian Arab women, it has produced a **special edition for International Women's Day** to amplify Palestinian women voices in the political, social and cultural spheres and contribute positively to changing the status of women.

security and the sovereignty of human and women's rights. 

CROATIA



Founded in 2013 on the island of Brač, **Earth for Us** aims to consolidate communities of committed activists and artists, particularly those in which women play a key role, **in the fields of environmental protection while promoting equality, sustainability and cultural diversity.**



... building peace and justice

LEBANON



**I am an influential woman**, an association founded in 2020 in Bekka, works for the political empowerment of women. The association runs 2 projects in particular: **"If We Gather"** and **"Compassionate Communication"**, which enable women to play an active part in building peace at community level.



... empowering women's voices

LIBYA



Founded in Tripoli in 2015, **Atwar** is a civil rights organization dedicated to helping achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It organizes the **Women's Coalition for Peace and Justice meetings** formed by 17 organizations, which demands women's participation in elections to all political bodies at a rate of 50%, and promotes peaceful conflict resolution to strengthen

PALESTINE

Founded in Nazareth in 2019, **Faraa Maai** is an independent, non-partisan and non-commercial Arab media platform.



To see all the initiatives we support [www.medwomensfund.org](http://www.medwomensfund.org)

## ... And we organized



**In Zagreb, in February, a Strategic Reflection Meeting** bringing together 20 feminist associations from 14 Croatian cities to define their strategies in a context of regression in

women's rights. The meeting began with a feminist protest to counter a protest by men praying to save women from sin.

**In Ait Ourir, in May, a collective intelligence feminist training program** brought together 16 women from 7 towns and members of 11 women's associations in the Haouz

region of Morocco. For the first time, the training was intergenerational, helping to strengthen the women activists' personal skills and highlighting the importance of collective intelligence in consolidating their networks.



**In Beyrouth, in May, a Strategic Reflection Meeting** gathering 19 feminist representatives of 20 Lebanese women's associations from 5 cities to establish their priorities and define their strategies in a context of

unprecedented economic, political and social crisis.

in brief...

Launch of the Coalition for Feminist Philanthropy

Alongside other foundations\*, the Mediterranean Women's Fund is a driving force behind the creation of **the Coalition for Feminist Philanthropy**, with the aim to mobilize more resources in favor of women's rights and gender equality. On June 20 in Annecy, the Coalition was officially presented at the annual meeting of the Centre Français des Fonds et Fondations, with a round table entitled "Promoting feminist philanthropy as a

catalyst for a more egalitarian society", attended by representatives from the French government, the OECD, the Centre Français des Fondations and civil society. In front of over 200 people representing funds and foundations from all over France, it was highlighted that between 2016 and 2019, only 8% of philanthropic flows destined for development worldwide, the equivalent of US\$3.4 billion, targeted gender. Meanwhile, US\$707.2 million was

spent on the anti-gender movement in Europe, including US\$120 million in France, between 2009 and 2018.

\*Fondation CHANEL, Fondation Endométriose, Fondation de France, Fondation des Femmes, Fondation Kering, Fondation Médecins du monde, Focus 2030, Fondation BNP Paribas, Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici, Fonds L'Oréal pour les Femmes.



They must first exist in order to resist

What is the minimum budget for the survival of an association?	TURKEY	ITALY	LIBYA	MONTENEGRO	ALBANIA
GDP per capita / year JUN 2022	10 075 €	32 390 €	4 893 €	9 385 €	6 426 €
 Project coordinator/month	354 €	1 561 €	280 €	532 €	445 €
 Office rent/month	365 €	868 €	200 €	715 €	380 €
 Miscellaneous/month	52 €	190 €	33 €	108 €	84 €
 Minimum survival budget/year	9 252 €	31 428 €	6 156 €	16 260 €	10 908 €



The Mediterranean Women's Fund aims to help improve the status of women and promote gender equality in countries around the Mediterranean by contributing to the strengthening of women's rights associations at the local and regional level.

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5 rue Marceau - 34000 Montpellier - France  
email : lettre.info@medwomensfund.org  
Tél. / Fax. : 00 33 - (0)4 67 67 08 73

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Authors: Caroline Sakina Brac de la Perrière, Amy el Shaaraoui, Lamia Batata, Sophia Selouani, Fawzia Baba Aissa, Noemie Friedli  
Translation: Grace Delobel  
Graphic design: Studio MPBgraph