



Mediterranean Women Ship

**A Comprehensive Guide to Feminist
Financing in the Southern Mediterranean Region**

This guide was written following our participation in the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), driven by our firm belief in the necessity of improving mechanisms for feminist financing in the Euro-Mediterranean region, especially in the Southern Mediterranean region to which we belong. We are confident that our participation in this conference has enhanced the effectiveness of our efforts towards achieving this goal.

This guide was prepared by the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development - Egypt, with contributions from a group of women's rights activists.

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This guide is an open work that is subject to updates every six months. If you are aware of a funding source or have any suggestions you would like to add, please contact us via the following email: info@myfmed.org

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Over the past five years, I have been actively involved with various organizations focused on women's rights and gender equality, serving as a gender advisor, and contributing to numerous international projects, research papers, and reports (both published and unpublished) in the field of women's rights in the Middle East and North Africa region. Furthermore, within my feminist activism, I have led several projects and workshops on gender issues. I have volunteered for over four thousand hours in the areas of civic education and women's rights advocacy.

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He is a researcher specializing in European and International experiences in youth strategies and policies. He has 5 years of experience in establishing and managing youth movements and organizations. He worked for a year to promote Arab-European cooperation through his responsibility in coordinating the Arab-European partnership between the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe and he dedicates his efforts to creating more opportunities for young people who have less access to opportunities.

Over the past five years, Aroog has contributed to helping young people obtain training and mobility opportunities outside borders, and he has concluded more than 100 partnerships in the field of youth work with youth organizations and national and international agencies in more than 23 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Youssef has spent more than 10,000 hours volunteering with governmental and international organizations in Egypt, Russia, Spain, Hungary, Estonia, and the United Kingdom.

Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF:

It is a central non-profit organization registered with the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity under No. 6563/2018, 982/2021, and working to promote cultural and youth cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

MYF, the first youth – women led organization oriented to Mediterranean countries, that has been established in the Arab Republic of Egypt in 2018. It is led by youth/women and aims to serve youth, by involving them in social life, especially youth and women with fewer opportunities to promote their participation in building youth/women-friendly societies.

In addition, MYF is the first Egyptian foundation to win King Hamad Award for Youth Empowerment to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals, Youth Empowerment Category for 2020. It has also been awarded the United Nations and BMW Prize for Innovation and Intercultural Dialogue (Intercultural Innovation Hub - IIH) 2021.

Moreover, it has been accredited as a permanent observer member, at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2022 and the Foundation has also been granted special advisory membership in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 2023.



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Statement from the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF:

The Mediterranean Youth Foundation places special emphasis on enhancing feminist work in the Euro-Mediterranean region, especially in the southern countries, by stimulating feminist activism and knowledge that contributes positively to improving the working environment and spaces for advocacy movements and awareness of feminist and gender issues.

Our region faces several challenges, including gender-based violence, various forms of harassment, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and other forms of structural violence. Additionally, there is political, economic, and social marginalization of girls and women, especially in the Southern Mediterranean region. The financial aspect is also one of the most significant challenges facing the feminist movement, evolving due to social and economic changes, impacting the movement's dynamics and expansion.

To address these challenges, supporting the feminist movement and facilitating financing in a more inclusive manner is necessary, considering local priorities, not just donor priorities. For this purpose, this guide is a collaborative effort from a feminist perspective, aiming to highlight the most important challenges and risks facing feminist work, as well as innovative ways of feminist financing, supported by practical examples, to ensure the sustainability of feminist work.

This guide serves as a reference and source for governments and organizations seeking to understand the challenges facing the sector in the region. It also serves as an open gateway for activists and organizations involved in women's issues to identify available funding sources. This guide

emphasizes the importance of supporting and strengthening the financial structure of organizations with common goals, not only in the Southern Mediterranean region but also across the Euro-Mediterranean region and beyond, especially feminist-oriented organizations, initiatives, and working groups.

Statement from the Women's Studies Centre – University of Lodz:

The Women's Studies Centre at the University of Lodz is a vital hub for scholars, researchers, activists, and practitioners dedicated to studying and advocating for gender studies. Our mission is to deepen the understanding of gender equality dynamics and promote social justice through scholarly excellence. We support inclusivity and diversity through our research, educational programs, and community involvement.



This guide serves as an essential reference for both individuals and organizations looking to understand and address challenges in the abovementioned fields. It is a valuable tool for activists and organizations focused on women's issues, helping them find available funding sources.

The financial limitations faced by the feminist movements worldwide, caused by shifting social and economic conditions, make it harder to achieve sustainable progress. Funding for feminist initiatives is crucial for ensuring that local priorities are met. This guide produced by the Mediterranean Youth Foundation is a resource, providing innovative strategies for feminist financing and practical examples to promote the sustainability of feminist endeavours.

This guide presents carefully selected resources and evidence-based strategies to improve feminist actions' impact and their independence. It showcases our strong commitment and dedication to creating actionable knowledge that can lead to transformative change. We hope that through these efforts, we can help build a fairer world where women's contributions and potential are fully recognized and realized.

Disclaimer:

We would like to emphasize that the examples provided in this guide are not intended for profit and do not constitute promotion for any organization or working group. Our main goal is to provide valuable practical information without bias or promotion. We strive to ensure the objectivity and inclusivity of the content we provide, and we value transparency and credibility in presenting information.

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Background

Women's and feminist activities in the Southern Mediterranean region still face numerous financial obstacles that significantly affect their ability to initiate, maintain, and sustain efforts. These patriarchal obstacles arise from a combination of factors that restrict full participation of women in economic, social, and political spheres, and in effecting real change in their societies.

The initial barriers are knowledge barriers; these include the process of researching and writing project proposals to obtain grants and accessing donor agencies and financing institutions for project sustainability. Moreover, regulatory obstacles in Southern Mediterranean countries inherently complicate understanding and accessing local, regional, and international funding opportunities, particularly in terms of regulation, distribution, management, and societal context, leading to insufficient knowledge. This includes the absence of support networks and a unified guide on grants and cash feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean that are not widely known.

Therefore, many organizations, initiatives, and feminist working groups suffer from limited access to financing networks and their complex nature. In the absence of support, this not only impedes capital-raising efforts but also affects their ability to maintain operations, continue feminist activities, and sustain them within the Southern Mediterranean region.

On the other hand, the state of feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean region particularly faces cultural and social barriers that hinder women's progress in feminist work, in addition to the growing political and economic instability affecting women in the region. Traditional patriarchal theories about women's roles also represent a significant obstacle to their economic empowerment.

Although it is challenging to provide accurate statistics covering all the countries in the region, multiple studies have indicated that the percentage of women who manage to obtain bank loans, for example, does not exceed 5% in some countries, compared to much higher percentages in Northern Mediterranean and European countries.

The challenge of a lack of awareness and training received by women in the Southern Mediterranean¹ compared to their counterparts in other countries limits their opportunities to develop and sustain their businesses. Additionally, limited access to financing represents one of the most significant challenges facing feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean region. Financial institutions and international grants tend to impose stringent financing conditions and require guarantees that may not be within the reach of many women or beyond their knowledge, thus complicating efforts to finance feminist projects and limiting their growth and sustainability.

When compared to the Northern Mediterranean and Europe, where, for example, there is a cultural and social environment capable of actual empowerment and not just nominally, there are

¹ Countries in the Southern Mediterranean region include Egypt, Libya, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria.

specialized support and training programs available that facilitate women's establishment of businesses and access to necessary funding. For instance, in the European Union, statistics show that about 30% of female entrepreneurs manage to obtain external financing for their projects, reflecting the significant difference in available opportunities compared to the Southern Mediterranean.

Therefore, the Southern Mediterranean region needs to intensify efforts to improve the state of feminist financing; this requires governments, international organizations, donors, and the private sector to adopt effective strategies to enhance awareness, provide appropriate training, and facilitate access to financing, especially for small and newly established institutions. Despite the challenges, the opportunities for significant progress in this field are substantial, and joint cooperation can contribute to achieving economic empowerment for women and their feminist movements in the region.

Thus, this guide presents a comprehensive approach to highlighting what was implemented during the participation in CSW68, highlighting the challenges facing women in the region, and identifying the most important ways and methods that can be relied upon to obtain feminist financing, making this guide a detailed map of feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean region.

Mediterranean Women Ship Project: This project was implemented through the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development – MYF, in cooperation with the Oceans Network and funded by the European Commission through the European Agency, to enhance dialogue on gender issues in the Mediterranean region. Through workshops and a virtual reality awareness campaign, the project focused on raising awareness of the challenges facing women, enhancing youth roles in gender issues, empowering women, combating hate speech, creating safe dialogue spaces, and educating about rights and gender equality. The innovative approach of this project can significantly contribute to gender equality discussions on feminist financing for sustainability in the workshop conducted on March 14 this year in New York City as a side event of the Commission on the Status of Women 68, by presenting effective strategies for engaging communities and leveraging social media for awareness and empowerment.



For more details about this project, please visit [this link](#).



Theoretical Framework

This guide is based on feminist theory and postcolonial feminism regarding feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean region, focusing on the arguments of these theories as follows:

1. **Feminist Theory and Feminist Financing:** Feminist theory provides a crucial foundation for understanding gender roles and their impact on access to financial resources. This theory focuses on the struggle for gender equality, emphasizing the importance of providing equal opportunities in all areas, including access to financing. In the context of feminist financing, feminist theory highlights how existing social and cultural systems based on gender discrimination deprive women of economic and financial opportunities, particularly in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean.
2. **Postcolonial Feminism and Feminist Financing:** Postcolonial feminism introduces another dimension related to the impact of colonialism and cultural dominance on feminist identities and the economic opportunities for women in previously colonized countries. This approach examines how colonial history, and its consequences still shape economic and social structures, and how this affects women's ability to access financing and participate in the economic field, as well as politically and socially in the Southern Mediterranean region.



Therefore, the main arguments of these two theories can be applied as follows:

- **Analysing Gender Structures:** To understand how gender roles and expectations define women's economic and financial opportunities in the Southern Mediterranean.
- **Examining Colonial Impacts:** Exploring how colonial and postcolonial dominance has affected economic and social structures, specifically in relation to feminist financing, through postcolonial feminism.
- **Challenging Stereotypes:** To focus on how traditional patriarchal views of women's and feminist work in the public sphere reduce women's opportunities to access financial resources and obtain material and in-kind resources.
- **Intersectionality:** To understand how factors such as race, class, language, and geographic location intersect with gender to shape unique experiences that affect women's access to financing in the Southern Mediterranean.
- **Resistance and Change:** Focusing on how feminist movements, groups, and civil society organizations in the Southern Mediterranean can use these theoretical frameworks to challenge existing systems and promote change towards greater gender justice in financing.

This theoretical framework aims to provide a scientific and practical basis for writing the guide; to understand the challenges facing feminist work and to improve the situation of feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean, emphasizing the importance of understanding the complex cultural, social, and political contexts that affect this issue.

Methodology Behind the Guide

The methodology of writing this guide starts from a cultural background and strong affiliation with the Southern Mediterranean region, aiming to explore ways to support and enhance feminist movements through innovative and effective financing mechanisms. The guide begins with an overview of the background from which this guide is written, and the theoretical framework that guides feminist financing, highlighting its importance in verifying the challenges and methods of feminist financing in the region.

The first chapter delves into the details of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68), highlighting the decisions and recommendations related to feminist financing and reviewing the criticisms directed at this event and their impact on effective participation.

The second chapter discusses the main challenges facing feminist financing in the region, from economic constraints to political, social, and legal challenges, and explores how these challenges can affect the ability of feminist movements and initiatives to obtain necessary resources.

The third chapter addresses the risks associated with feminist financing, from political instability to changes in financing priorities at the international level, among other social, economic, and natural risks, proposing strategies to mitigate these risks.

In the fourth chapter, we present innovative ways of feminist financing that can support feminist and women's movements in the region, starting from reviewing forms of financing to tools for accessing opportunities, to a diverse list of financing sources for the Southern Mediterranean.

The guide concludes with the final chapter presenting steps for good and effective feminist implementation and recommendations directed at all stakeholders, from policymakers to feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations, and donors, emphasizing ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of feminist financing in the region.

The methodology of writing the guide aims to provide a comprehensive overview of feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean, emphasizing the need for innovative and sustainable solutions that address the unique challenges of the region and support its aspirations towards gender equality.



Chapter One: The 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)

The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) was held from March 11 to 22, 2024, focusing on the theme "Accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through addressing poverty and promoting gender-sensitive financial institutions." This session underscored the critical need for an intersection between economic well-being, gender awareness, and the urgent need to address the disproportionate impact of poverty on women by highlighting the importance of enhancing financial institutions and systems from a gender perspective. The session brought together world leaders, non-profit organizations, civil society organizations, actors from United Nations agencies, and active partners from around the world, making it one of the largest global gatherings focused on the status and empowerment of women and girls.

Key discussions during CSW68 revolved around the urgent need to bridge the existing gender gap in poverty analysis, noting that over 10% of women worldwide live in extreme poverty and are generally poorer than men. The committee discussed the best practices and policies aimed at addressing this gap, with the goal of improving this situation to higher levels and promoting sustainable economic development and the empowerment of women and girls. At the conclusion of this session, the committee issued the agreed-upon actions and recommendations, describing them as a blueprint for improving the lives of women and girls by reducing the time and income poverty and enhancing their leadership capabilities.

Furthermore, the committee affirmed that the poverty faced by women around the world is on the sustainable development agenda, noting that if current trends continue, about 342 million women worldwide will live in extreme poverty by 2030. This level of poverty not only increases the risk of violence against women and girls but also limits their opportunities for education, employment, health care, and financial inclusion. With the increasing conflicts related to climate change and humanitarian crises, where women bear the brunt, and the loss of income, the need for unpaid care and domestic work increases. The committee emphasized that women and girls living in fragile contexts are nearly eight times more likely to live in extreme poverty.

The need for significant financial investments in gender equality is a fundamental pillar for emerging from this situation, with data indicating that an additional \$360 billion annually is required to achieve gender equality and empower women across global goals, focusing on building strong institutions and continuous feminist financing, including the eradication of poverty and hunger. Despite the clarity of investments directed at empowering women, it is still insufficient and continues to pose a risk to their economic, social, and political status, as the amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocated to organizations advocating for women's rights is less than one percent, reflecting the severe deficit faced by feminist and women-focused organizations in receiving funding.

The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) this year was an opportunity for member states, civil society organizations, feminist activists, and experts to discuss and agree on actions aimed at increasing investment in policies and programs that address gender inequalities and enhance women's agency and leadership, considering this session a crucial step in the advocacy agenda to accelerate progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

During the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), a variety of side events were organized to support and expand discussions on gender equality, women's empowerment, and addressing poverty from a gender perspective. These side events, hosted by member states, United Nations entities, and non-governmental organizations, rallied around critical gender equality issues, providing platforms for in-depth discussions, exchanging best practices, and highlighting innovative approaches to enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Some of the most notable side events included; a meeting with the UN Secretary-General and civil society, an annual event managed by the UN Women's Executive Director to provide a platform for civil society to engage with UN leadership on the session's themes, and the Generation Equality side event, where feminist leadership focused on financing and accountability for women's economic justice and poverty eradication, also centred on exploring multi-stakeholder approaches and financial solutions for economic justice and women's rights.

Additionally, the Youth Forum, an annual event led by young men and women supported by UN Women, aimed to engage young participants directly with policymakers to clarify ideas and priorities, particularly regarding accountability methods and recommendations related to the session's themes from a youthful feminist perspective. The side event on financing social protection and care systems to enforce human rights and gender equality and reduce poverty brought together a high-level team to discuss how social protection can be leveraged to enhance gender equality and eradicate poverty in the context of multiple crises. Another side event focused on multi-stakeholder partnerships and practices to advance gender equality, human rights, and democracy, highlighting how these stakeholders address existing alliances to accelerate and ensure gender equality gains.

These side events, along with other events organized by UN member states, highlighted some of the challenges and successes achieved concerning women's status at the local and regional levels, also focusing on work contexts that could hinder or stimulate work for women around the world, with experts capable of understanding these contexts and advocating for improving women's status.

Side Events at CSW68: "Mediterranean Women Ship: Towards More Accessible Feminist Funding for Southern Mediterranean Countries"

The side event at CSW68, titled "Mediterranean Women Ship: Towards Easier Feminist Financing for Southern Mediterranean Countries," aimed to open new horizons for more accessible feminist financing for women in the Southern Mediterranean countries. This workshop was part of a collaborative effort by the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development (MYF), the Women's

Studies Centre at the University of Lodz in Poland, RESET (Redesigning Equality and Scientific Excellence Together), and GEMMA (Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies). This side event was held on March 14, 2024, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM in New York City, USA, and was considered an important step forward in the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment within the region, aligned with the themes of the Commission on the Status of Women for that year.

Objective of the Side Event: The primary goal of this workshop was to create a comprehensive map of the most important grants and funding available to women in the Southern Mediterranean region. Thus, it aims to ensure the continuity and sustainability of their work while simultaneously addressing the financial challenges they face. This guide, published after the workshop, serves as a crucial resource for navigating the complexities of feminist financing.

Target Audience for Our Side Event: This event was specifically designed for young feminist activists, NGOs and civil society organizations, feminist activists and rights advocates of all ages, academics, and any activist interested in gender equality and women's empowerment from Euro-Mediterranean countries.

Workshop/Side Event Program: The workshop program was distinguished as a platform to hear the voices of the women participating in CSW68 and to overcome the negatives encountered during attendance. The workshop was conducted under the direction of Yasmin Alaa El Din, an Egyptian feminist activist/academic and Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development, alongside Ms. Marta Malinowska, a technical coordinator from the Women's Studies Centre Lodz. The schedule for the workshop was as follows:

16:00 – 16:15; Opening session, which introduced in detail the institutions supporting this side event and building partnerships with the participants present.

16:15 – 16:30; Icebreaker activity to deepen acquaintance with the participants and their work within their countries, with significant participation from feminist activists in the Southern Mediterranean.

16:30 – 17:00; Facilitating discussions among participating feminist groups about financing challenges in Southern Mediterranean countries from personal and specialized activist perspectives.

17:15 – 17:30; Coffee break; allowing participants to converse with one another.

17:30 – 17:40; Movement activity to dynamically engage participants.

17:40 – 18:25; This session involved sharing the most innovative methods of feminist financing by the participants, capable of feminist application.

18:45 – 19:00; Finally, the closing session of thanks and appreciation for the participation and interaction of the participants in making this side event a success and expressing their opinions courageously and their capabilities in developing the axes of this guide.

This event was not just a workshop; it was a free and courageous platform for all participants to express their views and the challenges they face, whether at the activist level or in public feminist work. It also highlighted feminist financing initiatives in Southern Mediterranean countries, providing a platform for exchanging experiences, innovative solutions, and coordinated efforts towards empowering women in the region. For all the details of the work agenda, you can access it through [this link](#).



Chapter Two: Challenges of Feminist Financing in the Southern Mediterranean Region

Countries in the Southern Mediterranean face significant financial challenges that are unique to the region yet common among developing economies globally. These challenges significantly and increasingly affect women on economic, social, and political levels. The challenges highlighted during the side event include:

1. **Bureaucracy and Complications Obstructing Feminist Work:** Some countries in the Southern Mediterranean require up to 70 working days to approve projects, a duration that can slightly increase or decrease based on each country's civil labour law. This duration does not align with the timelines of small and short-term grants. Unjustified inquiries about these grants point to a broader issue of bureaucratic barriers that disproportionately affect initiatives, organizations, and feminist groups often led by women and youth. This delay and undue scrutiny reflect a lack of trust and the patriarchal system's control over supporting projects led by these groups, reinforcing systemic inequalities.
2. **Legal Complexities and Obstacles in Establishing or Registering Feminist Civil Society Organizations:** Due to procedural and legal complexities, it is difficult for new associations to emerge and for feminist groups to register in a way that ensures their legal operation on the ground. This sometimes deepens the vulnerability of feminist movements in the Southern Mediterranean or frames these groups' work as profit-oriented organizations far removed from the desired feminist work. A deep feminist analysis of these legal and regulatory barriers reveals many patriarchal obstacles disproportionately affecting feminist and women's groups, organizations, and initiatives. The bureaucracy and complexities associated with establishing civil society organizations exacerbate the vulnerability of feminist movements in this region, intensifying gender inequalities by limiting women's opportunities to contribute to feminist work through organized efforts.
3. **Patriarchal Perception of Feminist Work:** Patriarchal views of feminist work, especially that directed towards young feminists, regard it as less significant and inferior. This patriarchal stance against feminist work leads to the perpetuation of gender and age biases and funding for these groups, initiatives, or organizations, clearly reflecting patriarchal standards that marginalize feminist and women's efforts aimed at social change, particularly those related to traditional gender roles and power structures.
4. **Scarcity of Funding Opportunities for Feminist Work:** Compared to other regions like the Northern Mediterranean or the European Union, the Southern Mediterranean suffers from a scarcity of funding opportunities, highlighting a geographical disparity in resource distribution. This discrepancy can be seen as a form of imperialist-colonialism where the wealth of regions



dictates the flow of resources to potentially unique needs among grassroots organizations in less affluent areas.

5. **Reliance on Voluntary Work:** Many feminist organizations heavily rely on voluntary work, which is unsustainable in the long term. This dependency is partly due to financial constraints, which can lead to burnout among activists and the exploitation of young men and women under the guise of volunteering or unpaid internships, affecting the continuity and effectiveness of feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations.



6. **Lack of Institutional Support:** The limited institutional support for feminist work from both governmental and private sectors not only affects funding but also impacts the legitimacy and public visibility of feminist work, making it difficult to maintain growth and sustainability and to renew resources and opportunities.



7. **Fragmentation within the Feminist Movement:** Differences in priorities, strategies, and sometimes ideologies and work agendas within the feminist movement in the region can lead to fragmentation that affects collective work and resource pooling for achieving common goals. This fragmentation hinders unified action and leads to detrimental and sometimes unethical competitiveness among feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations, weakening their work and focus on fundraising irrespective of the movement and its goals.



8. **Political Context and Instability:**

- **Impact of Political Systems on Funding and Legal Frameworks:** The type and nature of the political system significantly affect the level of support and funding that feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations can receive. For example, authoritarian regimes may limit funding for NGOs and civil society initiatives, especially those challenging traditional gender roles or advocating for women's rights, affecting their financial acquisition and sustainability.
- **Political Instability and Its Economic Consequences:** Political instability can lead to economic fluctuations affecting funding and resources available for feminist work. Donors are often hesitant to fund in regions with unstable political and conflict (armed and unarmed) situations, fearing misuse of funds or exposure to political loyalties and polarizations, and the inability to effectively implement projects. Furthermore, instability can redirect public and international funding immediately towards crisis management, marginalizing gender equality and disregarding feminist work during these times.
- **Legislation and Societal Norms Affecting Financial Independence:** In some political contexts, direct laws, regulations, and patriarchal customs impede women's financial and operational independence for feminist and women's work in the public sphere. This includes laws that restrict women's ability to own property, access credit sometimes, or



participate in the economy, as well as regulations that limit financing activities of NGOs working in gender equality.

9. Cultural Attitudes Towards Feminist Work in the Southern Mediterranean Region:

- **Gender Stereotyping:** Cultural norms and social attitudes play a pivotal role in feminist work and financial sustainability. In Southern Mediterranean societies, feminist work is often scrutinized and opposed, impacting the safety of those involved in the field and complicating procedures and implementation on the ground. This cultural resistance also affects the willingness of donors to contribute financially to a particular country or to newly established or youth feminist groups and initiatives.
- **Gender and Economic Role Expectations:** Cultural norms dictate gender roles and economic participation, naturally limiting women's access to financial resources and opportunities for leadership or founding independent groups and feminist initiatives. These rules not only affect the sustainability of feminist work but also women's ability to financially support initiatives and projects.
- **Valuation of Women's Work:** The undervaluation of women's and feminist work in the public sphere, including caregiving, voluntary work, and unpaid labour, affects the financial valuation and support of feminist projects. This undervaluation is rooted in cultural norms that perceive women's work as less valuable, affecting funding and recognition of women's economic contributions to improving their status.



10. Challenges and Bias in International Grants:

- **Personal Networks:** Access to international grants often requires strong personal networks and connections to secure funding or philanthropic support, and occasionally fundraising. Those without such connections may find it challenging to learn about these funding sources and opportunities to submit their applications. This reliance on networks often creates bias against feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations in certain regions and more vulnerable communities, deepening the monopoly of certain groups or organizations on these financial grants.
- **Language Barriers:** Many international grants require applications to be submitted in dominant "colonial" languages, often English or French. This can be a barrier for those who are not fluent speakers and struggle to express effective proposals in these languages due to language barriers. The linguistic and technical gap in grant writing, which often involves persuasion and technical language, can significantly impact the quality and competitiveness of applications from non-native speakers.
- **Terms and Conditions:** The terms and conditions set by international grants can sometimes reflect cultural and political biases of the funding institutions that may not align with the needs or contexts of the targeted local communities. These conditions can range from the types of funded projects to expected outcomes and application



requirements, potentially limiting the types of organizations and projects that receive funding and biasing against those that do not fit predefined criteria.

- **Grant Requirements Favouring Large Institutions:** International funding institutions often prefer large organizations with significant annual budgets, disadvantaging small-scale, newly established, or unofficially registered feminist groups and organizations. This condition excludes these cases, thereby perpetuating dominance by established organizations and sustaining inequalities and inclusivity, as well as building capacities for feminist work at grassroots levels.
- **Complexity of Filling Out Applications:** The complexity of grant applications can be a barrier in itself. This process often requires detailed project proposals, budgets, and evidence of past successes. Small, newly established feminist groups or organizations with limited administrative capacities may find it challenging to compete and manage these applications, often withdrawing early in the process or seeking expensive professional grant writers, which they cannot afford.
- **Complexity of Reporting in International Grants:** The focus on bureaucracy and reporting requirements and the length of required reports after receiving funding can distract from the effectiveness of feminist work. This situation reflects a broader issue of accountability mechanisms that use control tools rather than support means, emphasizing form over substance and underestimating the transformative potential of feminist work on the ground.



11. Patriarchal Biases Suppressing Feminist Movements in the Southern Mediterranean Region:

Feminist movements and activism in the Southern Mediterranean suffer from patriarchal biases against this work, often relegated to merely providing charitable aid to the neediest groups without recognition as a force for social and political change. When this goal is recognized, feminist work in the public sphere is suppressed, and those involved are exposed to personal and security risks.

12. Focus on Profit-Oriented Work: The challenges previously mentioned that hinder feminist work often led to a focus on profit-oriented activities regardless of their implications. This shift highlights further barriers to economic empowerment for women in the Southern Mediterranean region:

- **Reluctance to Establish New Civil Society Organizations and Complexities in Funding Reception:** The procedural complexities for civil society organizations mentioned earlier are more pronounced compared to receiving funds for profit-oriented work. These complexities can be seen as a means of control and limiting the impact of civil society, particularly feminist organizations, leading to the establishment of profit-oriented organizations for easier and quicker receipt of funds and international grants.

- **Limited Access to Credit:** Small and medium enterprises, vital for economic diversification and job creation, often face significant hurdles in obtaining credit under the guise of "risk" and lack of confidence in the capabilities of these women-led companies.
- **Dominance of the Banking Sector:** The financial sectors in many Southern Mediterranean countries rely heavily on banks, with less developed capital markets. This can limit financing options for emerging and modest-sized women-led businesses.
- **Sustainability of Women's Profit-Oriented Work:** Particularly concerning financial aspects, a range of challenges intersect with gender, economics, and societal norms. The sustainability of feminist work is often affected by a mix of systemic, structural, and societal-patriarchal factors, which hinder access to resources and impact. Key factors negatively affecting this sustainability from a feminist perspective include:
 - **Gender Bias in Financing:** Decision-makers may prioritize projects led by men or those closely aligned with patriarchal values. This bias can also be evident in venture capital funding, where women entrepreneurs receive a smaller portion of funds compared to their male counterparts².
 - **Limited Financial Resources:** Women and feminist groups may lack financial resources due to systemic barriers, including lower credit scores, lack of collateral, discriminatory banking practices, and more. These barriers exacerbate marginalization and discrimination against women, especially at grassroots levels.
 - **Economic Inequality:** The gender pay gap and disproportionate representation in lower-paying and unstable jobs limit women's economic power and capacity to invest in emerging feminist projects. Economic disparities also mean that women have less disposable income to support and sustain their initiatives.

In conclusion, we face a multifaceted landscape of challenges confronting feminist work in the Southern Mediterranean region, entwined with bureaucratic, legal, and cultural complexities that directly and indirectly affect women's and feminist groups' effective participation and sustainability. These challenges, ranging from the undervaluation of feminist and youth work, the scarcity of funding opportunities, and patriarchal biases at all levels, underscore the urgent need to reassess existing methods and policies and seek new pathways for support and empowerment.

Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from governments, international organizations, civil society, and private institutions to adopt comprehensive and integrated strategies focused on facilitating access to financing, supporting innovation in feminist work, and enhancing women's leadership capacities. Additionally, changing restrictive legal and cultural frameworks and promoting a culture that recognizes the value and significance of feminist work as a fundamental pillar for achieving sustainable development and social justice is essential. It is also crucial to encourage

² You can access more resources through this link:

<https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/WRCUK41.pdf>

cooperation and coordination among feminist movements and to strengthen local, regional, and international feminist solidarity to address shared challenges, exchange experiences, and resources. Building robust support networks can enhance the organizational and influential capacity of feminist movements, strengthening their voice regionally and internationally.

Finally, the perseverance shown by women and feminist groups in the region in facing these challenges serves as an example of resistance and social change. With appropriate support and an enabling environment, these efforts can lead to significant progress in addressing current challenges and opening new prospects for feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean region and beyond.



Chapter Three: Risks Impacting Feminist Financing

When analysing the risks associated with feminist financing, especially in the political, economic, and social contexts of the Southern Mediterranean region, it's crucial to consider a multifaceted approach that includes potential challenges, risks, and impacts on this financing. These broad-scale risks significantly affect the effectiveness of accessing financial resources, enjoying them, and sustaining feminist work towards achieving gender equality.

Political Risks

Numerous political risks frame feminist financing in terms of its sources, access, implementation, and sustainability on the ground. This set of political risk manifestations is a differentiating factor in the Southern Mediterranean region as follows:

1. Regulatory and Political Constraints pose significant barriers to feminist movements and initiatives in many political environments, especially under authoritarian regimes or conservative governments. These governments may view feminist work as a challenge to the existing authority or a violation of inherited cultural and social norms, leading to strict restrictions on the funding and operation of NGOs and feminist initiatives.

These constraints can take various forms, including:

- **Strict Regulatory Laws:** Imposing laws that restrict the activities of NGOs and require government approvals to receive foreign funding, complicating the fundraising process and limiting these organizations' independence.
 - **Security Crackdowns:** Using national security laws to justify intense scrutiny and monitoring of feminist organizations and initiatives, restricting their activities, and sometimes leading to forced closure.
 - **Media Campaigns and Defamation:** Damaging the reputation of feminist movements through media, affecting their ability to gather funding and support from local and international communities.
 - **Legal Penalties:** Accusing activists and founders of organizations of violating laws, subjecting them to legal prosecution, imprisonment, or even violence.
- 2. Funding Priorities and the Impact of Political Leadership Changes on Accessibility;** represents a significant challenge for feminist organizations and gender equality initiatives. Shifts in political administrations can bring with them a reassessment of national priorities, including the ways and



areas of international and regional funding distribution. These changes may divert attention and financial resources away from women's issues and gender equality toward agendas considered more important or relevant by the new leadership.

This situation could further marginalize women and deepen discrimination against them, particularly in societies already suffering from entrenched gender inequality. When funds are diverted from programs supporting women's empowerment and the fight for gender equality, it can hinder efforts to make progress in these areas and reinforce the status quo where women are excluded from full participation in economic, political, and social life.

3. **Legal Risks Associated with Receiving Foreign Funding** in Southern Mediterranean countries are among the major challenges facing feminist organizations and initiatives advocating for women's rights and gender equality. Legislation in some of these countries, which labels organizations receiving foreign financial support as "foreign agents" or "foreign," places these organizations under intense governmental scrutiny, increasing legal scrutiny and imposing significant challenges that could lead to closure or financial freezing.

These laws not only restrict freedom in feminist and civic work but also directly affect the ability to fundraise and receive necessary international support to operate programs and projects. Organizations classified under this definition may face difficulties in daily operations and executing planned activities due to restrictions on funding and financial transfers, as well as legal and security risks that may affect their workers and beneficiaries.

4. **Political Instability** can have a devastating impact on feminist financing, hindering efforts to empower women and feminist groups in many communities, especially in regions experiencing ongoing political fluctuations or armed conflicts. This type of instability affects not only the economic and social infrastructure but also undermines efforts to promote gender equality and the economic empowerment of women.

In contexts experiencing political instability, feminist issues are often overlooked or given low priority on the political and economic agenda. Governments and international organizations, which could be major sources of funding, might redirect resources towards immediate crisis responses, such as military conflicts, political stabilization, or disaster relief, rather than long-term development programs that include funding for feminist projects.

Furthermore, political instability can lead to the disruption of basic services and the destruction of economic infrastructure, making it more difficult to implement feminist projects and reach needy communities. Donors may also hesitate to risk capital in unstable areas, leading to a scarcity of funding opportunities for feminist initiatives.

Additionally, instability can hinder women's ability to participate in economic and social activities, including those related to feminist work. Conflicts and tensions may restrict women's mobility and expose them to security risks, affecting the effectiveness of feminist projects and the ability to gather funding and resources.

Social Risks

Social and cultural risks play a pivotal role in impacting feminist financing in the Southern Mediterranean region, which includes:

1. **Negative Community Reactions** to projects aimed at promoting gender equality are one of the complex challenges faced by activists in feminist work, especially in conservative communities. This hostility can stem from preconceived notions about traditional gender roles and resistance to changes that may be perceived as threats to social and cultural values.

These types of reactions can lead to a range of difficulties, including:

- **Discrimination and Social Isolation:** Beneficiaries and activists may face discrimination and isolation within their communities, making it more challenging for them to exercise their rights and participate in feminist activities.
 - **Violence and Threats:** In some cases, resistance may escalate into physical or psychological violence against activists and participants in feminist projects, threatening their personal safety and hindering their efforts.
 - **Psychological and Emotional Stress:** Exposure to violent and hostile reactions can have a significant impact on the mental and emotional health of beneficiaries and activists, potentially affecting their ability to continue their work.
2. **Conflicts between External Grants and Local Needs and Cultural Perceptions** pose a major challenge in achieving the goals of feminist and developmental projects. This risk arises when funding programs are designed without sufficient awareness of local conditions, cultural, and social circumstances, potentially leading to projects that do not effectively meet the needs of the targeted communities or conflict with their traditions and values.
 - **Ineffectiveness:** Projects that do not align with local needs may fail to achieve desired outcomes, wasting resources and efforts without making a tangible impact.
 - **Hostility Towards Feminist Groups or Initiatives:** Projects perceived as imposing foreign agendas may increase hostility towards the groups or organizations involved, as well as the beneficiaries.
 3. **Sustainability of Feminist Work** heavily dependent on external funding is a central issue requiring strategic thinking and careful planning. While external funding can provide necessary support for launching and implementing these projects, the uncertainty of continued funding poses significant challenges to the sustainability of these initiatives and their long-term impact, with key challenges including:



- **Funding Volatility:** External funding sources may be subject to fluctuations based on donor priorities, economic conditions, or political changes, making feminist projects vulnerable to variations in support.
- **Dependency:** Heavy reliance on external funding can lead to difficulties in developing self-financing mechanisms that ensure the continuation of the initiative after the end of support.
- **Challenges in Local Inclusion:** Initiatives primarily funded from external sources may struggle to integrate within local social structures, affecting their acceptance and sustainable impact.

Economic Risks

Economic risks in the Southern Mediterranean region present significant barriers to feminist financing, negatively impacting the ability of organizations and initiatives to gather resources and effectively implement their programs. Prominent among these risks are:

1. **Inequality:** Economic inequality can adversely affect feminist financing by restricting access to financial resources for women and feminist organizations. It can also limit women's opportunities for economic participation and access to funding for entrepreneurial projects.
2. **Inflation:** High inflation reduces the purchasing power of individuals, initiatives, and organizations, making the cost of feminist projects higher and more difficult to bear. It also leads to increased general expenses such as rent and supplies, putting pressure on budgets designated for programs and activities.
3. **Exchange Rate Instability:** Fluctuations in exchange rates can significantly affect the value of foreign financing when converted to local currency. A deterioration in the value of the local currency means that organizations may receive less money than planned, affecting their ability to implement projects.
4. **Local Currency Float Policies:** Floating the local currency may lead to further exchange rate volatility and increase economic uncertainty. This situation can make financial planning for feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations more challenging, especially regarding long-term budgets and anticipated costs.
5. **Restrictions on Foreign Currency Exchange:** Restrictions imposed on the exchange of foreign currency, whether through freezing or mandatory conversion to local currency at an official exchange rate that may be lower than the true market value, represent a significant challenge for feminist organizations. Additionally, imposing a percentage of the value at conversion can lead to a loss of some funding once it enters the local financial system, reducing the purchasing power of the project's allocated budget.
6. **Inability of Funding Sources to Cover Certain Items:** External funding sources may not respond to financing certain project items that do not include specific invoices or those considered part of the

organizational and logistical build-up of the organization, such as office rents, salaries of employees involved in project implementation, or the purchase of technical equipment like projectors or computers. This situation can lead to difficulties in maintaining daily operations of the organization and effectively implementing projects.

International Dynamics, Diseases, and Natural Disasters

The impact of international dynamics, diseases, and natural disasters on feminist financing presents complex challenges for feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations. These events affect not only the availability of financial resources but also the ability of these work groups to implement their programs and achieve their goals.

1. **International Dynamics:** Changes in international policies, such as shifts in foreign aid priorities or diplomatic relations, can lead to significant fluctuations in funding available for feminist initiatives. For example, a new government may decide to redirect financial support towards issues it considers more important, affecting feminist projects.
2. **International Conflicts:** Carry complex impacts on the distribution of international resources, including those allocated for feminist financing. These conditions reveal the strong dynamics of power on the global level and how the political and economic priorities of major or formerly colonial powers can influence the direction of financial resources, which are observed as follows:
 - **Resource Redirection:** In times of conflict, international donors and governments may redirect financial support.
 - **Support Volatility:** International crises can lead to fluctuations in funding commitments and may cause the termination of ongoing support and contracts with feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations, placing these work groups in an unstable financial situation.
 - **Political Priorities:** Decisions on resource distribution often reflect the political and strategic priorities of the donor countries, which may support one issue or conflict at the expense of another.
3. **Diseases and Epidemics:** Health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have direct and indirect impacts on feminist financing. The pandemic has led to the redirection of significant resources towards emergency response and healthcare, which may result in reduced funding for other initiatives, including those related to gender.
4. **Natural Disasters:** Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes can destroy local infrastructure and disrupt services, leading to the diversion of attention and resources away from feminist projects.



Mitigation Strategies

To mitigate the risks affecting feminist financing in various contexts, particularly in the Southern Mediterranean, diverse policies and strategies can be followed to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of support for feminist work amid political, social, economic, international dynamics, and natural disasters:

1. **Strengthen Local, Regional, and International Partnerships:** Build strong relationships with civil society organizations, governments, and international actors to support the feminist agenda and secure multi-lateral funding commitments that lessen the impact of local political constraints.
2. **Flexibility in Planning and Implementation:** Design programs that are adaptable to changing political circumstances while maintaining the fundamental goals of feminist work.
3. **Advocacy for Legal Reform:** Work towards changing restrictive laws and regulations that impede feminist work through advocacy campaigns and political lobbying, in collaboration with international, regional, and local partners.
4. **Establish Emergency Funds:** Set up financial emergency funds to ensure the continuity of feminist projects in case of shifts in political or economic priorities.
5. **Diversify Funding Sources:** Seek funding from multiple sources, including private support, small grants, and crowdfunding, to reduce reliance on specific support that may be impacted by political changes.
6. **Legal Training and Capacity Building:** Provide feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations with legal knowledge and support to navigate complex regulatory environments and effectively handle legal challenges.
7. **Legal Alliances:** Form alliances with legal institutions and lawyers to provide support and legal advice to feminist groups facing legal challenges.
8. **Develop Business Continuity Plans:** Develop strategies to ensure the continuity of feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations even under conditions of political instability, such as remote work and providing alternative and innovative tools for communication and the ongoing feminist work in the public and political sphere.
9. **Emphasize Independence:** Maintain the independence of feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations from changing government and international policies by building feminist alliances capable of collective and unified action.
10. **Promote Economic Empowerment Programs for Women and Advocate for Policies that Reduce Inequality:** This can help increase access to financing and achieve economic equality.



11. **Maintain Financial Planning Flexibility and Use Economic Consultations to Anticipate Changes in Currency Policies:** This can help organizations adapt to these challenges.
12. **Organizations can employ financial strategies to hedge against inflation, such as diversifying investments and proactive financial planning to cover increasing costs.**
13. **Relying on strategies to manage currency risks, such as currency forward contracts or maintaining accounts in multiple currencies, can help mitigate these risks.**
14. **Building resilience:** Strengthening the capacity of feminist organizations to withstand disasters through training, developing emergency response plans, and establishing local and international support networks.
15. **Participation in international forums:** Actively engaging in international forums and assemblies to ensure that the issues of women in the South Mediterranean remain an integral part of the global agenda, even during times of crisis.
16. **Advocating for stable funding:** Engaging in advocacy efforts to emphasize the importance of stable and consistent financing for feminist projects in the region, especially during periods of economic downturn and health crises.

By implementing these policies and adaptive and mitigative strategies, feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations can improve their ability to navigate a challenging environment, ensuring the continuity of their funding and the effectiveness of their activities towards achieving gender equality.

In conclusion of this chapter, it is evident that the risks facing feminist financing in the South Mediterranean region are multi-dimensional and require diverse and flexible approaches to overcome them. Political, economic, legal, social risks, in addition to the impact of international dynamics and disasters, pose significant obstacles that can hinder efforts to achieve gender equality and empower women. To face these challenges, feminist organizations and initiatives need to adopt integrated strategies that include strengthening local, regional, and international partnerships, diversifying funding sources, building resilience to disasters, and advocating for legal and political reforms. Investing in local capacity building and enhancing community participation are also fundamental elements to ensure the sustainability of financing and long-term impact of feminist initiatives. It is also essential that feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations remain vigilant and flexible, capable of adapting to rapid changes in a diverse context, while maintaining their commitment to promoting women's rights and gender equality. Through the implementation of appropriate mitigative policies and adaptive strategies, feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations can not only survive difficult times but also thrive and achieve sustainable change in the South Mediterranean region. Ultimately, the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the South Mediterranean requires a long-term commitment and ongoing efforts to overcome risks and challenges.

Chapter Four: Key Innovative Approaches to Feminist Financing in the South Mediterranean Region

This chapter focuses on strategies for accessing feminist financing in the South Mediterranean region, including key tools and examples that serve as benchmarks for significant financings in the area. This approach aims to support justice and gender equality and empower women by reshaping feminist work to provide better support in the region, which is unique culturally, economically, and politically. This chapter delves into the precision of strategies shaping feminist financing in the region, initially divided into the following forms:

Firstly: The Process of Feminist Financing This type of feminist financing is a participatory process involving the values, ideas, and local experiences of women's and feminist groups. This approach deepens the importance of sensitivity to the scope in the South Mediterranean region, acknowledging social and cultural diversity and enhancing the dynamics of the political sphere throughout the region. By involving women's and feminist movements in decision-making and funding priorities, it ensures that funders recognize that the groups, initiatives, and organizations they support are not only relevant but also responsive to local challenges and opportunities in the South Mediterranean. This form of grants and diverse funding for feminist work is characterized by flexible application and submission requirements, allowing groups, initiatives, and organizations to quickly adapt to changing conditions, and the ability to effect social change and improve women's conditions on small, medium, and large scales.

This form of feminist financing involves participatory and inclusive foundations that reflect the diverse needs and contexts of women's and feminist movements in the South Mediterranean region, involving:

- **Context Sensitivity:** A specific understanding of the social, cultural, political, economic dynamics of the region is crucial, along with the ability to reach relevant and responsive feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations, regardless of any discriminatory factors previously outlined in earlier chapters.
- **Participation and Inclusion:** This approach emphasizes involving local women's groups and activists in decision-making processes. It aims to democratize financing by giving a voice to those directly affected by feminist work within a specific geographical scope, thus enhancing the legitimacy and effectiveness of funded projects.
- **Flexibility in Submission and Application:** Often recognizing the unpredictable political risks associated with feminist work, it depends on the nature of applying for and obtaining funding to implement it immediately without any time complications, bureaucracy, or high competition. This, in turn, reduces administrative burdens on entities and allows them to adapt to changing conditions.

Secondly: Flexible Feminist Financing Flexibility in financing is crucial to address the ongoing complexities of the challenges faced by women's and feminist movements in the South Mediterranean region. This approach includes providing unrestricted support and rapid response, allowing feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations the autonomy to allocate resources as they see fit and immediately respond to contextual changes. This flexibility reflects in the operational resources for project implementation costs, designing specific activities or responses to emergencies and particularly political and economic instability, as well as the ability to decide how to use the funds which lie with the activists and project owners to make context-responsive decisions in the design and execution of the project at all stages. This flexibility extends to a long-term commitment, ensuring that feminist movements and activism can plan and execute their strategic activities and projects without the constant pressure of securing short-term funding, for example.

Flexibility is the cornerstone of providing feminist financing and recognizing it as rigid hinders feminist work instead of assisting in efforts for change. The key features include:

- Unrestricted support: Providing this type of grant allows feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations to allocate resources as they see fit from financial, material, operational, and technical resources, and respond to emergencies and unforeseen changes and risks; enabling groups to use the funds in ways that suit their needs.
- Ability to adapt to change: The ability to quickly adapt in terms of funding priorities and approaches to face challenges or opportunities in providing financing for feminist work in the region. This may mean reallocating resources in the face of political disturbances or providing additional support in times of crisis, for example.
- Long-term commitment: Sustainable change requires ongoing support. Feminist financing also means committing to long-term partnerships that allow women's and feminist movements to plan and implement projects and activities without the constant pressure of securing short-term financing, as well as building the capacities of women within these feminist work groups.

Thirdly: Specialized Feminist Financing Specialized feminist financing goes beyond financial aid alone but embodies a commitment to capacity building, enhancing resilience, and feminist solidarity, where this form of feminist financing includes capacity-building efforts such as training and mentoring, programs to enhance organizational skills, and advocacy and lobbying skills for women's and feminist groups. Funders also act as allies using platforms to amplify the voices of women's and feminist advocacy and movements to remove barriers to gender justice and equality. This tailored support fits the financing of feminist movements in the region and enhances needs in a solidary manner rather than imposing certain dictates on the funded women's and feminist groups. This tailored support includes a commitment not just to a funding pool, but also to accompanying and building the capacities of women's and feminist movements through the availability of funding for:

- **Capacity building:** Includes training and mentoring to strengthen organizational and advocacy skills and enhance communication and advocacy skills; to boost the effectiveness and flexibility of feminist work in the region.
- **Advocacy and feminist solidarity:** Funders act as allies, utilizing their programs to amplify the voices of women's and feminist movements and advocate for the removal of barriers to gender equality both locally, regionally, and internationally.
- **Contextual support:** Support is tailored to fit the needs and aspirations of women's and feminist movements, empowering them at all levels.

Fourthly: Sources of Feminist Financing For the sustainability and independence of women's and feminist movements in the region, it mainly relies on diversifying funding sources, which involve a wide range of traditional and non-traditional donors for feminist work in the South Mediterranean region. These partnerships include the private sector, some formal venues such as political parties or some governmental bodies and local leaders, as well as the international and foreign community, for the ability to sustain funding for projects, initiatives, and individual and group feminist contributions. Encouraging feminist work also at the grassroots level, and encouraging a sense of ownership and investment, which leads to more sustainable support, in addition to advocating for a feminist investment lens in some projects and supporting the economic empowerment of women to generate resources for women's and feminist movements while promoting broader social change.

Therefore, feminist financing forms can be reconsidered to provide more effective support in the South Mediterranean region. By exploring participatory approaches, flexibility, tailored support, and diversifying sources; to strive for sustainable social change that ensures women's empowerment and gender justice and equality. Consequently, the second part of this chapter on key innovative approaches to feminist financing can be considered as follows:

1. **Gender Lens Investing (GLI):** An investment strategy that takes gender sensitivity based on factors in financial analysis to promote gender equality and improve financial returns. GLI focuses on investing in primarily profit-driven businesses that enhance diversity and inclusiveness in the workforce, leadership, products, and services that benefit women and girls.
2. **Crowdfunding and social media campaigns:** Leveraging the power of social media and crowdfunding platforms; to allow building feminist work projects, initiatives, and groups that can access a broader audience in terms of numerical and geographical scope, democratizing the financing process. This method can mobilize small contributions from a large number of individuals, making financing more accessible and innovative.
3. **Feminist Solidarity:** This includes financial foundations based on feminist solidarity in the region, with an understanding of the systemic barriers faced by women and feminist activists in the region in particular, this approach often includes providing long-term and unrestricted financing with

complex routine procedures, to build the capacity of the women's and feminist movement and sustain its work.

4. **Specialized Feminist Financing:** These grants are specifically designed as a women's rights fund and for women's initiatives and movements worldwide, to prioritize the needs of women and feminists in marginalized local communities and support grassroots efforts.
5. **Cooperative Feminist Financing:** Provides women with access to credit, savings, and other financial services through microfinance institutions, economically empowering them, and supports women-led businesses. These models often focus on financial inclusion and literacy to achieve sustainable development for gender equality.
6. **Gender Equality Impact Bonds:** Impact bonds are a type of results-based financing where investors fund interventions aimed at improving outcomes for women and girls. Payments to investors are linked to achieving agreed-upon social outcomes such as increasing girls' school enrolment or improving health services for women, among other services provided to women both directly and indirectly.
7. **Bonds and Remittances:** Mobilizing financial resources through bonds or directing remittances towards feminist projects can provide a significant source of funding to support gender equality development projects.
8. **Digital Platforms and Financial Technology for Financial Inclusion:** The use of digital platforms and financial technology provides financial services to the most deprived or vulnerable women in communities and women's organizations, reducing barriers created by these platforms. This includes digital mobile banking services such as wallets, and blockchain technology; to facilitate fundraising, payments, and investment in women-focused projects.
9. **Integrating Entrepreneurship as a Non-Traditional Means of Financing:** Can be a powerful strategy, especially in the context of women's projects, activities, and women's empowerment initiatives. Entrepreneurship is not only a path to economic independence for women but also a mechanism through which broader social and economic financing can be secured, through:
 - **Social Enterprises and Impact-Oriented Companies:** Women entrepreneurs can create social enterprises that address and support women's and feminist issues, including gender inequality in education, achieving environmental sustainability, and other issues. These companies often attract financing from investors, grants, and financial awards focused on social innovation. The revenues generated from these projects can be reinvested in feminist projects, creating sustainability for the funding and impact cycle.
 - **Financing for Start-ups:** Crowdfunding platforms provide a means for women entrepreneurs to raise capital directly from the public. By presenting their business ideas through virtual reality, they can attract small investments from a large number of people. This method not only provides the necessary financing to start their projects but also validates their business ideas through public support to attract more investment.



- **Venture Capital Through a Gender Lens:** There is a growing segment of venture capital specifically focused on supporting start-ups led by women. By prioritizing investment in women-led companies, these investors aim to address the gender gap in financing and support the growth of companies that can contribute to feminist goals, as well as dealing with networks and platforms dedicated to women entrepreneurs which can increase visibility and access to these funds. 
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Businesswomen and men can establish partnerships with existing organizations, NGOs, and companies to fund feminist projects. This collaboration can range from corporate social responsibility (CSR) for projects and initiatives where funding aligns with their values, to joint ventures that combine profit motives with social impact goals. 
- **Support for Feminist Projects from Profitable Sources:** Businesswomen and men can develop products or services where part of the proceeds is allocated to support feminist projects. This model not only generates business revenue but also provides a continuous stream of funding to support feminist projects and initiatives, creating a link between consumer behaviour and social impact. 
- **Incubators, Accelerators, and Competitions:** Participation in incubators, accelerators, and competitions focused on women entrepreneurs can provide financing and valuable resources for developing feminist businesses. These programs often offer financing, mentoring, and training, helping women successfully launch and grow their projects. 

Given the above, we can highlight the feminist tools through which financing opportunities for feminist work can be found not only in the South Mediterranean region but for all countries worldwide, as follows:

- **Search online databases and funding portals:** Websites like [FundsforNGOs](#), [GrantStation](#), and other databases provide the ability to search for funding opportunities and their diverse sources, including those focused on empowering women and achieving gender equality.
- **Check international organization websites:** Many international organizations (such as [UN Women](#), the [Global Fund for Women](#), the [European Commission](#), the [Union for the Mediterranean](#), the [African Union](#), the [Arab League](#)) announce and call for proposals on their websites and through their social media sites.
- **Connect with feminist organizations and groups:** Joining networks or coalitions among women's rights organizations can provide access to shared resources, including funding opportunities.
- **Contact and network with embassies or consulates locally:** Offer small and large grants for local projects through foreign embassies or consulates, focusing on promoting gender equality and supporting women's rights.

- **Explore social media and professional networks:** LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook groups dedicated to non-profit networking are valuable for discovering major sources of feminist funding, uncovering new opportunities, and connecting with potential funders at local, regional, and international levels.

Here are some essential tips and tricks/tools that should be followed when writing proposals for feminist projects to obtain funding grants, requiring a mix of clarity, precision, and a deep understanding of issues that concern women and the communities they serve:

1. Understand the Donor and Their Requirements

- Carefully read the calls for proposals and the donor's guidelines.
- Understand the donor's priorities and goals and try to align your project with those priorities.
- Look at projects that have been previously accepted under the same funding grants to learn from them.

2. Clear Definition of the Problem

- Provide a clear and specific description of the problem your project addresses, and how it is described from a feminist/gender perspective.
- Use data, research, and the latest statistics to illustrate the magnitude, importance, and urgency of the problem.
- Explain what is new or unique about your project, whether it's a fresh approach or a continuation of previous efforts within the feminist movement.

3. Clear and Measurable Objectives

- Set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives.
- Ensure that the project's goals align with the donor's goals, and the themes and priorities of feminist financing.

4. Impact and Sustainability

- Innovatively explain the outputs of the project and what sets it apart from other submitted or previous projects.
- Clarify how your project will make a positive difference in the lives of women and the feminist movement within the defined geographic scope.
- Explain the direct and indirect outcomes of implementing your proposed project in SMART terms.

- Discuss how the project will be sustainable after the funding period ends.

5. Partnerships and Collaboration

- Mention any partnerships with other organizations or supportive institutions or feminist initiatives and groups, and how these partnerships will enhance the strength and reach of the project.

6. Gender-Responsive Budgeting

- Present a detailed budget explaining how the funds will be used effectively, responsibly, and in a gender-responsive manner.
- Ensure that costs are reasonable and justified in the context of the project.
- Ensure that the budget is designed sensitively and responsively to enhance women's leadership and skill development.

7. Risk Identification Strategies and Mitigation Tools

- **Understanding Gender Context:** Conduct a gender analysis of the local context to identify how social norms and gender roles affect the project and its beneficiaries. Also, identify gender gaps and how your project can address or avoid exacerbating them.
- **Identifying and Mitigating Gender Risks:** Consider the specific risks faced by women and girls and include them in the project's comprehensive risk plan flexibly. Develop customized mitigation strategies to deal with gender risks, such as awareness programs about gender-based violence, improving access to resources for women, or evidence-based mitigation strategies.
- **Enhancing Gender Participation and Representation:** Ensure active participation of women in all phases of the project, including planning and implementation. Also, target gender balance in work teams and project leadership to ensure equal representation.
- **Gender Monitoring and Evaluation:** Use gender indicators to measure the project's impact and its success in addressing gender risks. Regularly review and evaluate risk mitigation strategies, adjusting them based on changes in the gender context.

8. Evaluation and Monitoring

- Explain how you will evaluate the success and impact of the project and overcome its risks.
- Clarify the mechanisms you will use to collect, analyse, and document data.

9. Stories and Testimonials

- Use real stories and testimonials to strengthen your argument and demonstrate the need for the project.
- Use practices, activities, or previous projects that prove your skills and expertise in the presented subject.

10. Professional Presentation

- Ensure your proposal is free from grammatical and spelling errors.
- Use clear and straightforward language.
- Have the proposal reviewed by a professional or specialist in the field of the proposal.

11. Readiness to Adapt

- Be prepared to modify or change your project plans based on feedback from donors or changing circumstances.



Subsequently, we can consider the main examples of the various types of feminist funding sources as follows:

1. International and Non-Profit Organizations:

- **Global Fund for Women:** The Global Fund for Women is one of the leading global institutions supporting gender equality. The Fund works to completely eliminate violence against women and to empower women economically and politically and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights. For more information, please [click here](#).
- **Mama Cash:** Mama Cash is the world's oldest international women's fund, established in the Netherlands in 1983. Mama Cash supports women, girls, and people of diverse gender and sexual identities in their struggle for their rights. The organization supports activists who make their voices heard, challenge oppressive or restrictive rules and practices, and strive for fair laws. For more information, please [click here](#).
- **Mediterranean Women's Fund:** This fund was established in January 2008, initiated by women who have been working for decades for women's rights in the Mediterranean region. The fund aims to contribute to improving the status of women and promoting gender equality in all countries around the Mediterranean by supporting the women's movement in the region. For more information, please [click here](#).



2. Development Agencies and International Organizations:

- [UN Women \(such as the Gender Equality Fund\)](#)
- [European Commission \(for example, programs under the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations\)](#)
- [Union for the Mediterranean programs to support gender equality.](#)
- [USAID \(through various programs for gender equality and women's empowerment in the Middle East and North Africa\)](#)
- [GIZ \(through various programs for gender equality and women's empowerment in the Middle East and North Africa\)](#)

The availability and distribution of funding in the Mediterranean region, especially when comparing Southern Mediterranean countries to Northern Mediterranean countries, reveal significant differences in focus, size, and access to resources. The European Union, through initiatives like Horizon Europe, has made concerted efforts to engage Southern Mediterranean countries in research and innovation projects, offering a wide range of funding opportunities aimed at enhancing collaboration across the region. Horizon Europe, for example, is open to participants from almost any

country, including those in the Southern Mediterranean under specific conditions aligned with the broader EU goals of addressing global challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Moreover, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) plays a crucial role in facilitating cooperation and sustainable development throughout the region. It focuses on promoting stability, human development, and integration across the Mediterranean region. This international governmental organization includes EU member states and Mediterranean partner countries to support projects in various sectors, including energy, environment, transport, and social affairs, thus aiming to promote regional integration and economic and social development.

Additionally, programs like PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) further clarify the EU's commitment to addressing regional challenges through research and innovation, with various countries from the Mediterranean region, including those from the south actively participating in collaborative projects.

The Barcelona Process, or the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, highlights the long-term efforts to bridge the gap between the European Union and its Mediterranean partner countries, emphasizing political, economic, and social cooperation. This initiative underscores the European Union's multifaceted approach to enhancing peace, stability, and shared prosperity in the region, recognizing the interdependence and mutual dependencies between Europe and the Mediterranean.

The European Commission offers a wide array of funding and tender opportunities included in programs such as Horizon Europe, the European Social Fund+, and the Cohesion Fund, among others. These programs demonstrate a structured approach to promoting research, innovation, and socio-economic cohesion. They are designed to support a variety of projects and initiatives, including those addressing specific needs and challenges faced by countries in the Southern Mediterranean region.

Despite these efforts, disparities in funding opportunities and access to resources remain a significant challenge, with Southern Mediterranean countries often facing greater obstacles compared to their Northern counterparts or those within the European Union. Initiatives like the Med9 Summit reflect ongoing discussions and efforts to address these disparities, emphasizing the need for comprehensive cooperation and a European response to migration, development, and investment in the Southern neighbourhood, indicating recognition of the need for increased support and investment in the region.

3. Microfinance Institutions and Social Business Investors:

- **Kiva** (provides microloans through local partners)
- **Global Women's Banking** (focuses on providing financial services to women entrepreneurs)

4. Government Funding Sources and Foreign Embassies for Gender Equality Programs:

- Various countries offer grants through their embassies abroad aimed at supporting civil society activities and gender equality projects. These are often found on the embassy's



website under cultural or aid programs, such as the embassies of Sweden, Norway, the United States, and European Union countries.

5. Crowdfunding Platforms:

- Platforms like [Kickstarter](#), [Indiegogo](#), or specialized platforms like Catapult can be used to raise funds for feminist projects and initiatives.

Examples of Feminist Funding Specifically for Southern Mediterranean Countries at the Regional and Local Level:

1. **Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation (EMWF):** Founded as an independent non-profit organization in 2014, EMWF operates as a network of networks, bringing together all stakeholders committed to gender equality in the Mediterranean region. Its goals include contributing to the joint struggle for equal rights for women and men in political, economic, civil, and social life, eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, and encouraging changes in attitudes and behaviours in favour of gender equality. The foundation sponsors projects related to women's empowerment, capacity building for women's associations, combating violence against women, and promoting equal rights. It also organizes traveling exhibitions like "Drawing for Equality" and "Women Breaking Barriers" to challenge gender roles and transform Mediterranean cities. For more details, please [click here](#).
2. **Mediterranean Women's Fund (MWF):** Established in 2008, MWF provides financial support to women's initiatives across the Mediterranean region, aiming to enhance women's movements and build cross-border networks that can elevate women's positions politically, socially, and economically. The main objective of the fund is to nurture projects that address gender equality issues in the region, specifically:
 - Capacity building for women's organizations.
 - Regional women's networks.
 - Awareness activities about violence against women.
 - Leadership by young women.
 - Advocacy and action for women's rights. In 2013, MWF expanded its grant offerings by establishing a training program for women in the Mediterranean region. For more details, please [click here](#).
3. **The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)** is actively enhancing the social and economic roles of women. The UfM Secretariat hosted an international conference titled "Social and Economic Empowerment of Women: Projects for Progress" at its headquarters in Barcelona on March 26-27, 2014. This conference underscores the UfM's collaboration with various partners to promote gender equality and empower women across the Mediterranean region.

Additionally, the UfM Secretariat signs financing agreements to support gender equality-related projects and initiatives. For more details on these projects, please [click here](#).

4. Another noteworthy initiative launched by the UfM is "**WOMED: The Next Generation of Leaders**," targeting women from the Southern Mediterranean aged between 25 and 35. This project aims to enhance their professional and personal skills through an intensive training program focusing on gender equality issues. Moreover, the Mediterranean Women's Support Fund offers grants in seven priority areas:

- Knowledge transfer to young women.
- Capacity building for women's associations.
- Enhancing networks at the regional Mediterranean level.
- Combating violence against women.
- Advocating for sexual and reproductive rights.
- Advocacy and action for equal rights.
- Raising awareness through art and culture.

For more details, please [click here](#).

5. **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** manages the "Women Entrepreneurs from the Mediterranean" project, which includes seven countries from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. This project supports women's entrepreneurship through an integrated approach. The UfM, UNIDO, and ASCAME (Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry) organized a special event on women's entrepreneurship and investment (WEIP), gathering over 70 businesswomen from the Mediterranean to enhance cooperation and create new job opportunities for women. For more details, please [click here](#).
6. **European Investment Bank (EIB):** The European Investment Bank supports gender equality and the economic empowerment of women. The bank issues report that provides an overview of its activities in this field, highlighting key projects and successful case studies. These publications, enriched with stories, videos, and case studies, illustrate how the funding and advice provided by the bank assist countries, regions, and cities. For more details, please [click here](#).
7. **SHE WINS Rapid Response Fund:** In addition to organizations supporting entrepreneurs, the "SHE WINS Rapid Response Fund," managed by Search for Common Ground, provides funding for projects that enhance the role of women in peacebuilding. This fund primarily supports groups led by women or serving women's issues. This global funding initiative focuses on addressing urgent needs in the field of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) across 78 countries. For more details, please [click here](#).

8. **International Development Law Organization (IDLO):** IDLO and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Council of Morocco, organized a high-level gathering of regional women judges. This forum aims to establish and develop a regional platform for women judges. Over 50 women judges from the region will come together to lay the foundation for this platform. The goal is to create a sustainable regional platform called "Towards a Common Platform for Women Judges in the Middle East and North Africa." This platform will focus on reducing gender barriers, including those that hinder women's economic participation in entrepreneurial activities, addressing gender-based violence, and promoting equal family and marital rights. Through facilitating knowledge exchange, skill development, and networking opportunities among women judges, this initiative seeks to empower them as active agents in promoting gender justice in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region. For more details, please [click here](#).
9. Sweden collaborates with **UN Women** and the **International Labour Organization**: The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), a longstanding partner of UN Women, announced a substantial contribution of 70 million Swedish Kronor (approximately 7.64 million USD) to a regional program titled "Promoting Productive Employment and Decent Work for Women in Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine." This program aims to support women in accessing better job opportunities, workplace security, equal access to professional development, social protection for families, and improved prospects for personal development and community integration. For more details, please [click here](#).
10. **Euro-Mediterranean Women's Initiative:** This organization leads efforts to promote equality in education in the South Mediterranean. It brings together local and regional actors, including ministries of education, civil society organizations, and gender equality activists, to explore ways to address educational systems from a gender equality perspective. For more details, please [click here](#).
11. **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ):** The project aims to collaborate with national and regional networks to implement actions to increase women's participation in economic and political life. The main goal is to help empower women and enhance their fundamental rights, ensuring their effective contribution to formulating policies that promote gender equality and inclusion in the Middle East and North Africa (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, and Morocco). For more details, please [click here](#).
12. **Danish International Development Agency:** The Danish International Development Agency has established a project with Middle Eastern and North African countries called the Danish-Arab Partnership Program (DAPP), where the new phase particularly focuses on enhancing gender equality and stimulating women's economic and political participation in Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt. For more details, please [click here](#).
13. **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** The Netherlands prioritizes gender equality and women's rights at the forefront of its foreign policy. Their efforts focus on four pillars: enhancing women's leadership and participation in decision-making; increasing economic empowerment and fostering a better economic climate for women; preventing and eradicating violence

against women and girls; and promoting women's role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The Netherlands has an important fund, the Fifth Sustainable Development Goal Fund, worth 500 million euros for the period 2021-2025, supporting equal rights for women and girls, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Specific instruments within this fund include the Women's Power Fund, the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Fund, and the Partnership Fund for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). For more details, please [click here](#).

List of Key Funding Sources Targeted towards Women and Their Issues in Egypt:

1. Initiatives by UN Women in Egypt: UN Women Egypt has implemented several successful projects and initiatives since then. They are compiled here by thematic area:
 - Gender Discrimination in Education - Expanding Education for Gender Equality [\(2016-2017\)](#)
 - Economic Empowerment - Activating Women's Integration into Value Chains [\(2013-2015\)](#)
 - Support for Rural Productive Groups Led by Women (2014-2016)
 - Creating Safe and Women-Friendly Workplaces in Agricultural Businesses (2015-2018)
 - Ending Violence Against Women - Increasing Women's Access to Justice [\(2015-2016\)](#)
 - Leadership and Political Participation - Encouraging Youth Skills and Civil Participation [\(2015-2016\)](#) For more details, please [click on this link](#)
 - Women's Economic Empowerment in Egypt: This project falls under the Multi-Party Cooperation Program for the period 2021-2024 for Gender Equality in Egypt, supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). It is managed and implemented by UN Women Egypt in partnership with the National Council for Women (NWC), the Ministry of State for International Cooperation, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education, the Ministry of Manpower, and in collaboration with educational institutions, the private sector, and civil society. For more details, please click on [this link](#)
 - UN Women in partnership with the Government of Egypt and the European Union: UN Women is implementing the project "Empowering Women and Economic and Financial Inclusion in the Egyptian Countryside - COVID-19 Response," with a component focusing on supporting ending violence against women and girls to enhance women's access to protection and response services and raise awareness about the root causes and effects of different forms of gender-based violence against women. The activity specifically aims to develop the capacities of local artists from Upper Egypt to use forum theatre to address gender discrimination. For more details, please click on [this link](#)

- L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Program in Egypt: The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science fellowship program in Egypt aims to enhance the participation of Egyptian young women in the field of science. This program seeks to discover and recognize talented young women specialized in life sciences (including biology, biochemistry, biophysics, genetics, organ function science, neuroscience, biotechnology, environment, and animal behaviour science) as well as physical sciences. For more details, please click on [this link](#)
- British Embassy in Cairo: Aimed at combating gender-based violence in Egypt, it provides support for efforts to combat violence against women. The UK Government's Fund (Laha w Maha/For Her, With Her) will be funded through the UK's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), a British government program that implements projects to address violence and instability worldwide. The UK Fund and For Her will be informed by evidence on best practices from the UK's flagship aid program working to prevent violence against women and girls. For more details, please click on [this link](#)
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA): UN Women launched the "Women's Economic Empowerment in Egypt" project, a three-year program funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) aimed at expanding and enhancing the education and vocational training sector building on previous investments and expanding its scope. Target areas: Implementation is open to the governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, and Beni Suef. For more details, please click on [this link](#)
- The National Council for Women, the Central Bank of Egypt, the European Union, the Embassy of the United Kingdom, and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Egypt announced the launch of the "Empowering Women and Financial and Economic Inclusion in the Egyptian Countryside" project. The project was launched on the occasion of International Women's Day, with the aim of highlighting the tremendous efforts made by women and girls in shaping a more equitable future and fully recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives - Egypt: CFLI is a program designed to support small-scale, high-impact projects in developing countries that align with Canada's priority areas for international engagement. The program targets projects primarily conceived and designed by local partners. Projects are selected and approved by the Canadian embassy or relevant high commission. CFLI also works to support positive bilateral relations between Canada and beneficiary countries and their civil societies by deepening connections and supporting local efforts. All projects must align with at least one priority of the following CFLI thematic areas. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be appropriately addressed in each proposal, regardless of the sub-theme and chosen topic. Comprehensive governance, including diversity, human rights, and peaceful pluralism. Women's and youth participation in decision-making and political processes. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

List of key feminist funding sources aimed at Lebanese women and their issues:

1. **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Lebanon - Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls:** This project aims to improve the lives of Lebanese and Syrian women and girls by enhancing the capacity of key national and local governmental institutions and partners implementing the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) to support gender-sensitive policy formulation. The project also integrates gender considerations into the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) to ensure that development and humanitarian efforts consider the experiences, needs, and contributions of women and girls. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. **United Nations Fund for Women and Humanitarian Peace (WPHF):** The United Nations Fund for Women and Humanitarian Peace (WPHF), in collaboration with the United Nations in Lebanon, has announced the launch of six grassroots projects to enhance women's participation in the response and recovery process from the Beirut Port explosion—alongside the official launch of the United Nations Fund for Women and Humanitarian Peace in Lebanon. [WPHF](#) is a flexible and rapid financing tool that supports quality interventions to enhance the capacity of local women worldwide to prevent conflicts and respond to crises and emergencies and seize key peacebuilding opportunities. Supported by the German government, WPHF will provide funding to six local feminist rights organizations in Lebanon. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. **United Nations Development Programme, UN Women, the Government of Canada, and the Lebanese American University:** The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women, in cooperation with the Government of Canada and in partnership with the Arab Institute for Women (AIW) at the Lebanese American University (LAU), have launched the "Women in Leadership" project at the Lebanese American University. Women in Lebanon remain underrepresented in political and public life due to a range of structural barriers and cultural norms that favour male elites and male-dominated family structures. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
4. **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):** Since 2021, the United Nations Population Fund in Lebanon has integrated cash assistance into its gender-based violence management program, either as Emergency Cash Assistance (ECA) for immediate needs, Recurrent Cash Assistance (RCA) (up to 6-12 months), and Cash for Transportation (CfT) as needed. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
5. **European Union (EU):** This project aims to promote full and unconditional equality between men and women in Lebanon by reducing gender-based violence through empowering women and enhancing existing institutional mechanisms working towards gender equality. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

List of Major Funding Sources Targeted towards Moroccan Women and Their Issues:

1. CARE International: CARE International works with national partners to support individuals and families from the most marginalized communities by contributing to achieving equal opportunities. CARE Morocco pays special attention to youth and women from marginalized rural and urban groups where extreme inequality between urban and rural populations remains a persistent problem. CARE Morocco focuses on:
 - Improving the quality of education in Morocco, especially early childhood education.
 - Promoting economic empowerment of women and youth.
 - Encouraging women and girls' civic participation. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. United States Agency for International Development (USAID): In 1996, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) began the Girls' Education Activity (GEA) to assist host country governments, the private sector, and non-governmental entities in formulating, establishing, and implementing national initiatives for girls' education. These initiatives are designed to ensure a significant increase in educational opportunities for girls at the primary education level. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. Oxfam International: Oxfam implements various projects in Morocco addressing gender inequality, although specific project titles may vary depending on the current focus. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
6. High Atlas Foundation: This Moroccan non-profit organization supports education initiatives in rural Morocco, with a focus on girls' education, contributing to long-term gender equality. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
7. King Mohammed VI Foundation for Education: This Moroccan foundation supports educational initiatives across the country. While not exclusively focused on gender equality, girls' education is a major aspect of its work, contributing to bridging the gender gap. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
8. Canada Fund for Local Initiatives - Morocco: The Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) is designed to support small-scale, high-impact projects in developing countries that align with the thematic priorities of the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The program is directed towards projects primarily designed and implemented by local partners. All projects must align with at least one priority of the Canadian CFLI program, including:
 - Peace and security, with a focus on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

- Inclusive economic growth, including women's economic rights, decent jobs, entrepreneurship, investing in the poorest and most vulnerable, and protecting economic gains.
- Gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Human dignity, including health, education, and nutrition.
- Environmental and climate action, focusing on adaptation, mitigation, and water management. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

List of Major Funding Sources Targeted towards Women and Their Issues in Syria:

1. UN Women: UN Women established the Syrian Women's Advisory Board to contribute to peace talks and enhance women's participation in the Syrian political process. They support Syrian women's participation in the Syrian political process. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. Uplifting Syrian Women: A non-profit digital educational and awareness initiative founded in March 2021, aiming to assist Syrian women of all ages by providing free professional services online. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): UNDP's focus in Syria is on gender equality and women's empowerment. They organize training camps and workshops and provide access to the platform, which offers psychosocial support. These outlets enable women and youth to gain new perspectives and shape their own lives. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
4. International Rescue Committee (IRC): The International Rescue Committee (IRC) implements various programs in Syria addressing the needs of women and girls, including livelihoods training, psychosocial support, and gender-based violence response. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
5. Syria Trust for Peace and Development (STPD): The Syria Trust for Peace and Development focuses on economic initiatives, education, and peacebuilding. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
6. UN Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF): The UN Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund launched a call for proposals in Syria to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on women's participation and leadership in humanitarian planning and crisis response, as well as those working to ensure the protection of women and girls, and promoting their safety, security, mental health, and human rights. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

List of Major Funding Sources Targeted towards Women and Their Issues in Palestine:

1. National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security: Palestinian women have largely been excluded from formal efforts to end the Palestinian political divide. Their voices have not been heard, and their concerns have not been included in various reconciliation talks and agreements reached since 2005 to address these challenges. UN Women, in partnership with key national partners, worked to enhance commitments to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda in Palestine. UN Women's programs on Women, Peace, and Security are guided by a series of commitments to women's rights. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women: Prevalent patriarchal systems and unequal gender norms in Palestine contribute to entrenched cultures of gender-based violence and impunity. Additionally, women residents of East Jerusalem face significant barriers in accessing government support services for survivors of violence, while limited resources within non-governmental organizations hinder efforts to ensure women's safety. This issue is exacerbated by long-term challenges, including the long-standing Israeli occupation in addressing this challenge. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. UN Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF): The UN Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund supports local women's organizations in Palestine to prevent conflicts, enhance women's economic resilience, promote their active participation in peacebuilding, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic on the frontlines. For more details, please click on [this link](#). The UN Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund has launched a new funding appeal to support women's civil society and respond to the escalating crisis and humanitarian needs in Palestine. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
4. UN Women and UNFPA: UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) received \$3 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to primarily support women-led organizations and local communities working to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Palestine. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
5. Women for Women International: Women for Women International operates in the West Bank with several local women's organizations, including the Family Defence Association, Sawa - Together for the Present and the Future, the Jerusalem Women's Centre, the Women's Activities Association, and the Ashtar Feminist Centre. These organizations support women facing violence, food insecurity, and unemployment in a long-standing conflict area. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

List of Key Funding Sources Aimed at Women and Their Issues in Tunisia:

1. **U.S. Embassy in Tunisia:** The Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia announced a grant of \$1.5 million USD as a funding opportunity

notice. This funding aims to address vulnerabilities in the Tunisian agricultural sector due to climate change, focusing on economic security and women's empowerment. For more details, please click [here](#).

2. **UN Women:** UN Women has launched a call for proposals for implementing mechanisms to protect the rights of women and girls and to build the capacities of local actors to enhance women's contribution to development and social cohesion in Tunisia. The focus areas include:
 - Implementing mechanisms for protecting the rights of women and girls and preventing violent extremism.
 - Raising awareness and enhancing the capacities of local actors: through training and tools to strengthen women's contributions to social development and cohesion. For more details, please click [here](#).
3. **The British Government:** Gender equality and women's participation in public life and decision-making are crucial for an effective democracy and a sustainable society. The project focuses on "moving towards a transformative gender change in Tunisian society." For more details, please click [here](#).
4. **European Union (EU) Capacity Building Support Program for Women:** This program offers training, resources, and financial support for female entrepreneurs in Tunisia. For more details, please click [here](#).
5. **French Development Agency (AFD):** "Enhancing Women's Leadership in Local Governance" in Tunisia: promoting women's participation in local councils and decision-making processes. The French Development Agency has been a key partner for Tunisia, operating in the country since 1992. This commitment was reinforced in 2016 with the announcement of exceptional support amounting to one billion euros over five years. For more details, please click [here](#).

List of Key Funding Sources Aimed at Women and Their Issues in Jordan:

1. **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF):** The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) collaborates with local civil society organizations and feminist activists in Jordan. Their projects aim to integrate gender approaches into humanitarian planning, enhance women's participation in peacebuilding, and address specific needs during crises. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):** The UNFPA supports gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian programs in Jordan. Their efforts focus on addressing the specific needs of women and girls during crises and enhancing their participation in peacebuilding and recovery. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. **UN Women Oasis Program:** The UN Women Oasis program in Jordan embodies the spirit of gender-responsive humanitarian work. The program has established 22 centres empowering

over 30,000 individuals, predominantly Syrian refugee women and vulnerable Jordanian women. It is funded by the European Union, Madad Fund, and other government partnerships with the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

4. **International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX):** The International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) is a non-profit organization based in Washington that funds projects worldwide. Their website highlights programs that support young Jordanian leaders to become experts in gender issues, teach students how to combat gender stereotypes, and promote inclusion. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
5. **Global Affairs Canada:** Global Affairs Canada, the foreign ministry of the Canadian government, is a major donor to the cause of enhancing gender equality and women's rights in Jordan. In 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an allocation of \$45.3 million to assist local governments in Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries in projects that enhance women's empowerment and inclusive economic development. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
6. **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID):** USAID is a major financial supporter of programs aimed at advancing gender equality in Jordan. USAID has partnered with the Jordanian government and civil society organizations to support the well-being and empowerment of women and girls. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

List of Key Funding Sources Aimed at Women and Their Issues in Libya:

1. **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):** The UNDP supports gender equality and women's empowerment across all areas in Libya. It aims to shift power balances and address the root causes of gender inequality by integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into all its programs and projects. The UNDP works closely with national partners and civil society organizations. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. **Joint Initiative between UNDP and UN Women:** The UNDP and UN Women have collaborated with civil society organizations working to support women and youth, including migrants, in Libya. They have launched a joint initiative to support these organizations. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID):** The "Libyan Women's Economic Empowerment" (LWEE) program supported by USAID provides business management training and financing opportunities for Libyan women entrepreneurs. This program contributes to enhancing women's economic roles and facilitating their greater participation in economic growth and political stability in Libya. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
4. **Embassy of the Netherlands in Libya:** The Embassy of the Netherlands in Libya launched the "Atwar Academy for Women's Leadership" aimed at supporting and empowering Libyan

women to take on leadership roles, fostering strong and resilient female leaders for Libya's future. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

5. **U.S. Embassy in Libya:** The U.S. Embassy in Libya has launched a program to support community projects, each valued up to \$5000 USD. Among the funded projects are those focusing on women's issues, including "community initiatives that meet diverse needs, including women's empowerment." For more details, please click on [this link](#).

List of Key Funding Sources Aimed at Women and Their Issues in Algeria:

1. **U.S. Embassy in Algeria:**

- **MEPI Regional Projects:** The National Democratic Institute manages this regional project, which seeks to enhance the capabilities of youth across the Maghreb to participate more effectively in political parties and the political process.
- **Enhancing Women's Political Participation:** Managed by the National Democratic Institute over two years, this project aims to build the capacities of newly elected women in parliament, increase the political participation and activity of Algerian women, and enhance the ability of Algerian civil society organizations to monitor future elections. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

2. **El Ghaith Association with UN Women:** This association conducted a socio-economic study of women in 24 municipalities in 2015 with support from the UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality. The study aims to support rural Algerian women to escape the cycle of poverty and empower other women in rural and remote communities in Algeria. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

3. **United Nations Development Programme, UN Population Fund, UNICEF, Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, International Labour Organization, UN Industrial Development Organization, and UN Women (UNIFEM):**

- **Joint Program for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Algeria:** Designed in collaboration with various government ministries and civil society organizations, supported by seven UN entities, this program aims to promote gender equality and empower women in Algeria. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

4. **Council of Europe:**

- **Regional Support Program for Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean:** Currently supporting eight civil society organizations through the European Mediterranean Cooperation project to protect women and girls from violence, coordinated by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. The

project focuses on the initiative of the Algerian association "Algerian Women," aimed at enhancing the intervention capabilities of institutional actors and civil society organizations for better assistance to women victims of violence. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

5. **The Borgen Project - Empowering Women in Algeria:** The Borgen Project promotes women's empowerment in Algeria through various initiatives, such as enhancing women's freedom to wear what they want and increasing women's representation in parliament. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

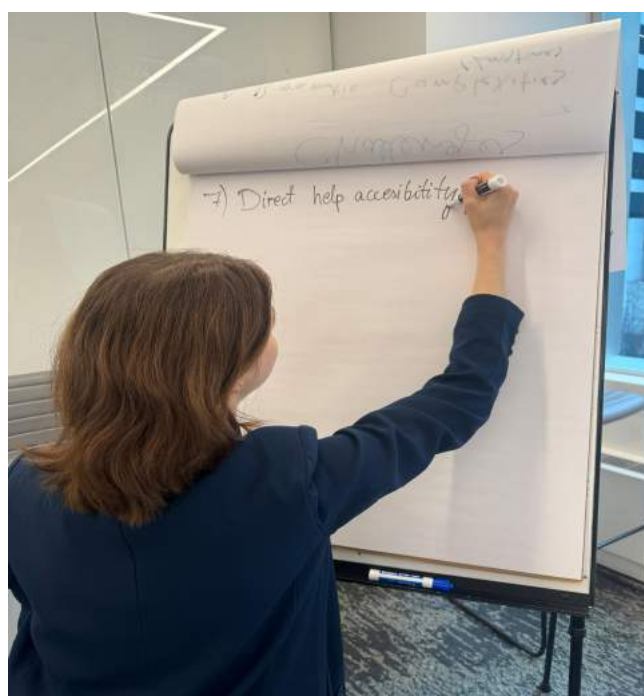


General Examples of Independent Feminist Funding:

1. **Doria Feminist Fund:** This is an innovative funding mechanism aimed at supporting feminist movements and initiatives focused on promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls. Known for its flexibility and quick response to the needs of feminist organizations, this fund provides financial support for projects that address gender challenges across various social and cultural contexts. The Doria Feminist Fund is committed to providing funding in a manner that respects the cultural privacy of the communities it serves, encouraging innovation and initiative in feminist work. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. **Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activity:** This fund provides rapid and flexible financial support to feminist organizations and initiatives facing emergency situations or unique opportunities that require an urgent response. This can include threats of violence, critical political participation opportunities, or the urgent need to protect women's rights in crisis contexts. The fund recognizes the importance of a quick response to ensure the effectiveness of feminist action and seeks to maintain the momentum of feminist movements and their impact in urgent conditions. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. **Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID):** AWID emphasizes the importance of increasing direct support for women's and feminist movements, particularly in the Global South. AWID advocates for funders to break taboos and align investments and grant making with feminist, social justice, and value-driven actions. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
4. **Astraea Foundation:** This foundation funds efforts to achieve social and cultural change as part of legal and political transformations. It highlights the importance of the independence of women's movements and policy changes for women's rights, emphasizing the need for a change fund for cultural work, such as arts activism and strategic communications, to transform oppressive practices. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
5. **Prospera - International Network of Women's Funds:** Focuses on an intersectional approach in funding, recognizing the diverse, multi-layered needs of activists, including those from women, girls, and gender-diverse identities. Prospera has shown a unique ability to provide resources to marginalized activists and organizations in complex contexts. It calls for at least 50% of all funding pledges from the equality generation participants in the forum to be directed straight to an independent fund led by feminist organizations and movements. Contributions aim to provide rapid response, long-term, core, and flexible funding directly to feminist and other supported organizations and movements, guiding donors in channelling resources to these groups. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
6. **Women's Funding Network (WFN):** A community of over 120 women's funds and gender equality funding institutions across 11 countries. WFN aims to create and develop a gender-lens approach to philanthropic work to achieve global gender equality and justice. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

7. **Global Fund for Women:** Known for offering flexible feminist funding to fuel collective action and create real change. It focuses on supporting gender justice organizations, initiatives, and movements worldwide, highlighting the critical gap in funding local women's rights organizations. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
8. **Women's Philanthropy:** Explores feminist funding, providing insights into the types of funding that influence social change. The website offers a platform for activists, funders, and organizations to recognize and engage with feminist funding principles and strategies. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

These organizations and networks are crucial in providing the necessary financial support for feminist groups and initiatives aimed at achieving gender equality and social justice. Each offers unique funding opportunities, from direct grants to strategic partnerships, designed to empower feminist movements and address the systemic barriers they face. This chapter highlights the most significant feminist funding opportunities intended to support a wide range of groups and initiatives, from combating gender-based violence to promoting economic and political empowerment, crisis response, and peace. These resources provide not only the immediate support needed for projects, but also broader, transformative changes aimed at improving the lives of women and girls globally, with a special and exclusive focus on the South Mediterranean region in this guide.



Chapter Five: Feminist Implementation and Recommendations

The final chapter focuses on effectively implementing feminist financing, which requires considering a set of key elements to ensure that allocated funds achieve the desired impact in supporting women, enhancing gender equality, and advancing the feminist movement in the South Mediterranean region. The chapter emphasizes the following key elements for the effective implementation of feminist financing:

1. Understanding the local context: Donors should be familiar with the social, cultural, and economic dynamics of the communities they target. This understanding enables the design of financing programs that align with the specific needs and challenges faced by women in these areas.
2. Participation and inclusivity: Emphasizing the importance of women's participation at all stages of the process, from planning and design to implementation and evaluation. Programs should be participatory and reflect the needs and aspirations of beneficiary women.
3. Capacity-building focus: Providing support not only in the form of financial funding but also through skills development, training, and mentorship. This contributes to enhancing the institutional and individual capacities of feminist organizations and women leaders.
4. Flexibility and responsiveness to change: The ability to adapt to political, social, and economic changes is necessary for program success. Donors should be prepared to adjust goals and methods based on new developments.
5. Financial sustainability: Ensuring project sustainability through thoughtful financing strategies that go beyond initial support. This may include developing independent revenue models and building partnerships with the private sector and governments.
6. Evaluation and monitoring: Establishing effective mechanisms for evaluation and monitoring to measure impact, identify challenges, and opportunities for improvement. This helps ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous learning.
7. Supporting networks and alliances: Encouraging the formation of networks and alliances among feminist organizations to exchange resources and expertise and enhance feminist movements at local, regional, and international levels.
8. Integration of agendas: Ensuring that feminist financing is part of broader development efforts, with a focus on linking gender equality with other goals such as the right to education, health, and economic participation.

9. Addressing violence against women and girls: Allocating resources to address violence against women and girls as an integral part of feminist financing programs, including support for preventive services and response.
10. Focus on the most marginalized women: Ensuring that programs reach the most marginalized women, including women in rural areas, women with disabilities, and women in conflict contexts.
11. Ability to properly utilize flexible funding: Training beneficiary groups and organizations on how to use flexible funding in a way that enables them to respond to changing needs without compromising their core objectives. This includes developing financial plans that incorporate strategies to adapt to new opportunities and challenges.
12. Ensuring intersectionality in implementation: Programs should consider the intersectionality of gender, race, class, gender identity, and other identities to ensure that no group of women is overlooked. This means recognizing the unique challenges faced by diverse women and designing programs to meet these varied needs.

By applying these key elements, feminist financing can make a tangible difference in promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls in the South Mediterranean region and beyond.

To ensure the effectiveness of feminist financing in the South Mediterranean region, a set of key recommendations can be included to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. Here are some of these recommendations:

1. Enhancing local partnerships: Encouraging collaboration between donors and local organizations to ensure alignment between financing programs and the actual needs of communities. This helps build sustainable programs that reflect local contexts and priorities.
2. Focus on capacity-building: Supporting capacity-building programs for feminist organizations to enhance their management, leadership, and strategic planning. This includes training on fundraising, project management, and effective communication.
3. Flexible and responsive funding: Providing flexible funding that enables organizations to adapt to changing challenges and new opportunities. This includes support for operational costs and rapid crisis response in addition to funding long-term projects.
4. Ensuring intersectionality and inclusivity: Designing programs that consider the intersectionality of social, economic, and cultural factors to ensure that no group of women is left behind.
5. Enhancing access to information and resources: Providing information and resources in multiple languages and accessible formats to enable more feminist organizations to benefit from funding opportunities.

6. Supporting projects addressing root causes of discrimination against women: Funding projects that aim to change harmful social systems and practices, such as combating violence against women and promoting sexual and reproductive rights.
7. Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives: Supporting innovative and entrepreneurial projects that contribute to the economic and social empowerment of women, including small and medium-sized businesses run by women.
8. Effective monitoring and evaluation: Implementing strong monitoring and evaluation systems to measure the impact of funding and programs on promoting gender equality and empowering women, with a focus on learning lessons and improving practices.
9. Supporting dialogue and participation: Promoting dialogue between donors, local organizations, and other stakeholders to enhance transparency, participation, and cooperation in the implementation of feminist financing programs.
10. Emphasizing sustainability and long-term impact: Designing financing programs in a way that ensures the sustainability of impact and results in the long term, including developing strategies to achieve financial independence for feminist organizations.

By implementing these recommendations, significant progress can be made towards empowering women and promoting gender equality in the South Mediterranean region.

Checklist for Ensuring Effective Implementation of Feminist Financing in the South Mediterranean Region and Beyond:

Enhancing Intersectional Inclusion:

- Utilize frameworks of international, regional, and local agreements such as Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) as comprehensive approaches, among others.
- Engage diverse groups to ensure broad representation.

Boosting Support for Women's Movements and Feminist Organizations:

- Increase funding for women's rights organizations and feminist movements.
- Establish long-term partnerships with feminist organizations.

Promoting National-Level Participation:

- Facilitate the enhancement of networks like the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network.
- Encourage the exchange of best practices and lessons learned.

Addressing Contextual Challenges and Risks:

- Prioritize gender justice in facing economic crises, security threats, and other political and natural risks.

Implementing Strategies:

- Collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation.
- Encourage dialogue and knowledge exchange.

Financial Strategies:

- Support gender-responsive budgeting in financial planning.
- Seek innovative financing mechanisms.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Develop a framework for monitoring and evaluating the impact of feminist financing.
- Use data and evidence to adjust strategies and approaches.

Capacity Building:

- Provide training and mentorship opportunities for groups, initiatives, and feminist organizations.
- Support the development of leadership skills for women and girls.

Supporting Women's Movements and Feminist Organizations in the South Mediterranean Region:

- Ensure intersectionality in implementation and understanding of the local context.
- Provide the ability to properly utilize flexible funding.

Applying these recommendations systematically and collaboratively can significantly enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of feminist financing in the South Mediterranean region and beyond, contributing to progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment on a wider scale.

Therefore, ensuring the effectiveness of feminist financing in the South Mediterranean region can include a set of fundamental recommendations that contribute to promoting gender equality and empowering women, as follows:

1. **Enhancing Local Partnerships:** Encouraging collaboration between donors and local organizations to ensure alignment between financing programs and the actual needs of communities. This helps build sustainable programs that reflect local contexts and priorities.
2. **Focus on Capacity Building:** Supporting capacity-building programs for groups, initiatives, and feminist organizations to enhance their management, leadership, and strategic planning. This includes training on fundraising, project management, and effective communication.

3. **Flexible and Responsive Funding:** Providing flexible funding that enables organizations to adapt to changing challenges and new opportunities. This includes support for operational costs and rapid crisis response in addition to funding long-term projects.
4. **Ensuring Intersectionality and Inclusivity:** Designing programs that consider the intersectionality of social, economic, and cultural factors to ensure that no group of women is left behind.
5. **Enhancing Access to Information and Resources:** Providing information and resources in multiple languages and accessible formats to enable more feminist organizations to benefit from funding opportunities.
6. **Supporting Projects Addressing Root Causes of Discrimination Against Women:** Funding projects that aim to change harmful social systems and practices, such as combating violence against women, gender mainstreaming, and other feminist issues.
7. **Encouraging Innovation and Entrepreneurial Initiatives:** Supporting innovative and entrepreneurial projects that contribute to the economic and social empowerment of women, including small and medium-sized businesses run by women.
8. **Effective Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementing strong monitoring and evaluation systems to measure the impact of funding and programs on promoting gender equality and empowering women, with a focus on learning lessons and improving practices.
9. **Supporting Dialogue and Participation:** Promoting dialogue between donors, local organizations, and other stakeholders to enhance transparency, participation, and cooperation in the implementation of feminist financing programs.
10. **Emphasizing Sustainability and Long-Term Impact:** Designing financing programs in a way that ensures the sustainability of impact and results in the long term, including developing strategies to achieve financial independence for feminist organizations.

Key Conventions, Strategies, Networks, and Conferences on Feminist Issues in the South Mediterranean:

The South Mediterranean region witnesses many conventions, strategies, initiatives, networks, and feminist projects aimed at promoting women's issues and gender equality. Here are some examples of feminist networks, projects, conferences, conventions, and strategies related to women's issues in the region that are important to know and participate in:

1. Feminist Networks:

- **Agora for Gender Issues Innovation (GIA):** Established in 2018 by the Regional Office of the United Nations in Arab States, Agora serves as an advisory forum and platform

for regular dialogue with youth. Comprising prominent professionals in civil society, young activists, and influential social media personalities, Agora supports youth representatives in developing innovative solutions for gender equality and engaging with a broader spectrum of stakeholders. Members are tasked with providing expertise in youth and gender issues, fostering youth mobilization, and facilitating information dissemination across networks and organizations throughout the region. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

- **Arab Women Network for Research and Development (AWNARD):** A regional organization specializing in research and training on women and development issues in the Arab region. AWNARD aims to enhance women's capacities and achieve gender equality through research and training, credited with success due to its legal status as a regional non-governmental organization. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Feminist Coalition for Democracy - North Africa:** This coalition forms a regional feminist framework across the Middle East and North Africa, adopting a comprehensive feminist strategic vision based on universal human rights standards. It emphasizes feminist organization as the foundation for building societies based on freedom, democracy, actual equality, social justice, and human dignity, opposing all forms of gender discrimination, nationalism, religious or sectarian bigotry, and against the monopolization of knowledge and the exploitation of women's labour. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Mediterranean Women's Foundation (FFM):** Aims to promote women's rights and gender equality in the Mediterranean region, supporting and empowering feminist organizations there. FFM contributes to building peaceful and just multicultural societies. Key programs include:
 - **Project Support:** FFM provides grants for projects implemented by feminist organizations in the Mediterranean region focusing on education, health, employment, and combating violence against women.
 - **Capacity Building:** FFM organizes workshops and training courses to help feminist organizations develop their skills and build their capacities. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Gender and Water Network in the Arab Region:** Promotes the integration of gender in the policies and management of water resources in Arab countries. GWA-ARAB connects professionals and activists in the field of gender and water in Arab countries and facilitates the exchange of information and experiences. GWA-ARAB also advocates for the integration of gender in the policies and management of water resources at regional and international forums. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

- **Arab Women Organization:** Focuses on developing policies and programs to enhance the role of Arab women. The organization contributes to sustainable development in Arab countries and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Arab women, while also empowering women economically and socially. It works to enhance women's participation in all areas of life. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Feminist Coalition for Equality and Citizenship in the Arab World:** Aims to achieve gender equality and empower women in the Arab region by bringing together state leaders, civil society, women's rights organizations, international organizations, UN agencies, charitable bodies, and youth to effect tangible changes in the lives of all women and girls. The coalition focuses on issues such as gender-based violence, economic justice and rights, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health, feminist action for climate justice, and technology and innovation for gender equality. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Mediterranean Women's Business Forum:** Supports and empowers female entrepreneurs in the Mediterranean region, providing networking and collaboration opportunities for businesswomen and contributing to sustainable development and women's participation in the Mediterranean economy. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Women in Focus Network:** Promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Middle East and North Africa, fighting all forms of discrimination against women in the region. It supports and empowers feminist organizations in the Middle East and North Africa, contributing to building just and inclusive societies. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Lawyers Without Borders Network:** Works to enhance the rule of law and human rights for women worldwide. It supports and empowers female lawyers globally, combating all forms of discrimination encountered by women in the field. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Arab Women's Union:** A network comprising Arab women's associations that work to enhance women's rights. The Arab Women's Union is active in several areas, including advocating for gender equality, eliminating discrimination against women, economically, socially, and politically empowering Arab women, enhancing women's participation in decision-making, combating violence against women, and raising awareness about the issues of Arab women. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Mediterranean Women's Network:** Enhances exchange and cooperation among women in the Mediterranean region, a regional network that brings together women

from countries around the Mediterranean Sea. It focuses on exchanging experiences and successful practices in women's issues and works to build bridges of communication and cooperation among Mediterranean women. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

- **Arab Feminist Research and Training Network:** Specializes in feminist research and studies, offering training and workshops on women's issues. It strives to disseminate feminist knowledge and promote critical thinking, contributing to enriching the dialogue on Arab women's issues. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

Feminist Projects:

1. **Women's Empowerment in Rural Morocco:** This national project aims to enhance employment opportunities for women and foster entrepreneurship by supporting them in project management, market access, and financing. It targets women and girls from disadvantaged or vulnerable backgrounds and is part of efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. **Women Leadership Program - Egypt:** Launched in 2018 in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, this program aims to develop the technical and specialized skills of female leaders within the Egyptian government and prepare them for leadership roles in political life and the administrative apparatus of the state. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. **Supporting Women in Agriculture - Tunisia:** This project aims to empower female farmers in remote areas of Tunisia. It creates spaces for public discussion and artistic expression of the dreams they hold and the hardships they endure. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
4. **Combatting Violence Against Women - Lebanon:** Launched in partnership with the National Commission for Lebanese Women and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), this project aims to combat violence against women and girls in Lebanon and prevent its occurrence. It includes data collection on gender-based violence, sexual harassment, and cyber extortion, and aims to enhance the coordinating role of the National Commission for Lebanese Women in combating gender-based violence in Lebanon. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
5. **Women for Change Initiative - Jordan:** This initiative focuses on empowering women and girls in Jordan, enhancing their capacities and skills. It highlights nine women and girls who are making a difference in Jordan. Despite facing numerous challenges, these women and girls have found innovative ways to empower themselves, support their families, and contribute to their communities. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

6. **Girls' Education Program - Algeria:** Part of global efforts to enhance girls' education, recognized as a human right and a priority for global development. Beyond just enrolling girls in schools, the program is concerned with ensuring their education is continuous, safe, and that they complete all stages of education with the skills necessary for employment and life decisions. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
7. **Support for Female Breadwinners - Palestine:** Aims to provide support to women who are the primary earners for their families in Palestine. The project includes economic and social support for these women, enhancing their capabilities and skills for self-sufficiency and independence. In this context, the Women's Affairs Centre in Gaza organizes workshops on "The Reality of Needs of Female Breadwinners in the Gaza Strip," in cooperation with the Islamic Work Organization, to highlight the needs and challenges they face and to find effective solutions to improve their situation. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
8. **Youth and Gender Program - Libya:** Part of the efforts made by the Ministry of Youth in Libya, focusing on three sectors: youth empowerment, youth development, and youth care. The ministry organizes workshops and discussions with national elites and young activists and conducts various activities and events. These efforts aim to affirm the government's support for the youth in Libya and enhance their role in nation-building. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
9. **Women's Safety Initiative - Iraq:** In addition, the "Safety from the Start" initiative was launched in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This initiative aims to prevent, mitigate, and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and protect survivors or those at risk from the onset of emergencies. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
10. **Women's Handicraft Training Program - Egypt:** This program aims to enhance women's skills in handicrafts by offering free training courses across various Egyptian provinces. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
11. **Project Equality:** Aimed at fostering gender equality in Morocco and Tunisia, this project supports both women and men in achieving gender equality. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
12. **Women of Hope Initiative:** An initiative designed to support Egyptian women in economic fields. It provides economic and social support to women, enhancing their abilities and skills for self-reliance and independence. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
13. **Libyan Women's Voice Project:** A non-governmental organization founded to promote and protect women's rights in Libya. Based in Tripoli with branch offices in Zawiya and Misrata, the organization aims to reach these regions to correct misunderstandings and misrepresentations of Islamic teachings that have reduced women's rights in the Middle East. The "Nour" project uses Islamic teachings to combat violence, particularly those

interpretations of the Quran that emphasize equality between women and men. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

14. **Empowerment of Jordanian Women Program:** This program aims to empower Jordanian women across all provinces of the Kingdom to help them start new projects that improve their living and economic conditions. It encourages women to engage in self-employment and rely on self-employment principles. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
15. **Palestinian Women for Peace Initiative:** This initiative aims to enhance the role of women in peace processes. In March 2021, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People organized a virtual event titled "Women, Peace, and Security: Progress and Challenges for Women and Girls in Palestine" during the 65th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
16. **Euro-Mediterranean Feminist Initiative (EFI):** Offers expertise in gender equality and advocates for global women's rights as fundamental rights inseparable from democracy and citizenship building. The initiative calls for political solutions to all conflicts and emphasizes the right of peoples to self-determination. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

Conferences:

1. **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW):** The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. During its annual two-week session, representatives from UN member states, civil society organizations, and UN entities gather at the UN Headquarters in New York to discuss progress and further actions. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are sent to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the parent body of the commission, for follow-up. UN Women supports all aspects of the commission's work and facilitates the participation of civil society representatives. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. **Key Conferences Organized by the Union for the Mediterranean on Gender Equality:**
 - **Mediterranean Women's Conference:** Focuses on gender equality issues in the Mediterranean region, bringing together government representatives, civil society organizations, and experts.
 - **Civil Society Seminar on Gender Equality:** Held to enhance cooperation among civil society organizations in Mediterranean countries to promote gender equality and exchange best practices and experiences.
 - **Women's Leadership and Economic Empowerment Conference:** Reviews the roles of women in leadership and economic development, highlighting challenges and opportunities to enhance women's roles in the economy.

- **Equality in Education and Employment Conference:** Focuses on promoting equal opportunities in education and employment between genders, discussing ways to make progress in these areas. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

3. Conferences and Periodic Events Organized by the African Union:

- **African Summit on Women and Development:** This summit is regularly held to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to gender equality and the role of women in development in Africa. It features participation from African state leaders, representatives from international organizations, and civil society.
- **African Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** This conference serves as an opportunity to discuss ways to enhance gender equality in all aspects of economic, social, and political life in Africa, with participation from government representatives, international organizations, and civil society.
- **African Forum on Youth and Women:** This forum focuses on the role of youth and women in sustainable development and achieving African development goals, providing opportunities for youth and women to participate in policy-making and decision-making processes.
- **African Women's Forum on Peace and Security:** Aims to enhance the role of women in achieving and maintaining peace and security in Africa and seeks to encourage active participation of women in peacebuilding and stabilization processes in the region. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Arab Women and Development Conference:** Organized by the Arab Women Organization, which works to promote the inclusion of women in the political and economic processes, as well as addressing women's issues and gender equality in Arab countries. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Annual Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health:** Brings together representatives from governments, international organizations, civil society, academics, and activists to discuss challenges and opportunities related to sexual and reproductive health at national and international levels, and to establish guidelines and plans to enhance this field and ensure the achievement of the Beijing Platform for Action goals. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Mediterranean Women's Forum:** The forum organizes training sessions to help women gather the best conditions for the development of their businesses in Algeria and Morocco. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Regional Conference on Gender Equality and Development:** Conferences at the level of UN Women and Gender Equality include reviewing progress made in implementing

the goals of previous global conferences and identifying measures to achieve gender equality at the national level. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

- **Women in Science and Technology Conference:** The "Arab Women in Science and Technology Conference" aims to highlight the realities of women working in scientific research in the Arab world and shine a light on the distinguished role of Arab women in various fields of life. The launch of an electronic communication "system" among women in science and technology aims to achieve development, including virtual networks. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Arab Women's Summit:** The "Global Women's Summit 2023" launched in Abu Dhabi, organized by the World Council of Muslim Communities in collaboration with the General Women's Union. The theme of the summit, "The Role of Women Leaders in Building Peace, Social Integration, and Creating Prosperity," was carefully selected to address the major issues facing humanity at this historical moment. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Women and the Law Conference:** Organized in 2018 at Qatar University, it featured about 200 women working in the legal field. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **International Conference on Violence Against Women:** Various conferences and events on this topic are organized, such as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25th each year. Many organizations, like Sara Organization, organize events for this day. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Youth and Gender Equality Conference:** Refers to numerous conferences and events focusing on this topic. One such event is the "Youth Advocacy Guide to Achieving Gender Equality by 2030" issued by UN Women. This guide explains how youth can strategically advocate for and achieve gender equality and empower young women. It highlights ways in which youth can influence decision-making processes at community and national levels to achieve gender equality. The guide is designed for young people of all genders, individuals, groups, networks, and youth-led movements, including organizations focused on youth and other community institutions interested in advocating for gender equality and empowering young women and involving youth in achieving gender equality in the region. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Arab Business Women Conference:** Organizes many forums and conferences focusing on the role of women in the business world. For example, at the Entrepreneurship and Investment Forum, Arab businesswomen called for better opportunities for financing. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
- **Women and Media Conference:** Many conferences on this topic are organized, such as the "Women, Media, and Communication Revolution Challenges" conference held at An-Najah National University. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

Conventions:

1. **CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women):** Recognized as the international human rights treaty for women, CEDAW was ratified on September 3, 1981, and has been signed by over 189 countries. The convention aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, both in public and private life. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:** Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, these documents serve as a visionary agenda for women's empowerment and are considered key frameworks for analysing the status of women globally and assessing the efforts made by countries to empower women. The platform covers 12 critical areas including poverty, education and training, health, violence against women, armed conflict, the economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, the media, the environment, and the girl child. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. **Cairo Declaration for the Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights:** [This declaration](#) emphasizes the importance of empowering women and enhancing their economic, political, and health status, especially after the increased burdens due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
4. **Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence:** An anti-violence agreement formulated by the Council of Europe, opened for signature in May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. The convention aims to prevent violence, protect victims, and end the impunity of perpetrators. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
5. **Optional Protocol to CEDAW:** Known as the "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women," this international treaty was adopted by the UN General Assembly on October 6, 1999. It allows individuals or groups of individuals to submit complaints directly to the CEDAW Committee. The protocol grants the committee the authority to receive individual complaints directly from individuals or on their behalf, with their consent. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
6. **Arab Charter on Women's Rights:** A document aimed at affirming human rights in Arab countries, emphasizing human dignity, freedom, justice, and equality. The charter considers freedom, justice, and equal opportunities as intrinsic standards for any society and discusses necessary political and judicial reforms, including the introduction of a quota system to ensure women's representation in decision-making positions. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
7. **Marrakech Declaration on Enhancing the Role of Women in Society:** Launched under the effective presidency of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem on March 8, 2020, the Marrakech Declaration 2020 aims to eliminate violence against women and girls. It includes

commitments to improve and digitize services for female victims of violence and plans to train 10,000 social workers by 2030. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

8. **Rabat Declaration on Women's Rights:** The declaration stresses the need to enhance women's rights and promote women's access to decision-making positions. It calls for aligning the legal code with international laws and standards, including the 2011 Constitution and the requirements of the new development model, emphasizing the need to intensify efforts to combat stereotypes harming women's image. It advocates for a total and definitive ban on child marriage under 18 years and proposes a reform to precisely determine alimony based on parents' income. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
9. **Tunis Declaration on Gender Equality:** Organized by the Ministry of Women, Family, Childhood, and Elderly Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, UN Women, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, this forum was held in Tunis from April 24-26, 2019, one year before the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
10. **Arab Women's Work Charter:** This initiative aims to enhance the role of women in Arab societies. Established by the Arab Women Organization in 2000, it serves as the sole organizational framework representing the aspirations of Arab women for progress, development, and participation. The principles of the Arab Women's Work Charter include:
 - Striving to build an Arab project inspired by the distinguished roles of Arab women in Arab and Islamic history, keeping pace with development and responding to civilizational achievements in the fields of work and knowledge.
 - Activating the role of Arab women in contributing to the knowledge society and citizenship derived from values, will, and common interests of women in the Arab world. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
11. **Arab Declaration for Combating Violence Against Women:** Launched by the Arab League on December 5, 2022, in Abu Dhabi, UAE, this initiative aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The declaration is a moral commitment to building a society free from all forms of violence against women and girls in the Arab world. It includes a clear and comprehensive definition of violence against women, and a clear statement of the rights that should be enforced to eliminate violence against women in all its forms. For more details, please click on [this link](#).

Strategies:

1. **National Strategy for Empowering Women – Egypt 2030:** This plan has been developed to enhance the role of women in Egyptian society. The strategy focuses on four main pillars: political empowerment, economic empowerment, social empowerment, and protection. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
2. **National Gender Equality Plan – Morocco 2023-2026:** Presented and discussed in Rabat, this plan, named "Morocco of Leadership and Prosperity and Values," was presented during the second meeting of the National Committee for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The Moroccan Prime Minister, Aziz Akhannouch, emphasized the plan's importance in empowering women and promoting gender equality. The plan consists of three strategic pillars: empowerment and leadership, protection and welfare, and rights and values. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
3. **National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women in Lebanon (2019-2029):** Launched by the Minister of State for Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth, Violet Khairallah Safadi, this strategy was prepared in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the United Nations Population Fund in Lebanon. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
4. **National Strategy for Women's Empowerment – Jordan:** This plan has been developed to enhance the role of women and empower them in Jordanian society from 2020 to 2025. The strategy aims to achieve a society free of gender-based discrimination and violence, where women and girls enjoy their full rights. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
5. **National Plan for Women's Advancement – Tunisia:** Launched the "Pioneer" program to support women's economic initiative. This program aims to accelerate the implementation of the national plan to promote women's economic initiatives and shorten the completion time of women's micro, small, and medium enterprises. The national program has contributed to the operational development and economic empowerment of women. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
6. **Gender Strategy – World Bank for Reconstruction and Development:** The World Bank considers gender equality a critical part of its strategy, focusing on improving the collection, access, sharing, and use of gender-disaggregated data. The Gender Data Portal, which includes variables for various countries on gender inequality and other gender issues, was recently relaunched. For more details, please click on [this link](#).
7. **Morocco: National Strategy for the Advancement of Rural Women (2017-2020):** [This strategy](#) was developed to enhance and empower the role of women in rural Moroccan society. It aimed to create a society free from gender-based discrimination and violence, ensuring that women and girls enjoy their full rights. The implementation plan for this strategy served as a reference document for national priorities related to women's issues, designed based on

strategic objectives and defined priorities. For more details, you can access the full document or related resources by clicking on [this link](#).

8. **Palestine: National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women:** Palestine has established a comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women. This strategy includes several chapters, with the first addressing the reality of violence against women in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It provides an analysis of the factors leading to violence against women in Palestine, along with data and statistics on the extent of violence, including that perpetrated by the Israeli occupation. The strategy also discusses the economic costs associated with violence against women. For further information and a detailed breakdown of this strategy, please click on [this link](#).
9. **Libya: Strategic Plan to Enhance the Role of Women in the Economy:** This strategic plan aims to enhance the economic and social roles of women in Libya, particularly in light of the impacts of the crisis on women and girls. It focuses on improving women's opportunities for work, economic recovery, participation, and empowerment. To explore the specifics of this strategic plan and its implementation, please access [this link](#).



Conclusion

In conclusion of this guide on feminist funding in the Southern Mediterranean region, we have highlighted the multiple aspects that shape the opportunities and challenges associated with financing women's enterprises and projects. Starting with our participation in the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), which illuminated the progress and future goals in this field, through the unique challenges that feminist funding faces in the region during a side event there and reaching the risks that obstruct this funding and the innovative ways to enhance it.

Throughout the chapters, it became clearly evident that there is a pressing need to adopt innovative and effective strategies that go beyond traditional financing models, to ensure the creation of a supportive and sustainable environment for feminist groups, initiatives, and organizations. We also emphasized the importance of leveraging the potential in intersectionality and national and cross-border collaboration, and how these approaches can pave the way towards achieving gender justice and equality, effective implementation, and recommendations, presenting a roadmap for moving forward.

Ultimately, this guide embodies a visionary outlook towards a future where women in the Southern Mediterranean and beyond are genuinely empowered. It calls for a concerted effort and creativity in thought and action, to ensure the necessary funding that enables women to achieve their goals, dreams, and ambitious projects. We stand on the threshold of a tremendous opportunity to effect substantial change, and the time has come for us to unite in our pursuit to build a more just and equal future.



About the Partner Organizations in the Guide:

1) **About Women's Studies Centre (WSC):** The Women's Studies Centre (WSC) was established by Professor Elzbieta H. Oleksy at the University of Lodz in 1992. Not only is the centre the first academic institution of its kind in Poland, but it is also the oldest centre for women's and gender studies in Central and Eastern Europe. Currently, WSC operates within the structure of the Faculty of Philology, coordinated by dr Aleksandra Różalska.

Main Activities at WSC: Multidisciplinary academic research, participation in international research projects (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus Lifelong Learning programs), master-level educational programs (GEMMA Master degree), bachelor-level courses as well as private lessons for Erasmus LLP and Erasmus Mundus students, organizing international conferences, seminars, and workshops, active participation in the Erasmus Mobility Program, promoting gender concepts, equality, women's rights, and EU anti-discrimination policies.

WSC collaborates with many independent researchers from various faculties and universities, representing academic disciplines such as American Studies, Media Studies, English Philology, Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology.

2) **About RESET – Redesigning Equality and Scientific Excellence Together:** RESET is a coordination and support action funded by the European Union under the Horizon2020 program, call "H2020-SwafS-2020-1". It includes seven large multidisciplinary universities from across Europe (University of Bordeaux, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University of Lodz, University of Porto, Ruhr University Bochum, University of Oulu, Sciences Po Paris) and aims to address the gender equality challenge in research institutions from a diversity perspective, aiming to design and implement a user-centred vision of scientific excellence that is impactful and inclusive.

3) **About GEMMA (Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies):** GEMMA is a multidisciplinary program that provides high-quality academic education and professional skills for individuals working or intending to work in the fields of women's studies, gender studies, and equal opportunities in Europe and beyond. Its main goal is to train experts in gender equality, considering intersections of ethnicity, class, and gender, and contributing to building a concerned and responsible citizenship. GEMMA combines educational and research activities in the fields of women's and gender studies in the humanities and social sciences at the participating universities, offering a wide range of options, taught by renowned professors in the aforementioned fields. Students and lecturers have the opportunity to enrol in various specialized courses, summer activities, and internships at numerous associated institutions.



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