

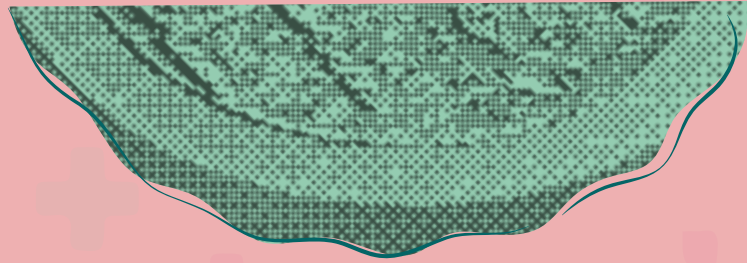


THE DORIA FEMINIST FUND: CREATING CHANGE, CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

2023 – ANNUAL REPORT



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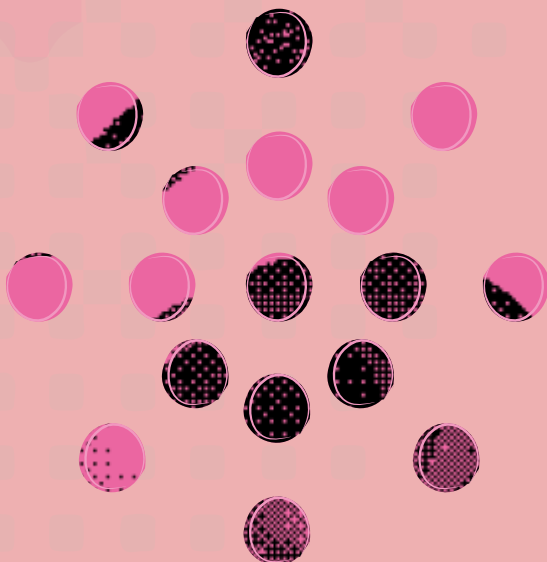


ABOUT DORIA

The Doria Feminist Fund (DFF) is a feminist fund founded, led by, and serving feminists and activists from the Middle East and North Africa region. It strengthens the ecosystem of feminist leaders, initiatives, and movements by leveraging financial and other resources, providing opportunities for capacity sharing, addressing root causes of gender injustice, responding to crises, and engaging in funder influencing and philanthropic advocacy. The Doria Feminist Fund ensures that feminist movements have sufficient and flexible resources to identify and determine priorities independently, develop and sustain their activism, produce knowledge by and for their constituencies, and advocate for the rights of all women and LGBTQI+ individuals and groups in their countries.

As a feminist fund, Doria mobilizes financial, political, and technical resources from a wide range of funders, and engages in advocacy and education to build an ecosystem of donors that have an understanding of the political, economic, cultural, and social context of activists across the region.

The Doria Feminist Fund believes in centering trust, care safety, and security in its relationships, institutional policies, and practices.




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1 YEAR, 11 COUNTRIES, 43 GRANTS AND 4 AWARDS

Being a feminist funder and an activist organization in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa) has been increasingly challenging, but Doria Feminist Fund (DFF) has certainly been up to the challenge!

Realizing its unique position to connect movements across the region, map the current landscape of organising and support, and respond to the most pressing funding needs, DFF managed to turn threat into opportunity. In 2023, DFF was able to attract more resources to increase its grantmaking capacity and support more feminist groups across the region as they organize, mobilize, and activate movements to bring change to their communities. Simultaneously, in commitment to the ongoing reflection and production of feminist homegrown knowledge, DFF has conducted a feminist qualitative research on funding for feminist collective action in Lebanon and Tunisia.



But
that's not all there is!
here's what we have

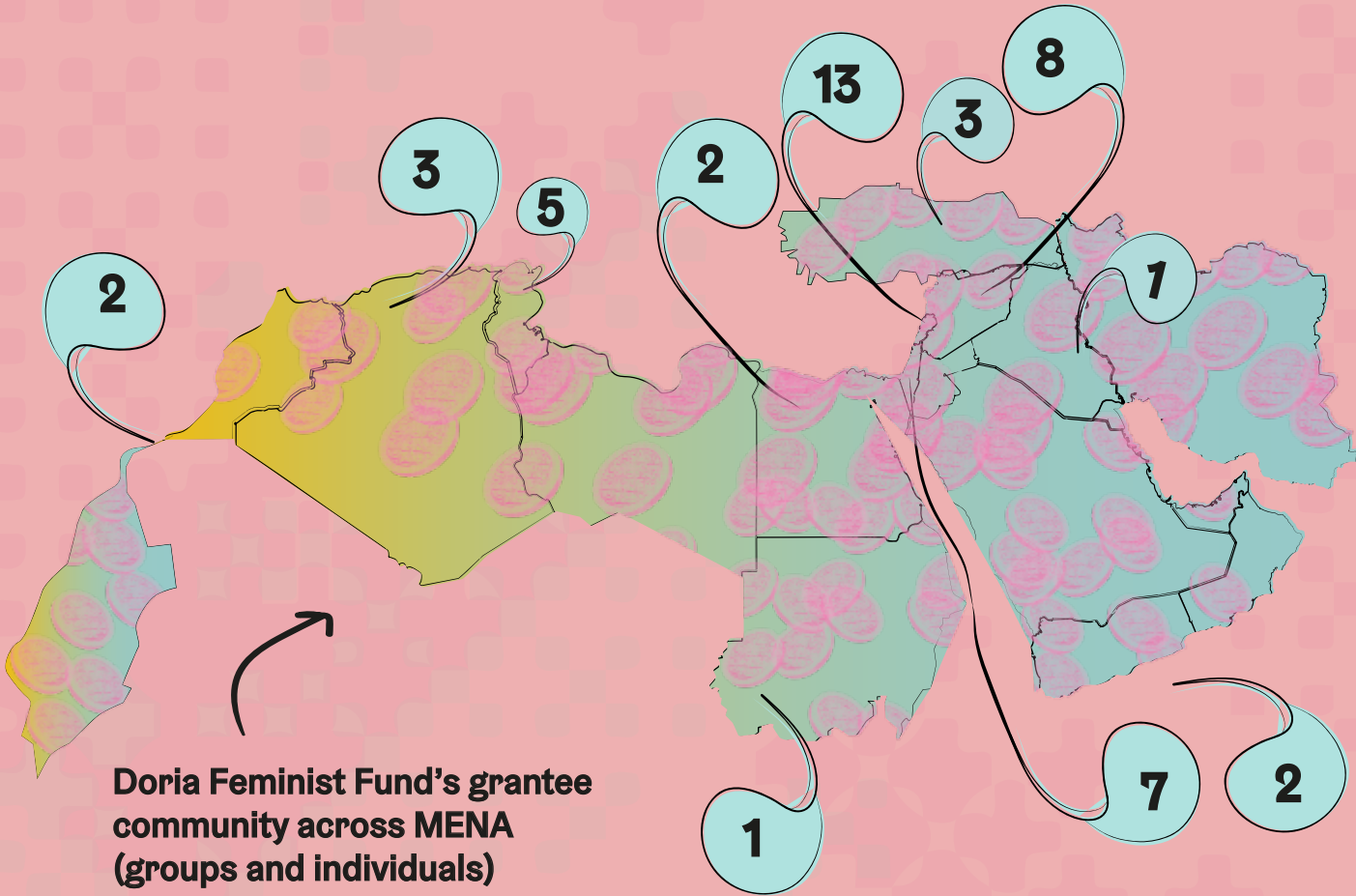
2023

● WE FUNDED FEMINIST EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN MENA

It's no secret that 2023 was a particularly challenging year in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region; from massive earthquakes in Turkey, Syria and Morocco, to floods in Libya, and ongoing wars in Sudan and Gaza. In response to this, DFF expanded its grantmaking scheme, onboarding two new cohorts of grantee partners, and launching our first Emergency Response Grant program. This program employs rapid response support and covers three main areas of need: Advocacy and awareness raising; Movement building, and Crisis and humanitarian relief.

The grantees of the Emergency Response Grant Program are groups led by and responding to the immediate needs of women, girls, and the LGBTQIA+ community. They represent and/or support grassroots communities that may not be covered elsewhere in the wider emergency response efforts.

In short, 2023 saw the DFF grantee community grow larger, more dynamic, and more diverse. This, however, brought to DFF's attention the vast and complex range of needs within the grantee community, and motivated us to be more innovative, creative, and flexible in our grantmaking.



Doria Feminist Fund's grantee community across MENA (groups and individuals)

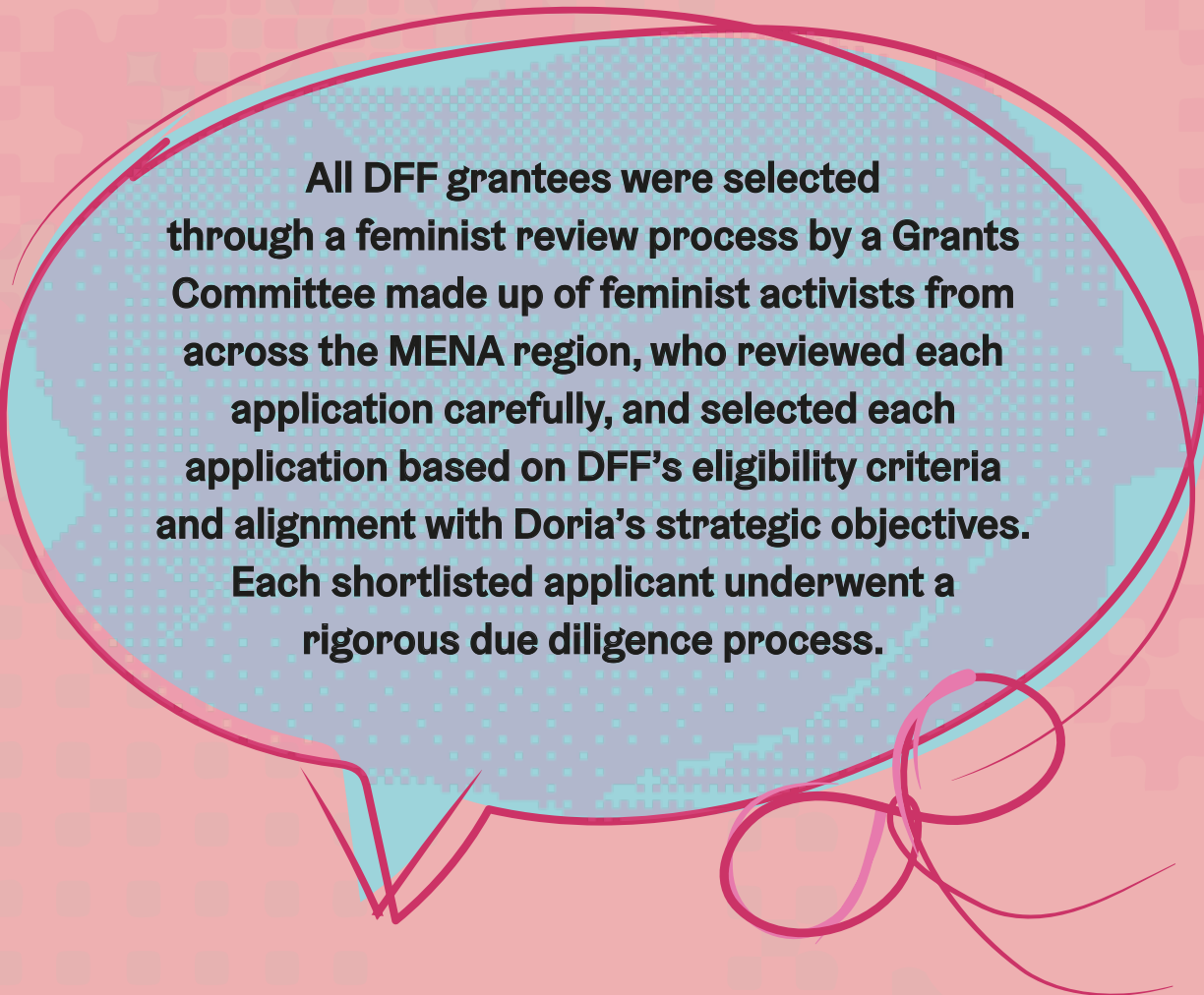
NB. Check our website for more information about our grantees.

Cycle 1 / Cycle 2 / Cycle 3

● WE LAUNCHED OUR THIRD GRANTMAKING CYCLE

DFF is the only feminist fund that provides direct grants to activists, led by and tailored for feminist activists, from the MENA region. In 2023, DFF has granted 47 groups and feminists in 11 countries including ten Arabic-speaking countries and Turkey.

In 2023, DFF launched its third grantmaking cycle and received over 191 eligible applications from feminist activist groups all over the region working on a diverse range of issues, of which DFF was able to fund %10 due to limited resources. Furthermore, we have expanded our outreach to include new countries in the region like Algeria and Egypt. In addition, we have funded grassroots activist groups in the earthquake-affected regions in Turkey and North-East Syria.



All DFF grantees were selected through a feminist review process by a Grants Committee made up of feminist activists from across the MENA region, who reviewed each application carefully, and selected each application based on DFF's eligibility criteria and alignment with Doria's strategic objectives. Each shortlisted applicant underwent a rigorous due diligence process.

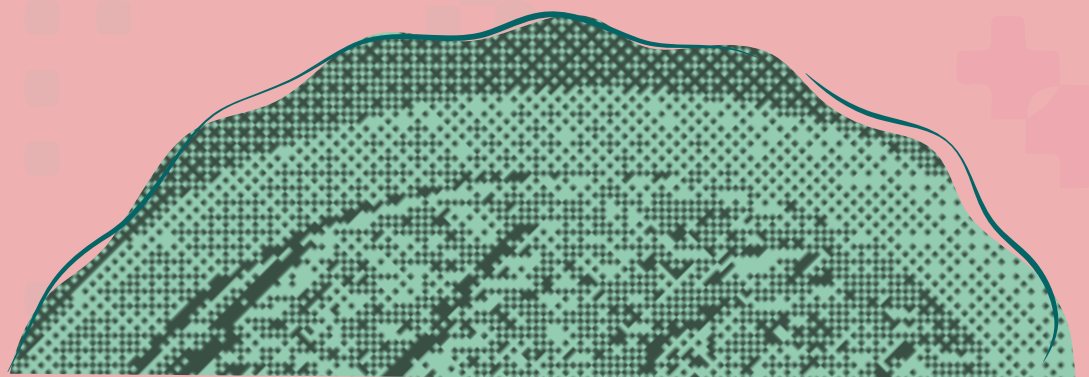
● WE SOLIDIFIED BONDS WITH OUR GRANTEE COMMUNITY

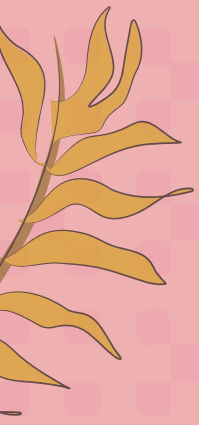
DFF believes in the ongoing cultivation of two-way bonds with its grantee community. To that end, our Accompaniment Program allows the grantees to offer direct feedback and reflections to DFF's team on how to better support them. The program provides grantees with opportunities for capacity strengthening, forging connections and collaborations among them, and creating safe spaces for exchange where the DFF team and the grantee community can have meaningful discussions.

In 2023, Doria's accompaniment strategy focused on two main priorities:

1) **Understanding the complex needs of a growing and diverse grantee community:** These interactions were key to strengthening DFF's key processes including grantee communication, reporting, the structure of the emergency response grants, and the accompaniment strategy itself. With the ongoing war on Gaza and the escalation of violence in Palestine, DFF closely accompanied grantee partners in Palestine, supporting them with additional funding, connecting them to other funders, and raising awareness in funder spaces about the challenges Palestinian activist groups were facing due to the ongoing war.

2) **Connecting the Doria Grantee Community:** In 2023, Doria planned its first in-person grantee partner convening, with the aim of creating a collaborative, feminist space. The convening was designed to host capacity strengthening workshops, spaces for grantee partners to share their experiences, and opportunities for collective care and well-being. However, and in light of the ongoing war in Gaza, DFF was obliged to postpone the convening for security reasons, and replace it with a virtual one. The in-person convening is now tentatively planned for 2024.





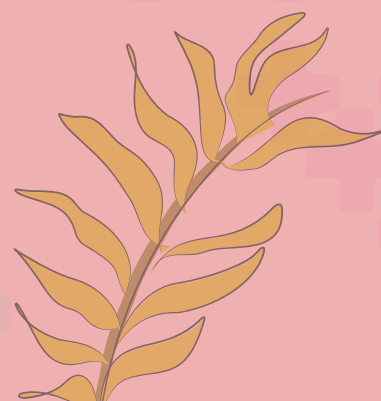
● WE PUSHED A CULTURE OF FEMINIST PHILANTHROPY

As a feminist funder, DFF has been strategizing throughout 2023 with other peer funders who share the same values about how feminist philanthropy can react during crisis, especially amidst volatility and polarization. Our shared values entail respect for diverse approaches, deep connections fostered through transparent and accountable collaboration, active listening, and practical participation.

DFF continued to mobilize resources for gender equality and diversity. Our goal is to build bridges between donors and local activists and small organizations that typically lack access to traditional funding. Our holistic approach to support grassroots groups combines grantmaking, capacity building, mentorship, advocacy, and networking.

DFF is stepping into key philanthropic advocacy spaces and there is an increased analysis of how to impact regional and global philanthropic spaces. DFF has participated in several international convening as CSW 67, Women Deliver, OECD conference and others to amplify our voices and demands.

For more information on the various events that we participated in, please check our social media pages :



● WE WENT PLACES AND CELEBRATED TOGETHER!

In June 2023, DFF celebrated feminist activism in the region by holding its annual awards event in honour of women who dared to challenge injustice in MENA. The awards went to four feminists who stood against patriarchy in different ways. Each awardee received a monetary prize, and their inspiring stories were documented and posted on Doria's website.



● PARTNERSHIPS



Kombo

Kombo - 'Liberate' in Swahili – is a new consortium to resource, connect, and build the capacities of feminist movements in Africa to respond to attacks from the anti-rights agenda. Five frontline feminist partners, AWDF, Purposeful, SIHA, ISDAO and the Doria Feminist Fund are all set to show the power of movement building to drive social justice. The Kombo Feminist Consortium partners will support movements across the Continent, including crisis contexts, LGBTQI activism, girls, young people, and women's rights – all facing relentless attacks on their basic freedoms from anti-gender actors, and all deploying some of the most creative, bold and expansive strategies to respond.

With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the consortium will provide autonomous, flexible, and unrestricted funding, as well as rapid response and emergency grants to diverse feminist constituencies of all sizes, through the partners' varied grant-making infrastructure. Funding will support collectives, registered and unregistered groups, girl, young feminist, queer and women-led groups across the African feminist ecosystem. Within Komboa, DFF will be working in three North African countries; Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.

Fund Her Now

“Fund Her Now” is a collaborative comprised of six women funds from across the globe who are pushing for a culture of feminist philanthropy which prioritizes gender issues, the redistribution of resources, and the increasement of financial flows to activists who lack formal registration, organizational structure, and access to traditional funding avenues. In this quest, “Fund Her Now” is tapping into new categories of potential donors beyond the usual suspects, such as corporations, in a bid to shift philanthropic practices and expand feminist funding reach.

● WE FOSTERED COLLECTIVE CARE

Collective care is often overlooked in philanthropic spaces, but DFF believes that women’s and feminist funds have a critical role in pioneering this endeavour. We, as the link between donors and movements, can model this change. For us as feminist funders, collective care connects all different hats we wear, including being development practitioners, resource connectors and caregivers.

In 2022, DFF co-created the “The Communities of Collective Care” consortium alongside other sister organizations including Women’s Fund Fiji, FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund, Doria Feminist Fund, Tewa, and MONES (Mongolian Women’s Fund).



This consortium seeks to delve beyond care practices and protocols, towards institutionalizing collective care within the structure of each organization. We aim to achieve this through collective learning, exchanging experiences across different contexts, and centering care in feminist movements and philanthropic spaces.

To that end, the consortium is planning to organize a collective care festival which will bring us together with grantees and funders, in order to share knowledge and reflections. Furthermore, we have hired a consultant to map out existing collective care initiatives and practices adopted by feminist organizations and movements, with the preview of developing a feminist framework on collective care.

● WE NOTED DOWN LESSONS LEARNT

✚ DFF's journey showcases how multi-year flexible funding enables first and foremost the thriving of new struggling feminist funds in under-resourced regions: Such funding enabled us to solidify our internal processes, cover our staffing costs and build systems, structures, and processes to better respond to our own growth while also catering to the escalating needs of feminist activists and groups in the MENA region, and the full compliance with applicable rules, regulations, and laws.

✚ DFF's Emergency Response Grants program demonstrated that feminist funds have a unique capacity to channel flexible and essential resources to the grassroots feminist movement to meet rapid and urgent needs, within restrictive disaster-stricken environments.

+ Further support for existing grantees to respond to crises strengthened Doria's knowledge and trust bonds: Awarding existing grantees further funds through the emergency response process enabled DFF to strengthen their work and solidify trust bonds with grantee partners and feminist movements in the region.

+ Support goes beyond funding: DFF closely accompanied grantees in Syria, Turkey, Palestine, Sudan and other... by providing additional funding, connecting them to other funders, conducting research on earthquake aid response, and raising awareness in funder spaces about the challenges faced by grassroots groups in Turkey and Syria.

+ Emergency grants are short term, but the crisis is long term: As a feminist funder, DFF is committed to ensuring the sustainability of social justice and feminist grassroots movements and their continuation on the long run, in order to co-create the community infrastructures needed for collective healing and rebuilding.

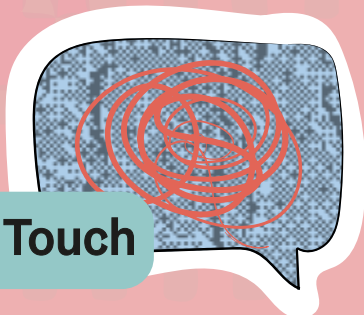


● **WE GREW STRONGER AND, WE'RE GOING BIGGER!**

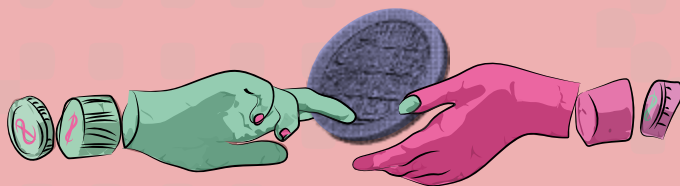


● **WE'VE GOT MORE. ENGAGE WITH US!**

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