

WFA ANNUAL REPORT

2023



2023 was another year full of crises, which forced us to focus on the humanitarian needs of women and girls in particular. This year also marked the 5th anniversary of the activities of the Women's Fund Armenia. Therefore, the summary of the previous five years is also included in this summary.

The summary includes the following sections:

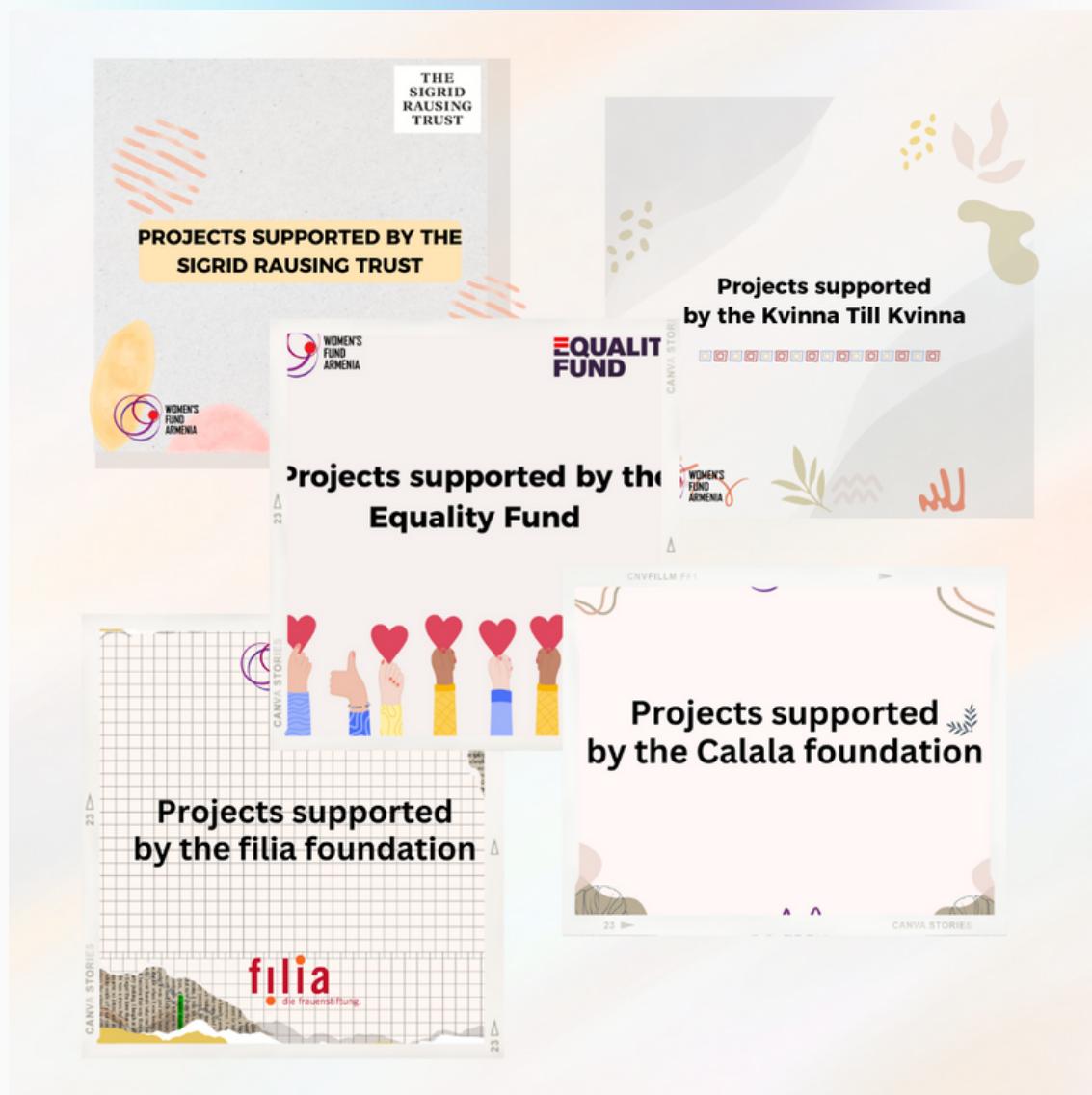
- Summary of grants,
- News from the Femstory program,
- News from Silihdar Gardens,
- Summary of networking meetings with colleagues,
- Summary of visits of foreign colleagues,
- Femtalks,
- Researches,
- 2023 in numbers,
- Summary of the previous 5 years.



Grants Programs

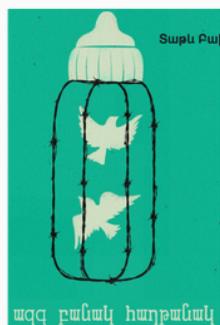
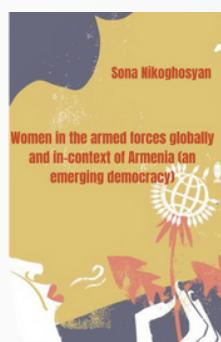
In 2023, continuing to cooperate with our international partner organizations, we supported 72 projects. You can get acquainted with them according to the thematic division of international partners with the links below:

- [Projects supported by the Equality Fund](#)
- [Projects supported by The Sigrid Rausing Trust](#)
- [Projects supported by the Kvinna Till Kvinna](#)
- [Projects supported by the filia foundation](#)
- [Projects supported by the Calala foundation](#)



In 2023, we had 4 grant announcements and also provided rapid response grants aimed at alleviating the basic needs of forcibly displaced people by the large-scale attack by Azerbaijan on September 19th. More details about each below.

- Call for 40+ women's ideas - To empower women at a later age and make their voices heard, we announced a grant call for women over 40 last year. You can find out about the 15 selected initiatives [here](#), as well as watch a video about them on YouTube by following [this link](#).
- "Women's Right's Day - Every Day" - The aim of this call was to support feminist initiatives aimed at re-thinking the idea of March 8 and bringing back its real meaning. As a result, several initiatives received support and were carried out. You can learn about them [here](#).
- Feminist Essay Contest was announced in March with the theme “How wars affect women and structurally excluded groups.” Read the essays by following the links below:

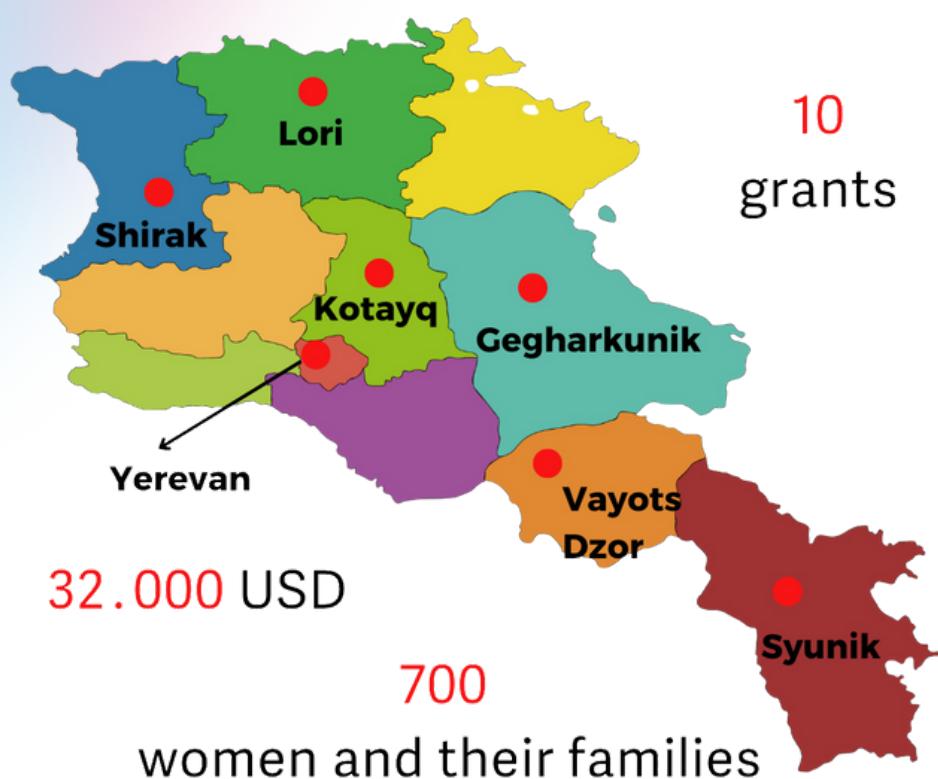


- The Impact of the Second World War on the Pronatalist and Family Policy of the USSR
- The commercialization of war and its gender component
- nation, army, victory... militarization as a gendered and hypermasculine process
- Women in the armed forces globally and in-context of Armenia (an emerging democracy)

4. "The impact of war and armed conflicts on women and groups neglected by systems" - this call for applications was announced in April. The purpose of the grant is to support the efforts of feminist organizations and initiatives to make women's voices heard more in peace and security issues.

5. As a result of the large-scale offensive launched by Azerbaijan on September 19, more than one hundred thousand ethnic Armenians were forcibly displaced from Nagorno Karabakh. In response to this humanitarian crisis, the Women's Fund Armenia launched a fundraiser to mobilize resources and provide essential support to forcibly displaced women and girls. Watch a video showcasing the work of our partners on the front lines of the forced displacement crisis [here](#).

Get acquainted with the geography and numerical summary of the grants provided for humanitarian aid below:



Femstory: Feminist Oral Story Archive

On September 11, we presented the modern issue of "Hayastani Ashkhatavorouhi" journal. It was prepared within the framework of the "Femstory: Archive of Feminist Oral Stories" projects and is an attempt to imagine what the modern issue of the newspaper "Hayastani Ashkhatavorouhi" (1924-98) - published during the Soviet years - would look like. With the slogan "New issue for new times," the newspaper is dedicated to the class and feminist issues faced by women and other marginalized identities in Armenia today and around the world.

You can get your free copy from our office on Saryan 24/5.



Within the framework of the "Femstory" project, we translated another article: [Walking the Tightrope: Ethical Issues for Qualitative Researchers](#) dedicated to the oral story method. Besides, we published the collection "Anti-Gender Movements in the Words of Women Human Rights Defenders: Stories of Five Activists", which includes excerpts from five oral stories collected on the topic of anti-gender movements. On December 15, a meeting was held with the activists included in the collection.



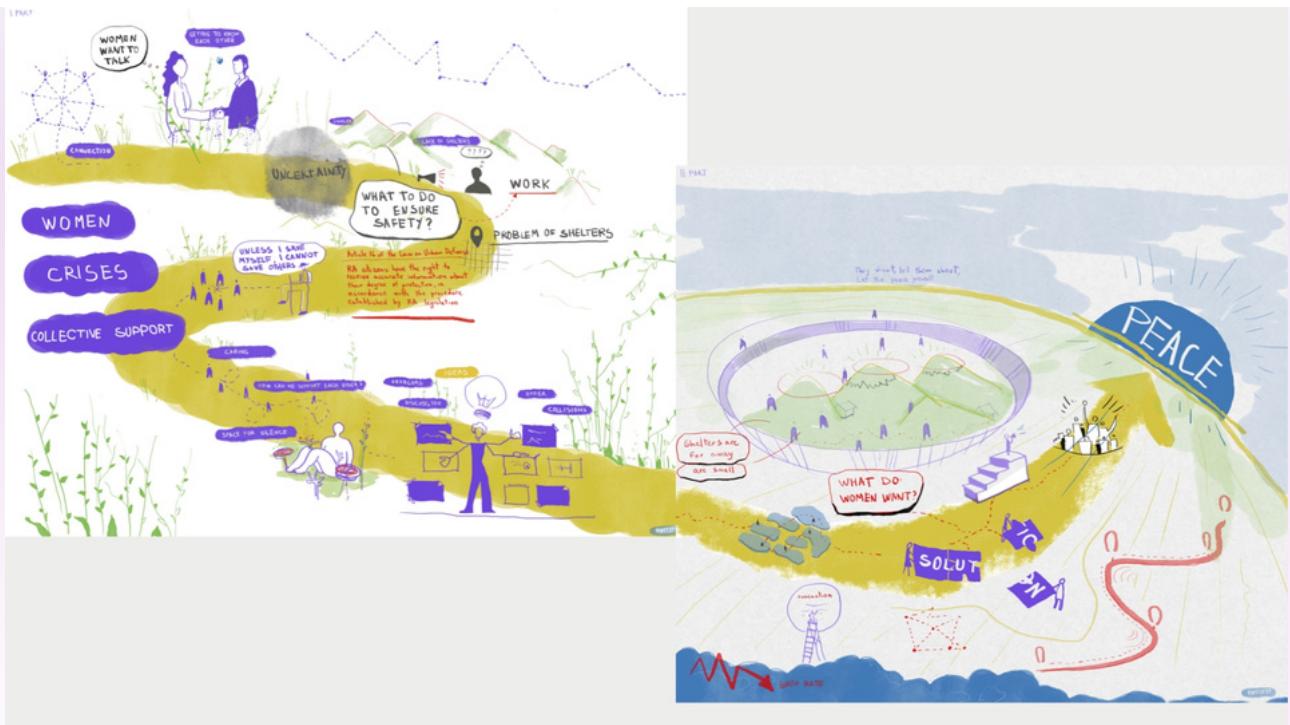
Networking meetings

During 2023, we have organized a number of networking meetings for our partners.

In February at the Women's Fund Armenia, we hosted the our partners implementing initiatives within the framework of the program for women over 40. During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed, which we try to constantly refer to in our daily activities.



In April, we organized a meeting with women living in the borderline communities of Armenia. Some of them were our partners, others were socially active women of their communities. The purpose of the meeting was to get to know the needs and issues of women living in the borderline communities, to create a safe space to talk about the issues that concern them and to come up with ideas for joint initiatives. In the near future, we are planning to hold more such meetings. Below you can see the graphic recording of the meeting.



In summer, our meeting with the participants of the program for women over 40 took place in the Gardens of Silihdar in Ashtarak. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce them to our co-healing center, to discuss further actions.

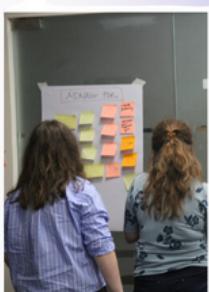


On December 5-7, a three-day healing meeting for our partners took place in Dilijan. The meeting was intended especially for those partners who actively work with forcibly displaced women and girls from Nagorno-Karabakh. During those days, we tried to break away from the busy routine, apply collective care practices, discuss our needs and try to address them.



Partner visits

In May, we hosted our partners from the German filia foundation and their group of donors at the Women's Fund Armenia. The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with the activities of the WFA, our partners, their work directions, challenges and obstacles, success stories, etc. The summary of our colleagues' visit is [here](#).



On October 16-19 we hosted the European Regional Meeting of the Prospera International Network of Women's Funds. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the activities of the Chapter, analyze the events and discussions held during the year as well as update each other on the news about each fund.

International visits

This year we also had important visits outside Armenia. The meeting of funds and their partners from the European Chapter of Prospera in the framework of the project "On the Right Track" initiative took place in the beginning of June in Sofia, Bulgaria. Funds and partners exchanged their work and experience of fighting fundamentalism and far right movements in their context. The impact and strategies of fundamentalism, far right and anti-gender movements was discussed. At the end of three days meeting, a panel "The changed we want to see in Europe and in the world: What gives us hope" with donors and members of the European Parliament was held.



In July, WFA took part in the conference Women Deliver 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda. More than 6000 people from around the world participated at the conference, including prominent feminists, Nobel Prize Laureates, peace activists, CEOs of big foundations and even presidents of the countries from the African continent. WFA participated at several interesting panels devoted to the feminist funding ecosystem organized by the Equality Fund, Global Fund for Women and many other well-known organizations.



Femtalks

This year, we continued the series of Femtalks, addressing various topics, from the women's movement in Armenia to the connection between coffee and feminism.

Below are the topics and links of the year's femtalks:

1. [Women's movement in Armenia,](#)
2. [Assessment of Institutional and Team Resilience of Women's Human Rights Organizations,](#)
3. [Coffee and Feminism,](#)
4. [The idea of intersectionality in the conventions on women's rights,](#)
5. The gender aspect of events dedicated to national days in public schools (Closed),
6. [From desecration to the culture of violence: the extremism of concepts related to gender in everyday life, media and humor.](#)

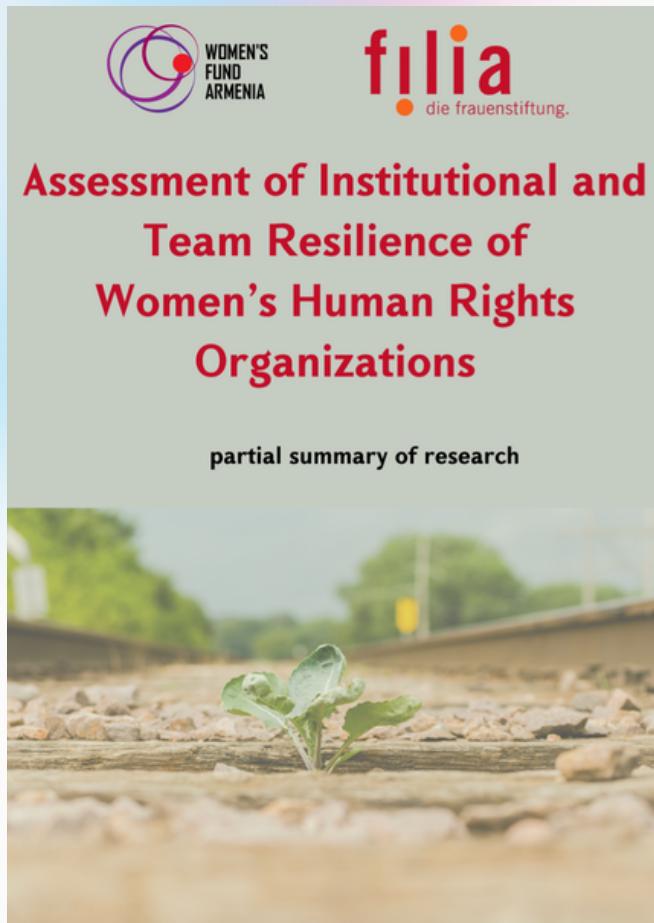


Below you can see the graphic recording of the "Coffee and Feminism" femtalk:



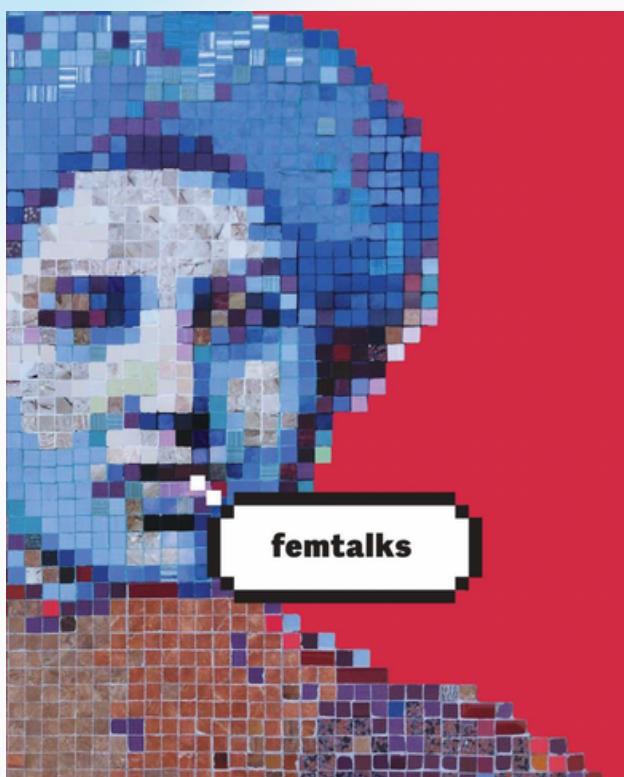
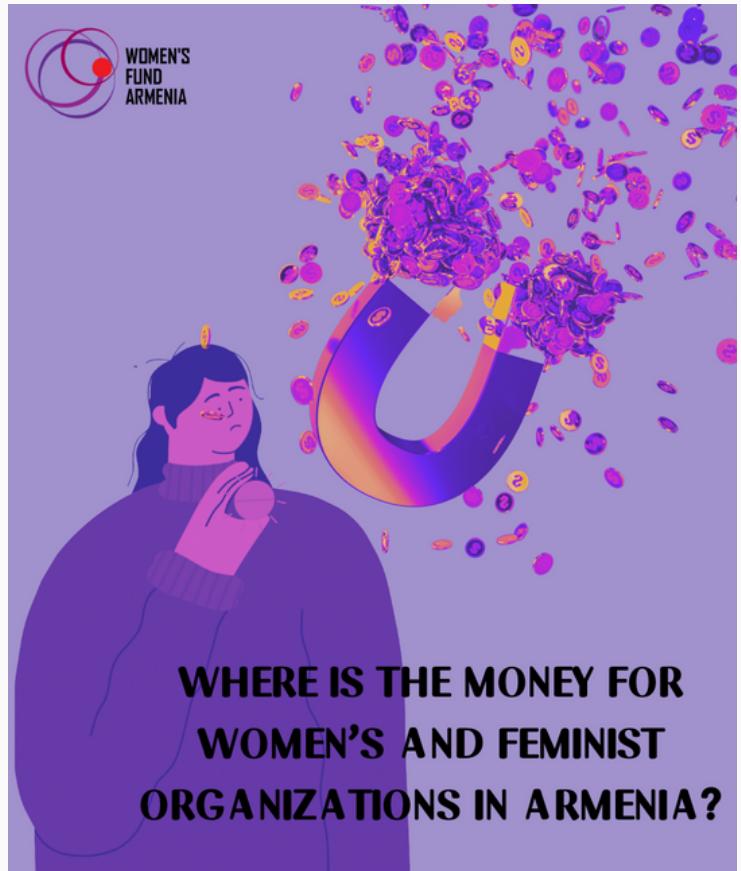
Research

At the beginning of the year, we published "Collective Care: Summary of Needs Assessment Data" report, which was aimed at highlighting the perceptions, practices and needs regarding healing, self-care and collective care among the partner organizations of the Women's Fund Armenia. Read the English summary of the report [here](#).



Another study, "Institutional and Team Resilience of Women's Organizations," was conducted among women's foundations and partner organizations in Armenia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Germany. The goal of the assessment was to learn about the readiness to deal with crises of participating four women's funds and their respective partners, women's rights organizations. A partial summary of the study is available [here](#).

This year, we completed another important research: "Where is the money for women's and feminist organizations in Armenia?" The purpose of this research was to build a unified picture that would show the state of women's and feminist organizations financially, and what can be done to attract more resources for their activities. As a foundation, this will enable WFA to understand where the Fund's role is in attracting these resources and what are the expectations from the Women's Fund itself. You can read the research [here](#).



At the end of the year, a collection of articles based on the Femtalks series was also published. In conjunction with the assistance to women's and feminist organizations and initiatives in Armenia, one of the main missions of WFA is the development of critical feminist discourse, as well as the introduction to the trends in contemporary feminist theory and research. The collection is available [here](#).

Gardens of Silihdar

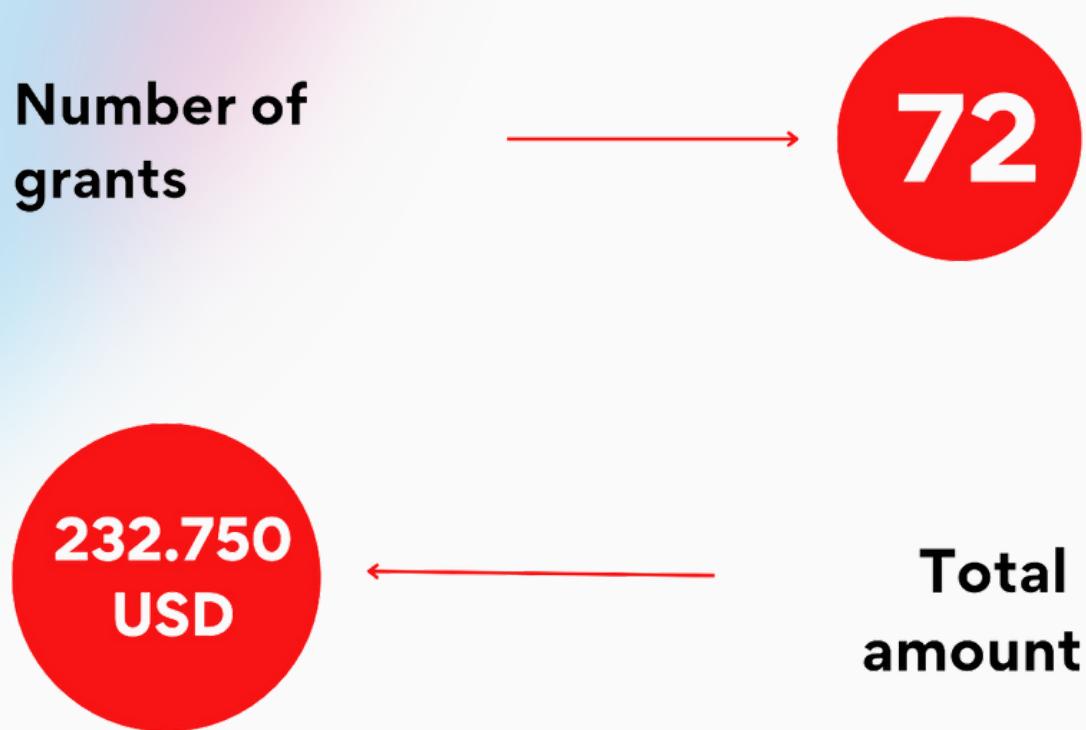
The Women's Fund Armenia is creating a collective care and co-healing center in Ashtarak city, named "Gardens of Silihdar." This year, the renovation works of the Center have actively started and are continuing. Below you can follow the pages of the center to learn about self-care and collective care practices, as well as news about the center:

- Silihdar Gardens on [Facebook](#),
- Silihdar Gardens on [Instagram](#).



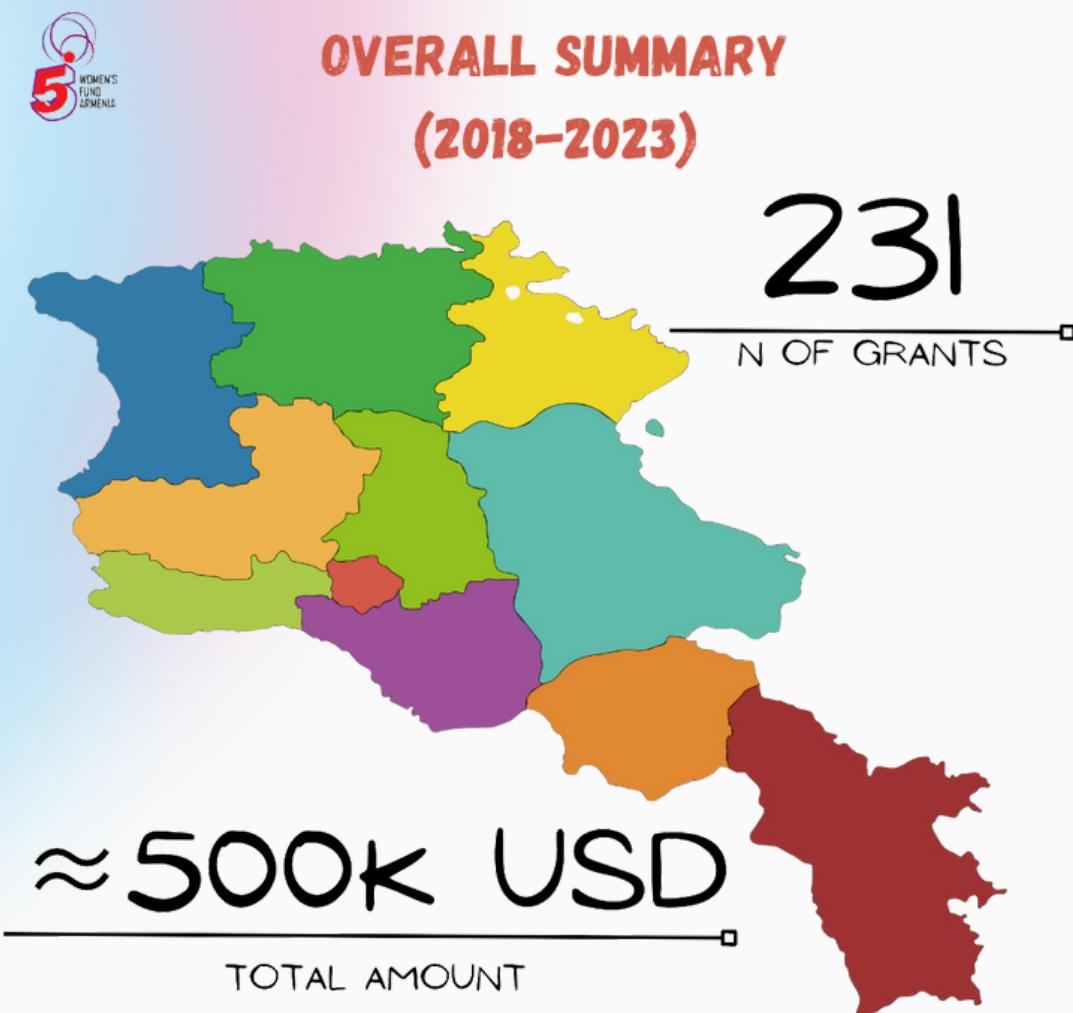
2023 by the numbers

In 2023, the Women's Fund Armenia continued to cooperate with its partners, as well as to support the feminist initiatives of new groups and individuals. Grants have been provided in a variety of areas, from humanitarian support to institutional stability, from initiatives by women over 40 to feminist-themed research and essays, from supporting historically and systematically excluded groups to encouraging girls in science and technology, and more. The summary of the year is as follows:



Summary of five years of activity

In 2023, we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the activities of the Women's Fund Armenia. On that occasion, we have summarized the number, amount and geography of the grants provided during these 5 years, from 2018 to 2023. The general picture is as follows.



Get acquainted with the summary by regions [here](#).



[**womenfundarmenia.org**](http://womenfundarmenia.org)



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