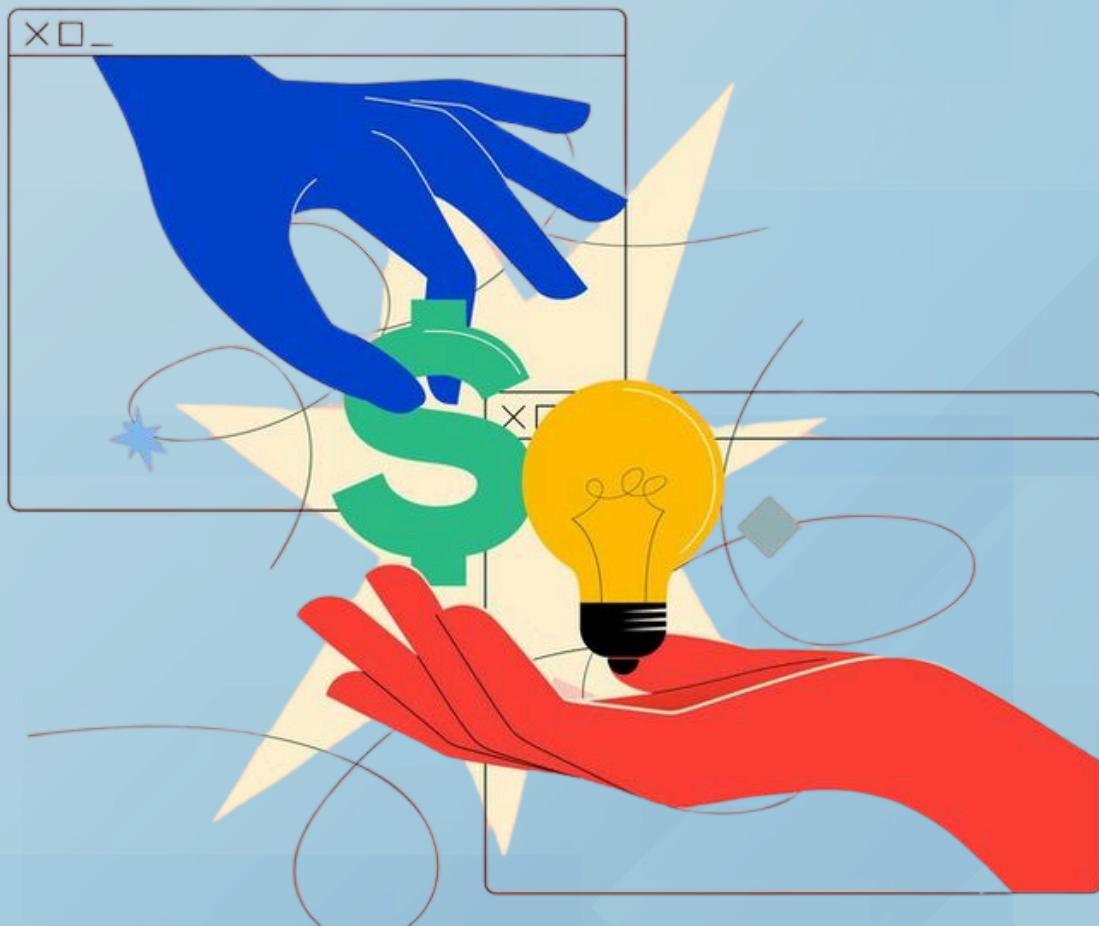


Grant-making trends at the Women's Fund Armenia

2024



Overview

This report outlines key trends in grantmaking at the Women's Fund in 2024.

Who is this report for?

The report is intended for both internal and external audiences. It serves as a resource for internal and external reporting, as well as an informational brochure for a wide range of stakeholders, including staff, partners, organizations, current and potential donors, and board members. As part of the Fund's commitment to public accountability, this document also provides transparency about its grantmaking activities.

Grant Types

The Fund's provides several types of grants, including:

- **General Operating Grants (Core Funding/Operations):** Unrestricted financial support for day-to-day operations, covering expenses such as salaries and technical equipment.
- **Program Grants (Core Funding/Institutional Support):** Funding for specific initiatives that align with the organization's mission.
- **Planning Grants:** Support for strategic planning efforts to develop future actions and projects.
- **Technical Assistance Grants (Resilience Grants):** Designed to strengthen organizational effectiveness in areas such as financial management, communications, fundraising, and evaluation. These grants also focus on fostering emotional and collective resilience within feminist and women's organizations.
- **Crisis Management Grants (including Humanitarian Assistance):** Funding to address urgent humanitarian needs, particularly for refugees, displaced women, girls, and other systematically excluded groups.
- **Research Grants (Essays, Research, Publications, Conference Participation):** Support for research projects, publications, and conference participation by grantee partners.

Geographic Coverage

The Women's Fund is based in Armenia and primarily operates within the country. In exceptional cases, it may fund projects outside Armenia, provided they are initiated and implemented in collaboration with a local organization or group.

Total budget expenses:

- 60% grants and accompanying
- 20% Administrative costs
- 20% Renovation costs for the Healing Space "Gardens of Silihdar"

Number of requests and proposals received (solicited and unsolicited combined): 248

Number of requests and proposals financed: 96 (38.7%)

Grants distributed with participatory approach (participatory grantmaking): 37.5%

Grant Amounts: Ranging from 1,000 to 7,000 USD.

Total Annual Grant Amount: 302000 USD or 119 000 000 AMD

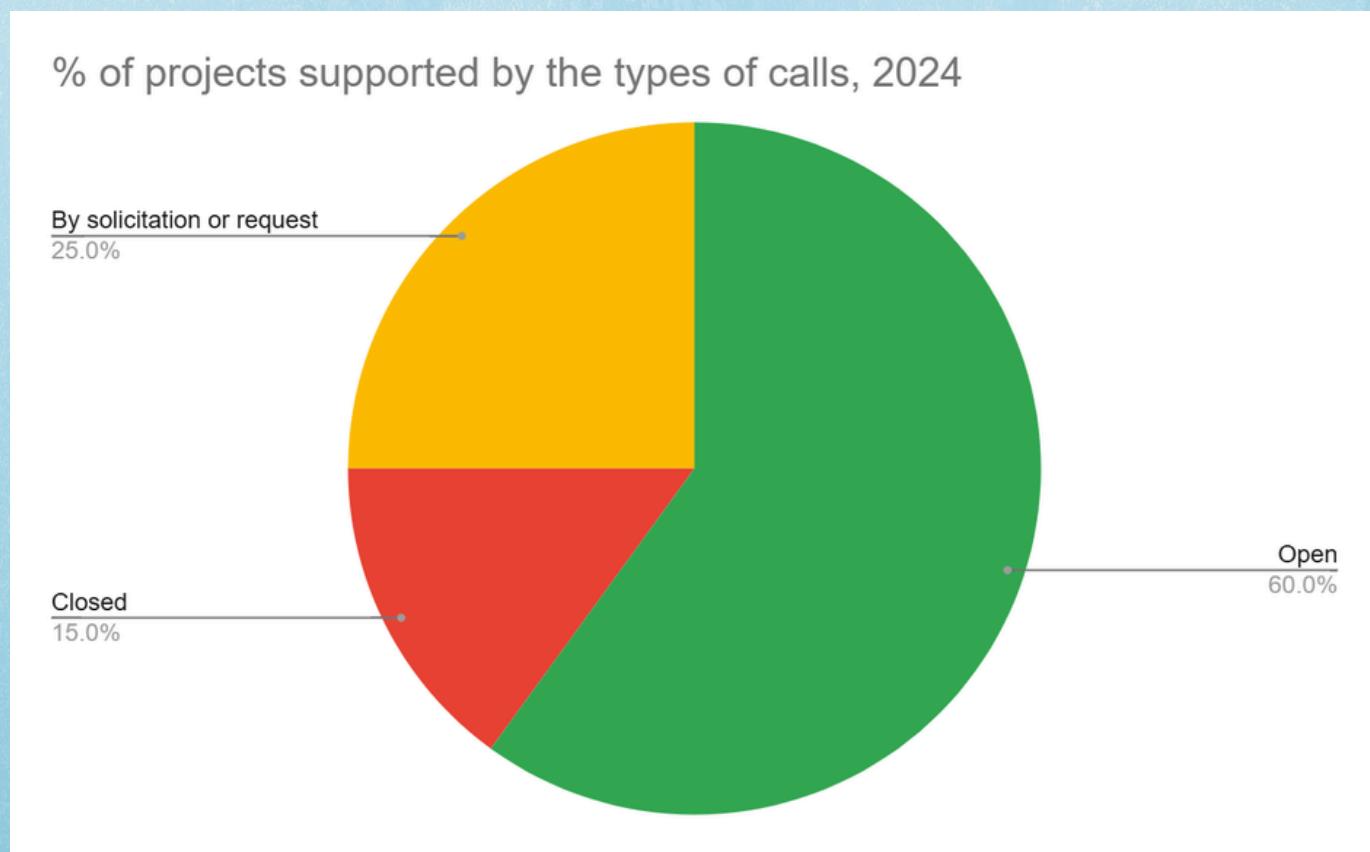
Project durations: Grants are typically disbursed for periods ranging from two weeks to one year.

General Grantmaking Trends

In 2024, the Women's Fund adopted various approaches to grantmaking. The main trends indicate that the majority of funded projects—60%—were selected through open calls and announcements. This marks a significant improvement compared to 2023, when open-call projects accounted for 52% (1).

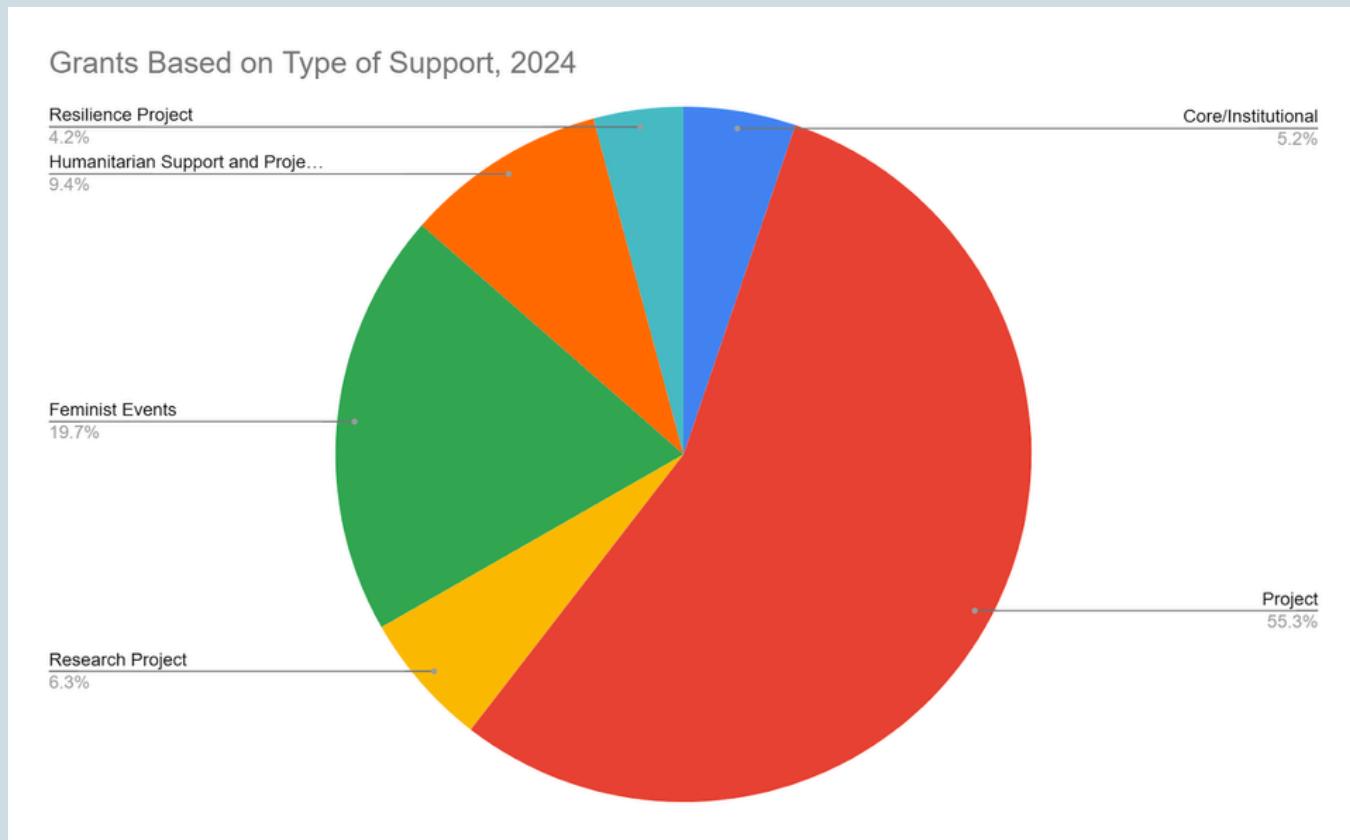
Additionally, the share of closed grants has been reduced by half, dropping from 32% in 2023 to 15% in 2024.

Another positive trend is the increase in organizations and groups proactively reaching out to the Fund to introduce themselves and request financial support. In 2024, this accounted for 25% of funded projects. This growth may be attributed to the Fund's consistent efforts across various platforms to highlight the importance of women's initiatives, encouraging them to seek financial support and amplify their voices. For detailed numerical data, see the image below.



Commitment to Core Principles

In 2024, the Women's Fund stayed true to its core principles, continuing to support a diverse range of initiatives that address a wide variety of issues. The image below illustrates the scope of support provided through the Fund's grantmaking activities



Types of Support in 2024

This year, the Women's Fund provided a wide range of support, including:

- Core or Institutional Support: 5.2%
- Resilience Programs: 4.2%
- Humanitarian Support: 9.4%
- Feminist Event Support: 19.7%
- Research Support: 6.3%
- Program Support: 55.3%

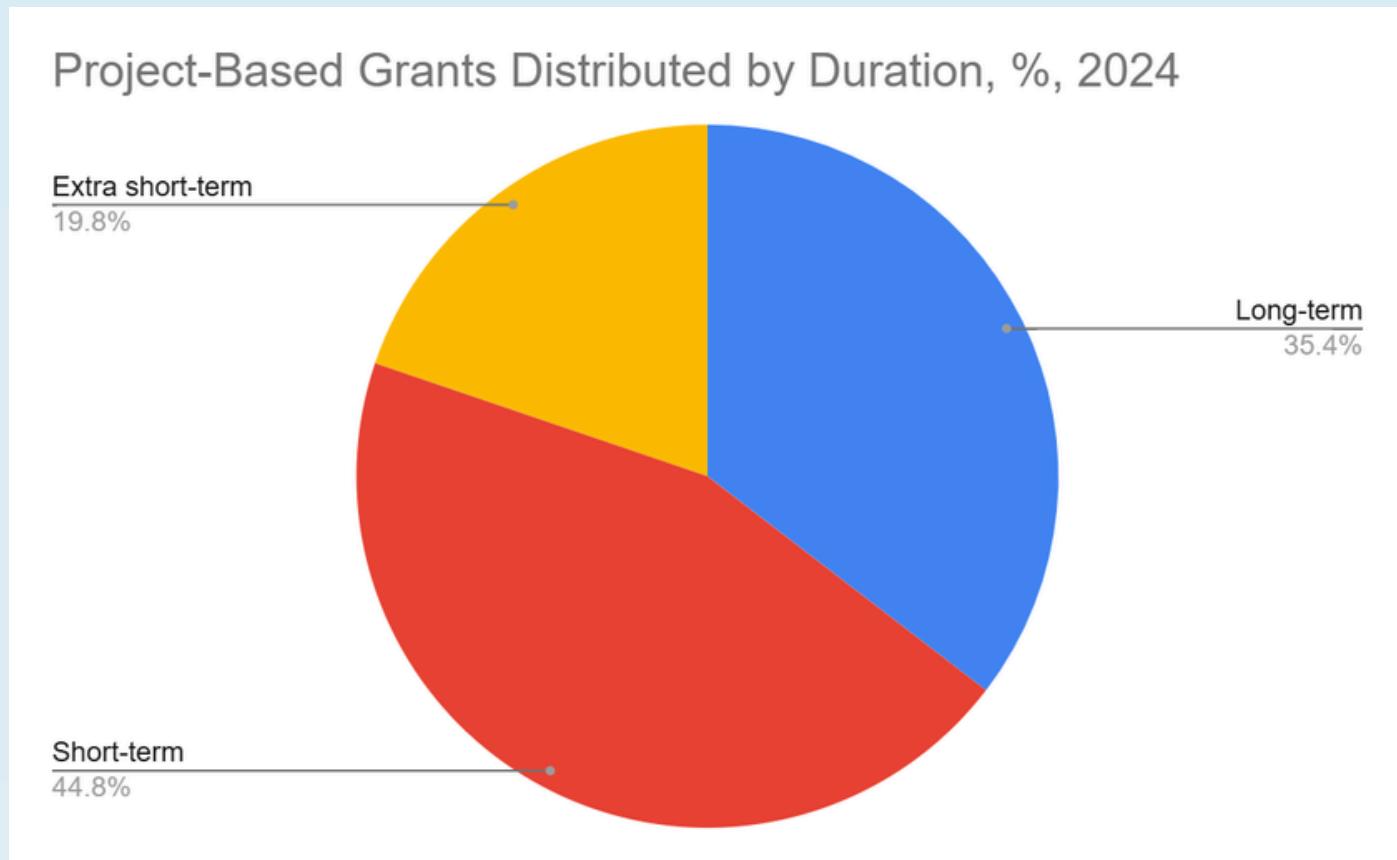
Among these, the most diverse range of program ideas was funded through partnerships in 2024.

Grant Duration

The duration of program grants varied, with no significant changes compared to 2023. The classification of grant durations remains flexible, depending largely on the grant size and the duration of previous projects. Grants were categorized as follows:

- Very Short-Term Projects: Up to 1 month
- Short-Term Projects: 1–5 months
- Long-Term Projects: 5 months to 1 year

In 2024, short-term projects continued to outnumber long-term ones, accounting for 44.8% and 35.4% of grants, respectively. Very short-term projects—primarily supporting feminist events and rapid-response initiatives—made up 19.8%, typically lasting no more than one month.



Balancing Support for Individuals, Groups, and Organizations

The Women's Fund is one of the few institutions that successfully balances grantmaking across individuals, groups, and organizations with different legal statuses. This approach is fundamental to the Fund's philosophy, reflecting an ongoing debate within the feminist movement about the roles of formal organizations versus individual and grassroots activism.

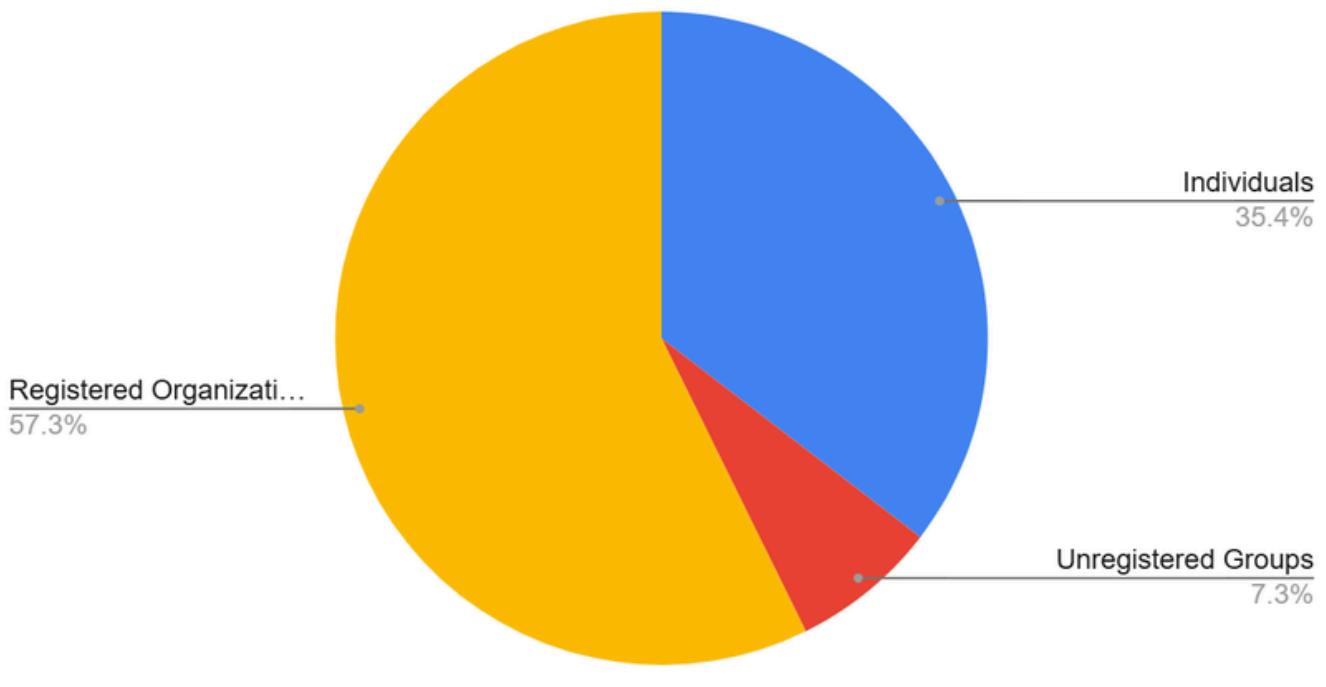
As in previous years, the Fund supported projects and ideas from individuals, unregistered groups, and registered organizations. The figure below illustrates the distribution of grants in 2024:

- Registered Organizations: 57.3% (an increase from 45% in 2023)
- Individuals: 35.4%
- Unregistered Groups: 7.3%

While registered organizations continue to represent the majority of grantees, it is encouraging to see that individuals and unregistered groups also make up a significant portion of the Fund's support.

The rise in grants awarded to organizations in 2024 may be attributed to the need for more systematic implementation of humanitarian assistance funding, which was primarily channeled through registered organizations.

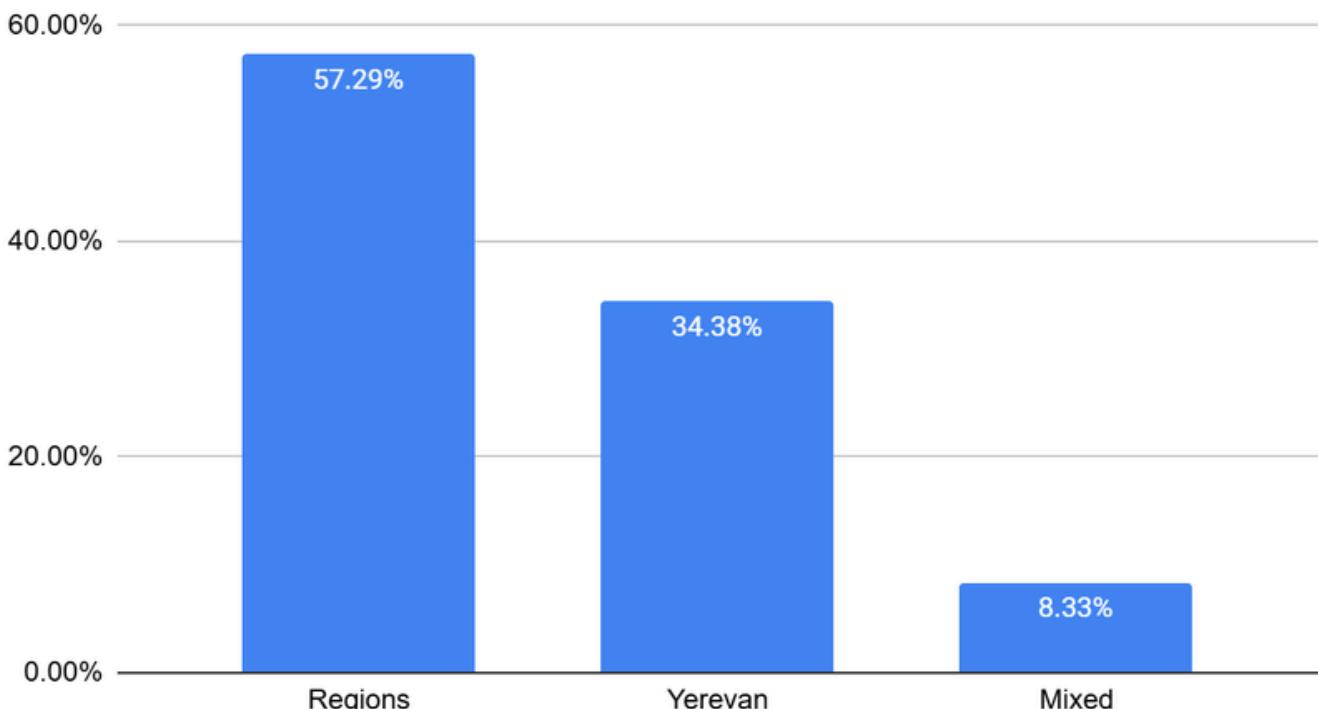
Grants distributed based on the status of grantee-partners, 2024



Regional Funding Distribution

As in previous years, in 2024, organizations and groups based in regional areas received a significant share of the Fund's support, accounting for 57.29% of total funding. This is a noteworthy achievement, especially considering that regional organizations are often smaller in scale and have fewer opportunities to apply for and secure large grants.

Grants distributed based on geographical location, 2024



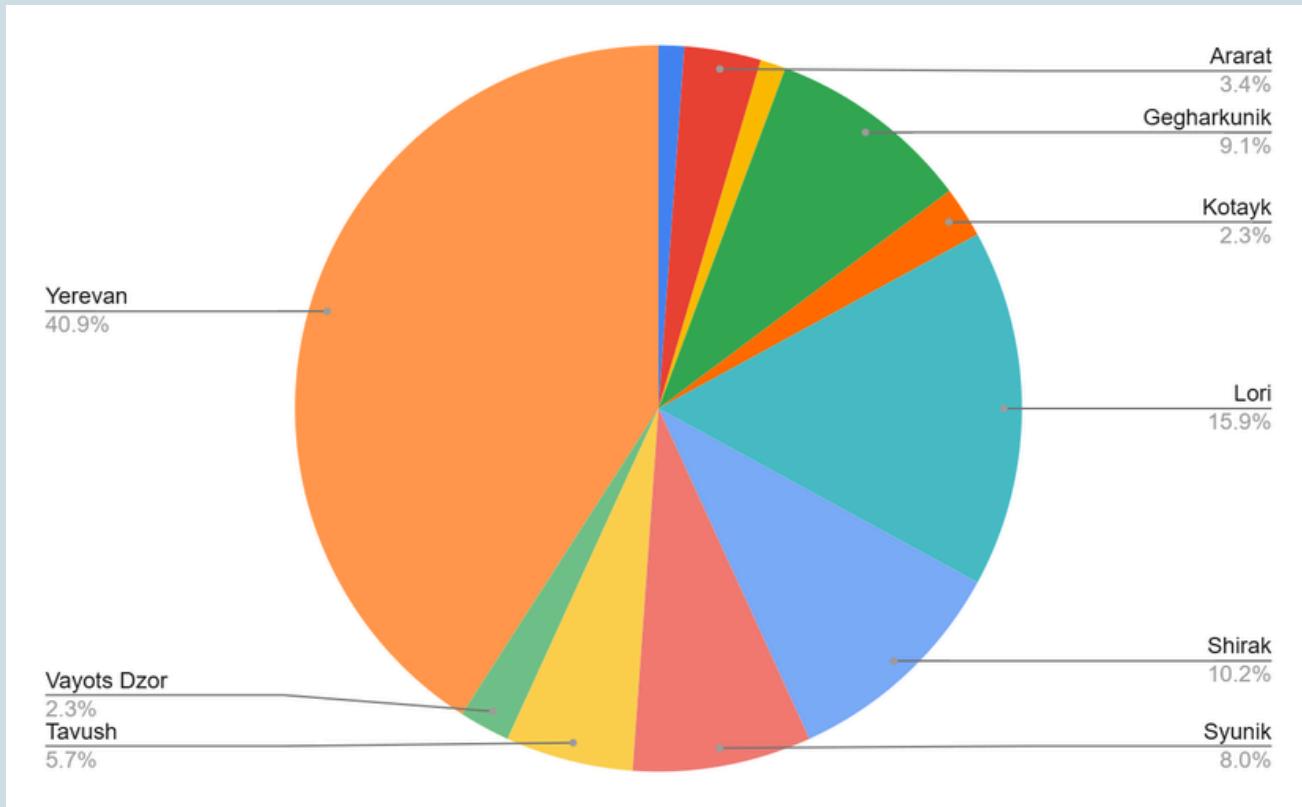
Regional Distribution of Grants

In 2024, the Women's Fund had at least one grantee partner in each region, reflecting broad geographic coverage. Among the regions, Lori (14.6%), along with Shirak, Gegharkunik, and Syunik, showed the highest levels of activity. This distribution remains largely consistent with 2023.

However, the share of mixed projects—those implemented across multiple regions or jointly in Yerevan and other regions—has nearly halved, decreasing from 15.3% in 2023 to 8.3% in 2024. This shift may partly be due to grantee partners relocating to different regions or to Yerevan in recent years.

The proportion of grants allocated to Yerevan remained relatively stable at 37.5%, showing no significant change from the previous year.

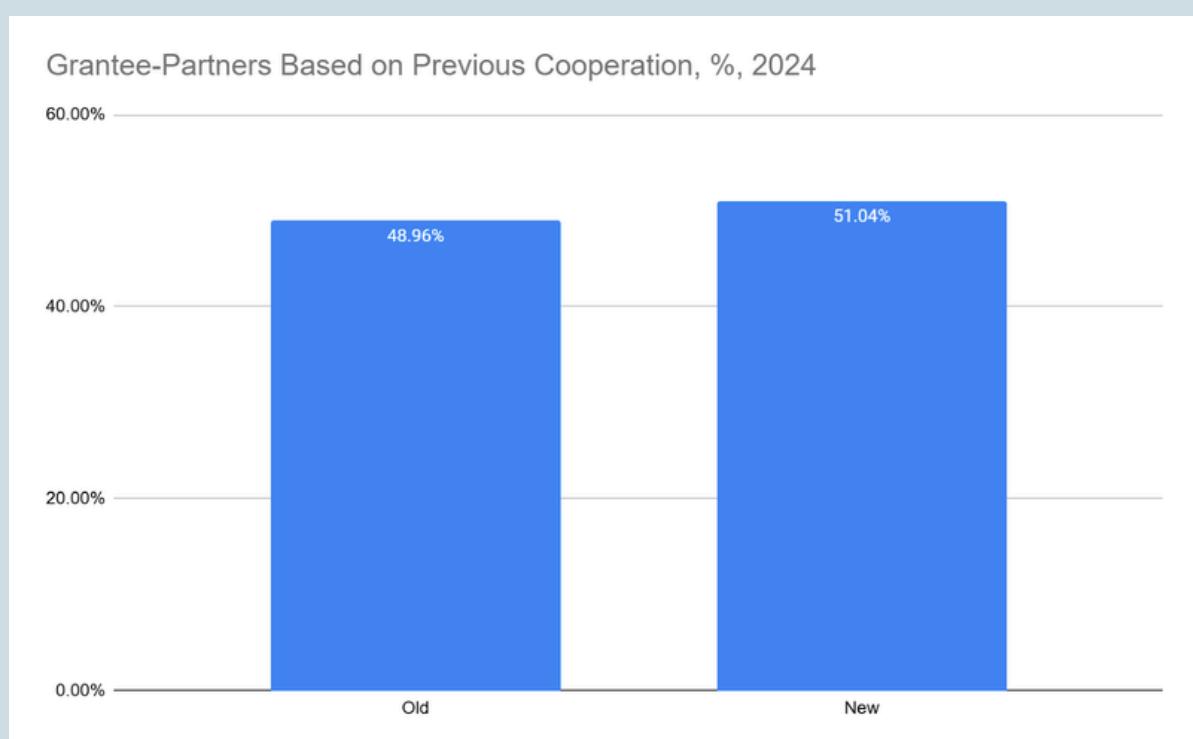
Overall, the data highlights the need for continued efforts to direct more resources to individual regions, ensuring balanced support across the country.



New and Existing Partners

The current distribution may also be influenced by the emergence of new partners and partner organizations in 2024. Unfortunately, comparative data from previous years is not available, as this type of analysis was not conducted before.

In 2024, the ratio of new to existing partners shows no significant difference, with 48.96% being existing partners and 51.04% new partners. This balanced distribution is illustrated in the figure below.



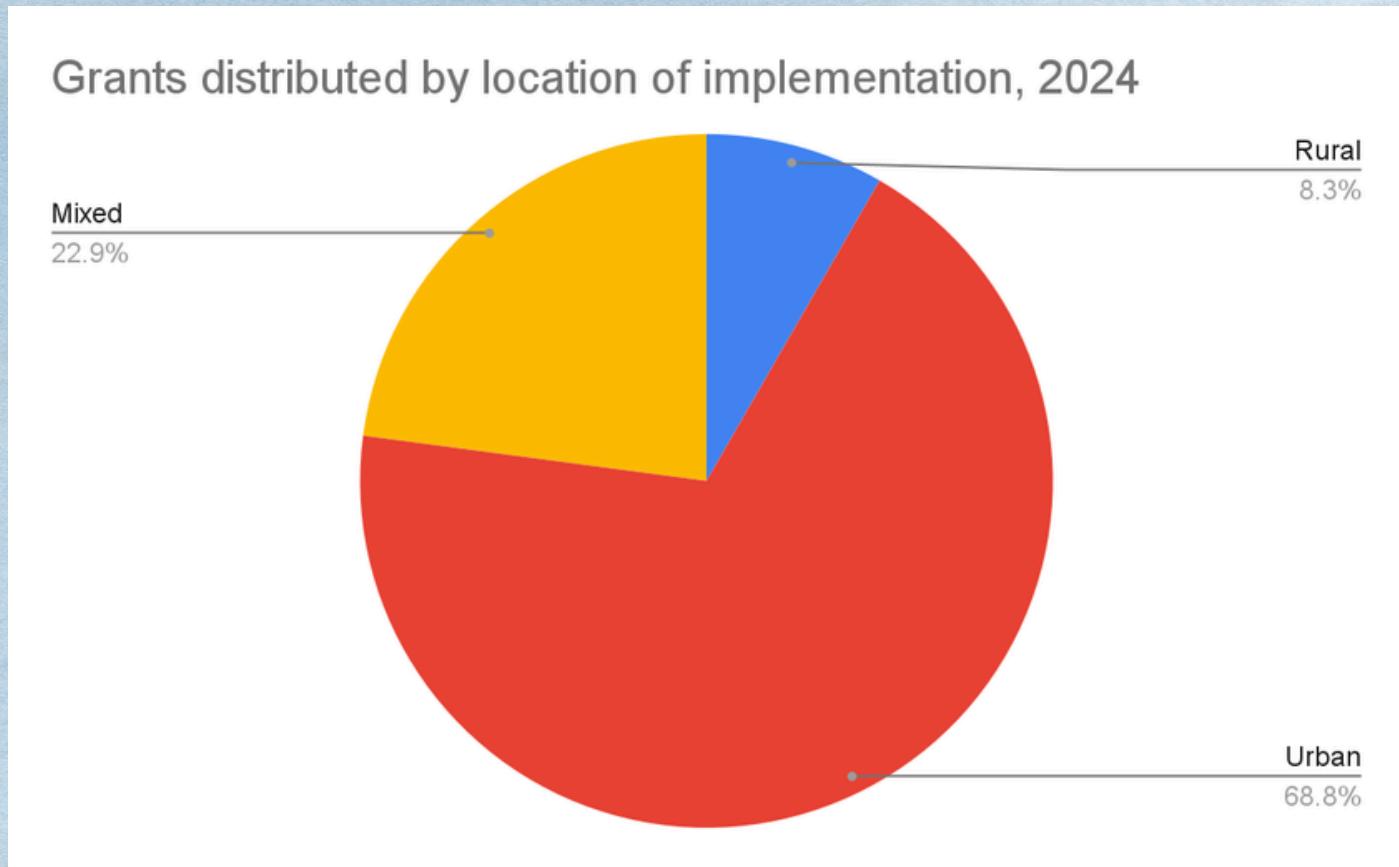
Urban and Rural Distribution of Funded Projects

As shown in the figure below, a significant portion of the projects funded by the Women's Fund in 2024 were based in urban areas, accounting for 68.8% of the total.

However, it's important to consider the unique context of Armenian women's organizations and civil society organizations in general. An organization may be registered and primarily based in an urban area—such as Gyumri, Vanadzor, Stepanavan, Gavar, or Yerevan—with an office in one of these locations, yet still actively operate and implement projects in rural communities.

In 2024:

- 68.8% of projects were based in urban areas
- 8.3% were implemented directly in rural communities
- 22.9% were mixed projects, spanning both urban and rural areas



Funding Distribution by Program Focus

In 2024, the largest portion of funding went to programs aimed at empowering adolescent girls, which received 13.54% of the total funding. This includes not only programs run by adolescent girls themselves, but also initiatives by other organizations that directly benefited adolescent girls.

Other significant funding areas included:

- Women, Peace and Security Agenda
- Women and Feminist Arts
- Programs for and by women over 40 in various parts of Armenia, each receiving 9.38%.

Due to the ongoing relevance of humanitarian assistance for displaced women and their families, humanitarian programs also received significant funding, 9.38%, reflecting the urgency of the situation at the beginning of the year.

Programs focused on women's rights and general feminist activism received 8.33% of the funding.

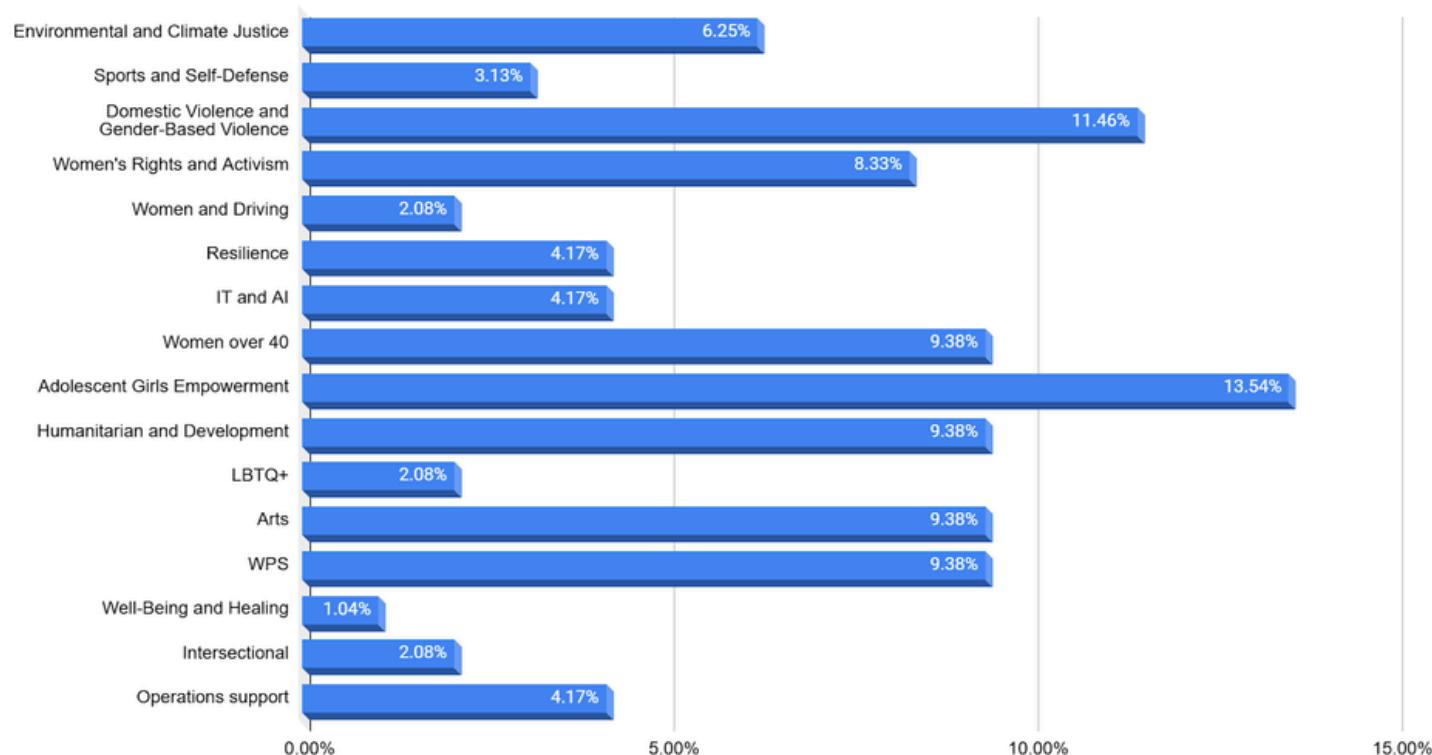
Funding for programs in other thematic areas included:

- Environment and Climate Justice: 6.25%
- Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence: 11.46%
- Resilience: 4.17%
- Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence: 4.17%
- Sports and Self-Defense: 3.13%
- Women and Driving: 2.08%
- LGBTQ+ Women: 2.08%

Cross-cutting programs, which address multiple issues, received 2.08% of the funding.

Additionally, the Fund allocated 4.17% of funding for some operating expenses, which supported the sustainability of key programs.

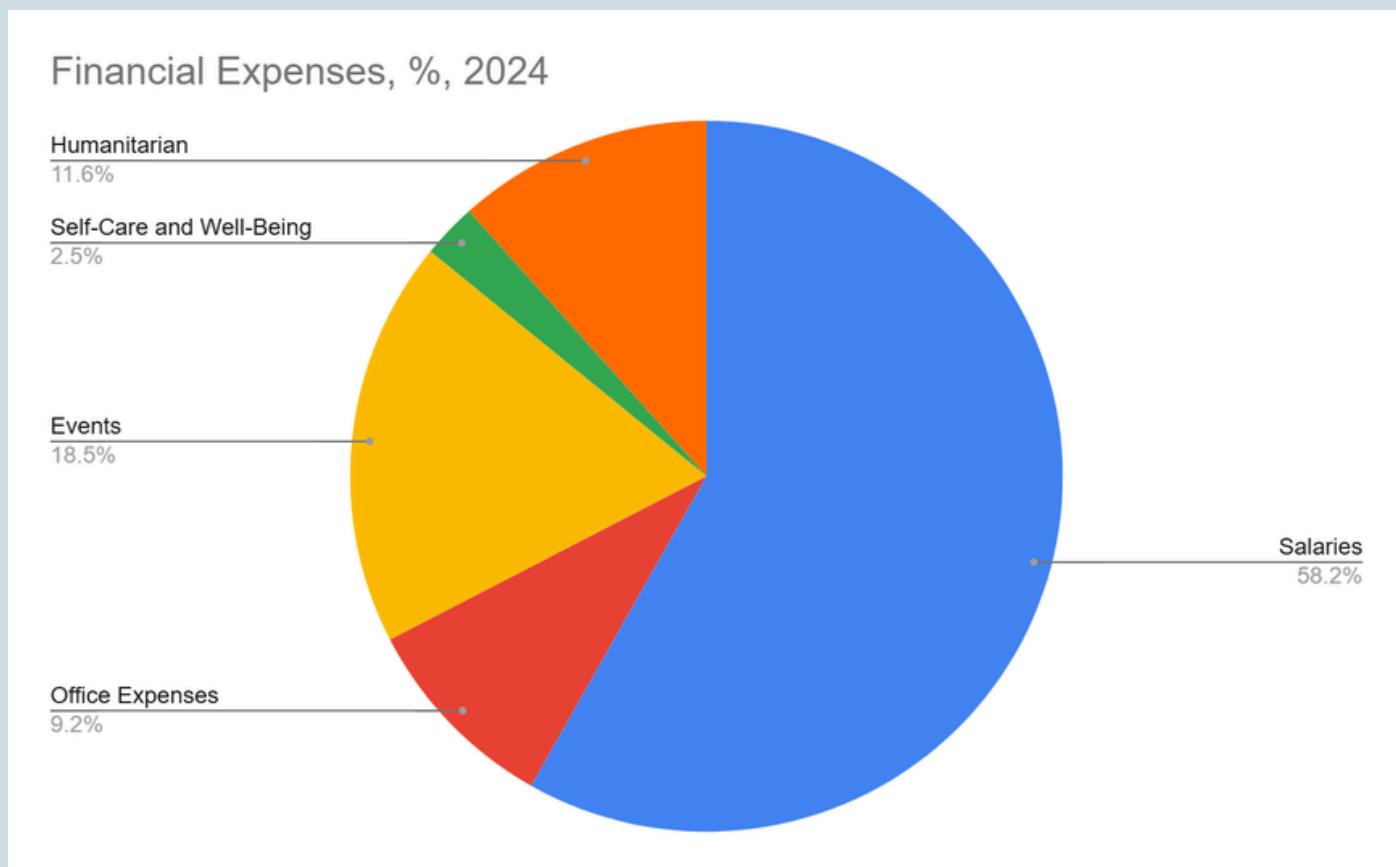
Grants Distributed by thematic areas, 2024



Financial Cost Analysis

The financial analysis of the sub-grant programs was conducted using the final financial reports submitted for each project. Taking into account the thematic focus and overall objectives of the programs supported by the WFA, the financial expenses were categorized into five main types:

- **Salaries:** This category covers payments for services rendered within the programs, including staff salaries and consultancy fees.
- **Office Expenses:** This includes costs related to the operational needs of the organization or initiative during the program period, such as office supplies, equipment, stationery, and staff travel expenses.
- **Event Expenses:** This category refers to costs associated with organizing events and meetings, including participant travel, venue rental, catering (coffee breaks), transportation, as well as the production of banners, booklets, and other informational materials.
- **Self-Care Expenses:** This section covers expenditures dedicated to staff well-being and self-care activities for program implementers.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** This includes expenses related to providing support for forcibly displaced individuals from Nagorno-Karabakh.



Each project underwent a distinct financial analysis to ascertain the proportion of costs incurred by the project.

Conclusions

The 2024 grantmaking trends at Women's Fund Armenia (WFA) reflect a dynamic and responsive approach to addressing the evolving needs of women, girls, and systemically excluded communities across Armenia. Several key conclusions emerge from the analysis:

- **Enhanced Transparency and Accessibility:** The significant increase in open-call grants (from 52% in 2023 to 60% in 2024) demonstrates WFA's commitment to transparent and inclusive grantmaking. The reduction in closed grants and the rise in unsolicited proposals indicate that the Fund is becoming more accessible to grassroots organizations and new partners.
- **Strategic Diversification of Funding:** WFA's diverse grant portfolio—including core support, project grants, resilience funding, and humanitarian assistance—illustrates a comprehensive approach to supporting feminist movements. The focus on project support (55.3%) highlights the Fund's priority to back initiatives with long-term impact, while specialized grants for self-care and resilience reflect an understanding of the holistic needs of feminist activists.
- **Strong Regional Reach:** The allocation of 57.29% of funding to regional organizations shows WFA's dedication to decentralizing resources and strengthening feminist movements beyond urban centers. However, the gap between urban (68.8%) and rural (8.3%) projects suggests an ongoing need to expand direct support in rural communities.
- **Balanced Partnerships:** The near-equal distribution between new (51.04%) and existing partners (48.96%) indicates that WFA successfully maintains long-term collaborations while also fostering new relationships. This balance helps sustain institutional knowledge while encouraging fresh perspectives and innovative projects.
- **Focus on Emerging Priorities:** The prioritization of projects for adolescent girls (13.54%), along with funding for areas like humanitarian assistance, women's rights activism, and environmental/climate justice, reflects WFA's responsiveness to both urgent needs and emerging issues. The inclusion of technology and AI-focused programs signals an effort to adapt to contemporary challenges affecting women and girls.
- **Accountability in Financial Management:** The detailed financial cost analysis shows WFA's strong accountability mechanisms. Categorizing expenses into salaries, office costs, event expenses, self-care, and humanitarian support ensures transparency and effective resource allocation, aligning with best practices in feminist philanthropy.
- **Sustained Commitment to Feminist Values:** Throughout its grantmaking, WFA has maintained a clear focus on feminist principles—prioritizing intersectionality, collective care, and grassroots activism. This consistency reinforces the Fund's role as a key driver of social change in Armenia.



Yerevan 2025