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40 cospe
RIGHTS.TOGETHER.

SOCIAL
REPORT

SUMMARY

Who we are, our mission and vision



WHO WE ARE

COSPE was founded in 1983 as a non-profit and secular association for international cooperation. We operate in 23 countries on the side of local civil society and communities, committed as we are to social justice and peace, supporting in particular marginalised and discriminated groups in their demands for social inclusion, human rights and democracy. For 40 years we have been working to support community projects and connect their struggles and practices, which pave the way for the world we want, which is already on the way. We develop alliances with those who are closest to us and share our vision, working together on the strategic themes and paths of a common agenda. We do this according to our founding values, in which we recognise ourselves: cooperation, respect, professionalism, coherence, creativity, and passion, the repudiation of social injustice and discrimination of all kinds at the centre of it all.

MISSION

We promote dialogue between individuals and communities, for a world of peace that is home to everyone, a world of democracy and human rights, with more social justice and environmental sustainability, for the achievement of equality between men and women and the end of every discrimination.

VISION

We work to build a world that embraces diversity, where all can be enriched by the encounter with others and where social justice means primarily that everyone has equal access to rights and opportunities.

OUR VALUES

Cooperation

We work together and support each other to multiply the effect of our efforts, sharing visions and valuing diversity.

Respect

We recognise and respect the skills and ideas that each person brings, as well as the role they play in the organisation. At COSPE, respect goes beyond organisational boundaries and becomes respect for everything around us.

Professionalism

We recognise the centrality of professionalism in our work and value knowledge, skills and abilities to achieve the association's objectives.

Coherence

Intellectual honesty and the values contained in COSPE's code of ethics guide our decisions, actions and behaviour.

Creativity

We respond to challenges by combining available tools and information with originality and flexibility. We build innovative and successful solutions by activating processes that generate out-of-the-box ideas. For us at COSPE, playfulness is an integral part of creativity.

Our challenges



©Marco Trovato

Human rights at the centre of our commitment

Taking care of our World means for us to put human rights at the core because, to bring about a lasting change, any initiative not only must be sustainable and bring benefits to people's quality of life, but also must ensure the full enjoyment of individual and collective rights.



Ecological social transition and care for the common good

Economic systems, and specifically the food, energy and waste supply chains, must respond to the principles of environmental sustainability and social equity. Water, land, forests, biodiversity and health must be protected and everyone everywhere has the right to access them.



Rights, migrations and inclusion

Our societies must be able to welcome all people without discriminations based on nationality, culture, origin. Everyone who chooses to leave their countries and seek a better life, or are forced to do so to escape war, persecution, poverty, should be guaranteed equal rights and dignity.



Women rights and gender equity

Women all over the world must live free from all forms of violence and constraint, under conditions of true equality in the private as well as in the public sphere. We must stop all prejudices and discriminations that prevent women and LGBT+ people from full access to civil and political rights, education and health.

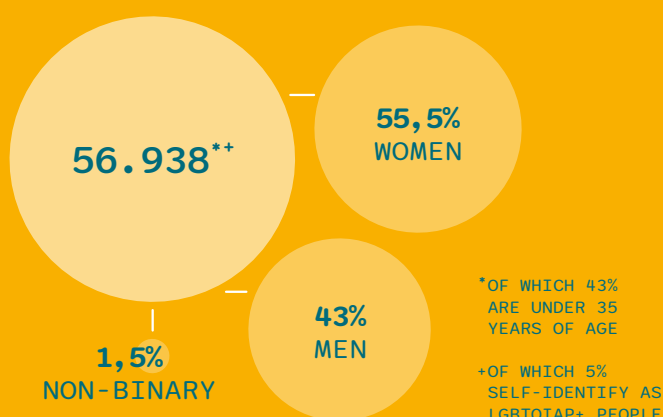
How to read the data

The data you will find in the next sections of the Social Report come from a survey of 54 of the 78 projects that we implemented in 2022. Because of this, the numbers should be considered in relative rather than absolute terms. The selection of the projects generating these data was made on the basis of their relevance to COSPE's strategy, excluding minor initiatives whose activities are included, wholly or partly, into more complex projects. Similarly, the evaluation of the impacts of COSPE strategy was done on a small number of projects. Out of the 54 projects, 9 were selected to take part in the first phase of testing the measurement of strategic indicators. The 9 projects were selected trying to ensure a balance between the three main strategic challenges and COSPE operational departments, based on criteria such as the strategic nature of the initiatives - significant paths of COSPE's activities; new paths on which COSPE is investing; historical paths that tell the story of COSPE on certain themes or certain geographical areas. The projects have contributed with quantitative data and qualitative assessments that, in part, have been systematised and you can read them in the sections dedicated to the three strategic challenges.



Stakeholders

BENEFICIARIES IN 2022

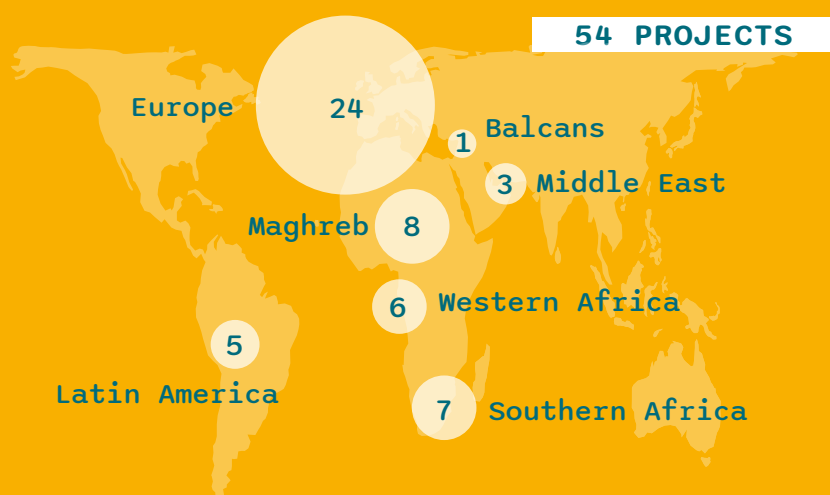


ORGANIZATIONS

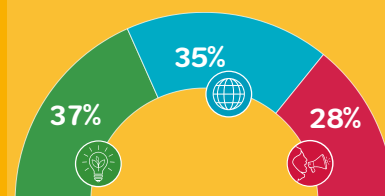
1.626

Projects

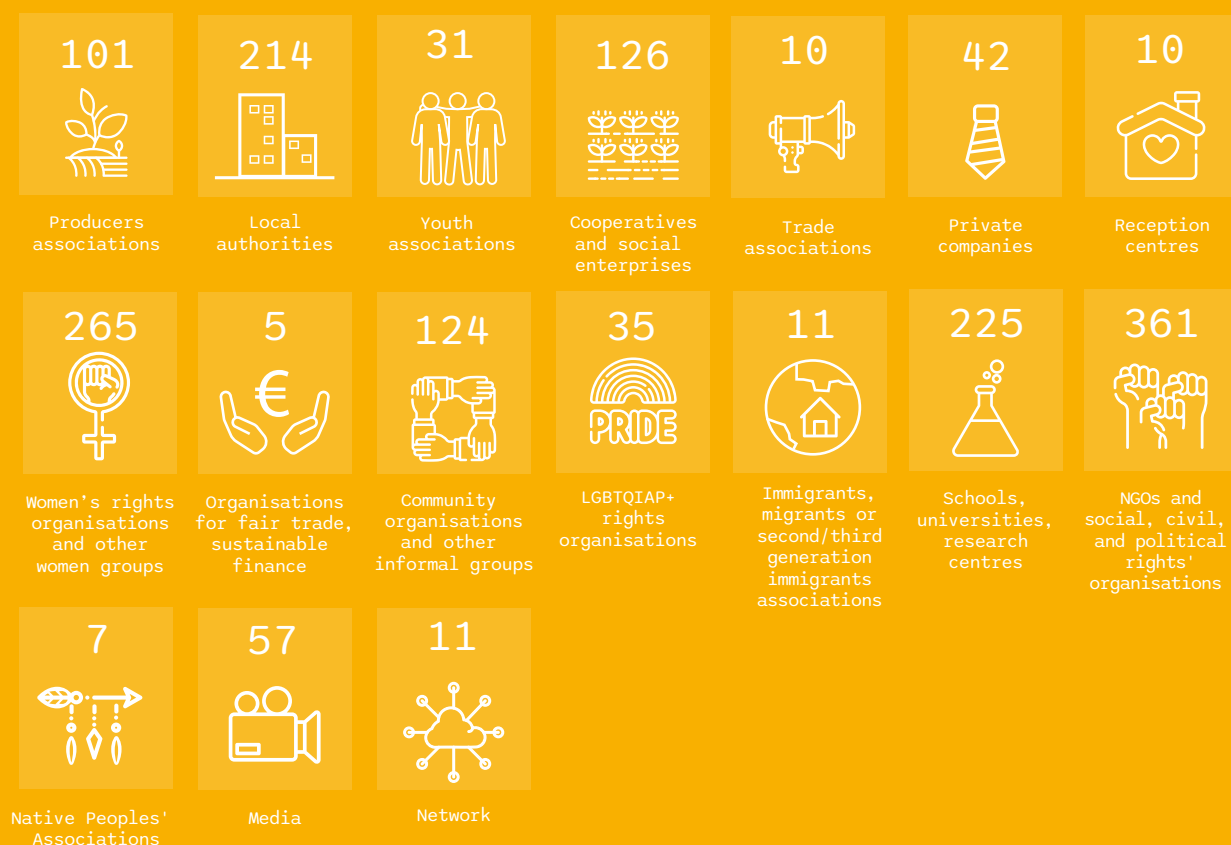
PROJECTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



PROJECTS BY CHALLENGE



TYPE OF ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED

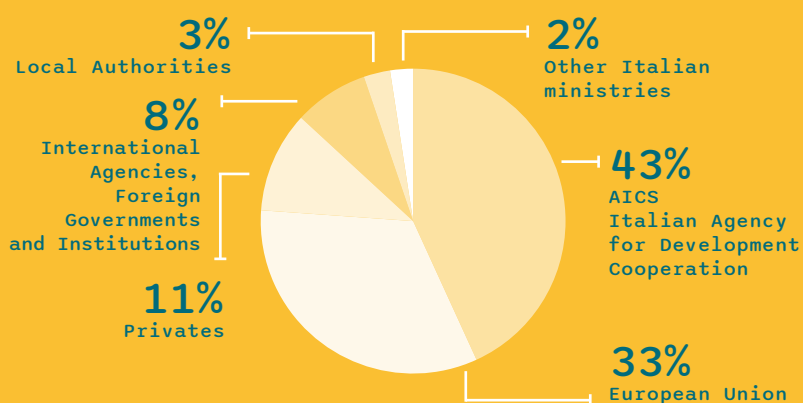


Sources and allocation of funds

TOTAL FUNDS:

€13.401.776

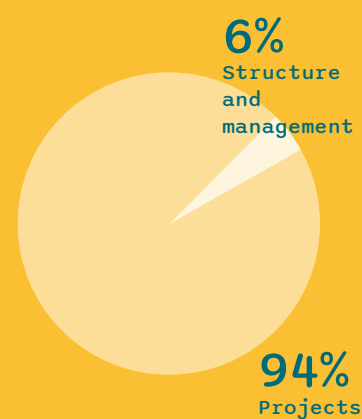
Breakdown by donor



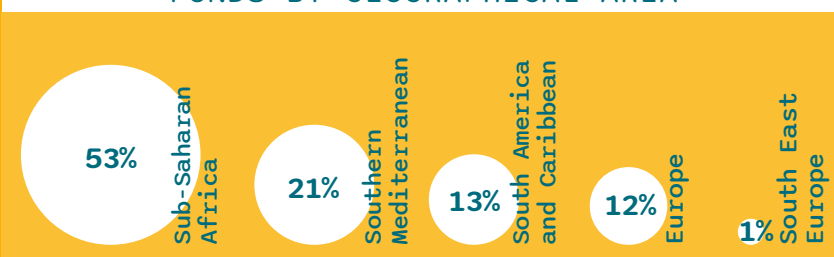
TOTAL COSTS:

€13.416.564

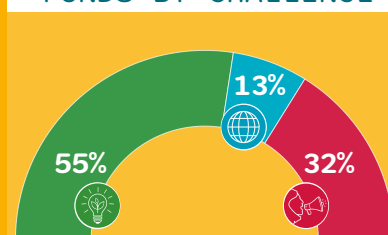
Breakdown of funds' use



FUNDS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



FUNDS BY CHALLENGE





Ecological social
transition and care
for the common good



Rights, migrations
and inclusion



Women rights
and gender equity

23 Countries
with ongoing projects





PROJECTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

22 PROJECTS



OBJECTIVES

The commitment to the ecological and social conversion of production and consumption systems. The right to a healthy environment and the care of the commons.

22 PROJECTS 17 COUNTRIES

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, eSwatini, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia, Zimbabwe.

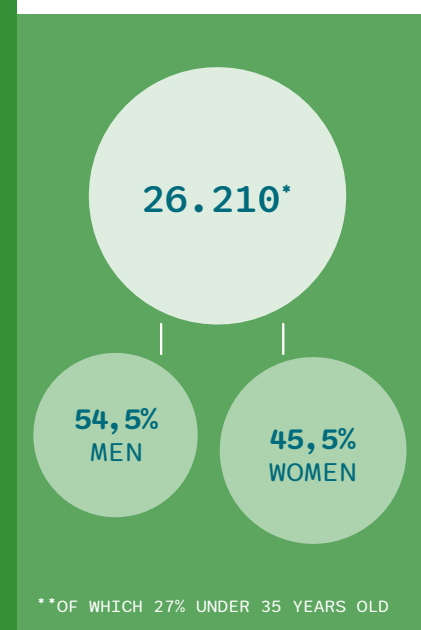
TYPE OF ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED



ORGANISATIONS



BENEFICIARIES IN 2022



Strengthening the cocoa and coffee supply chains

in the provinces of Carchi, Imbabura and Esmeraldas.

ECUADOR



The provinces of Esmeralda, Carchi and Imbabura in Ecuador experience high levels of poverty and the cocoa and coffee chains are a strategy for the development of the territories as they represent a more profitable and sustainable alternative to traditional crops in the region.

The coffee and cocoa from the three provinces are highly appreciated on the national and international market, but the producers still face many difficulties in terms of management, organisation and sales. Although women contribute to the long value chain of cocoa and coffee, they do not participate in the decision-making spaces of production and/or organisational initiatives and their work is invisible. Another serious problem is the generational turnover with very few young people linked to the two production chains. The project, managed by COSPE and financed by FIEDS (Italian and Ecuadorian fund for sustainable development) aims to strengthen the coffee and cocoa value chains in the 3 provinces by improving their governance, representativeness and productivity.

The aim is also to improve the business management of the associations of the small producers, facilitating the economic inclusion of women according to the principles of social and solidarity economy, environmental sustainability, equality and heritage conservation. The project involved 1666 small producers organised in 18 organisations. The project also led to a significant increase in the average annual income of the workers for all cocoa and coffee producers involved (1677, of whom 431 were women and 1246 men), among them also 186 in vulnerable conditions.

Increasing the average income of

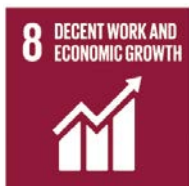
women coffee producers from \$1,853 annually to \$3,072 and that of men from \$2,169 to \$4,435. The increase for women cocoa producers was from \$54 to \$384, an increase of 710%, and for producers from \$300 to \$555 annually.

To achieve this result COSPE has supported the strengthening the associations' management capacities and provided technical support in the plantations to improve the quality and thus the price of the product, but the element that has led to the increase in income comes above all from the improvement in associative marketing.

A total of 677 hectares of land have obtained organic certification thanks to a long process of technical support and training, and there are now 7 farms that adopt the principles of the Social and Solidarity Economy.

Thanks to these actions, mainly dedicated to women coupled with training on gender issues, 50 women have improved their income since the start of the project and participate equally in the management of family resources. 19 women have promoted new economic initiatives: they are the Quinindè cocoa producers (united in the Asomurchoq association) who have been running the Redescocpe chocolate workshop since 2022. In the last Redescocpe elections, two representatives of Asomurchoq were elected to the management board and a third woman now holds the position of president. A total of 13 women participate significantly in governing bodies. In total, 29% of the people holding management positions in producer associations are now women.

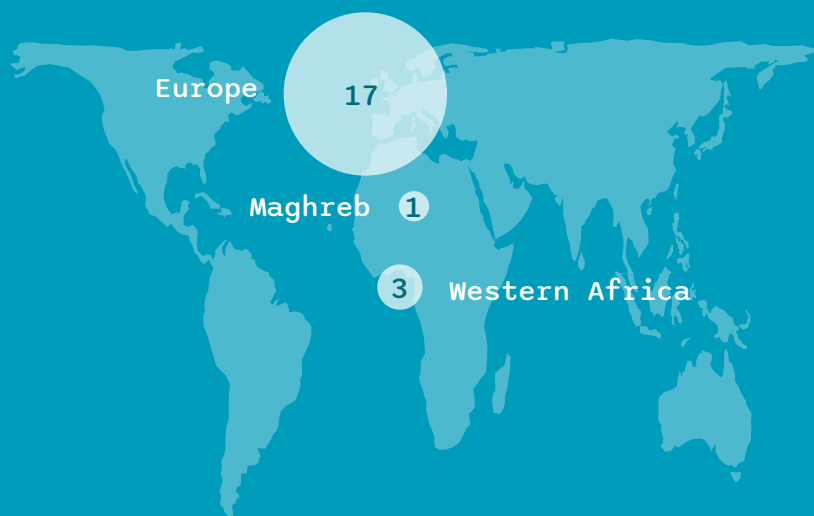
Millennium
Goals 2030





PROJECTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

21 PROJECTS



OBJECTIVES

For inclusive and quality access to services by people at risk of poverty and discrimination. On the side of those discriminated against or at risk of discrimination.

21 PROJECTS 7 COUNTRIES

Cape Verde, Italy/Europe, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Senegal.

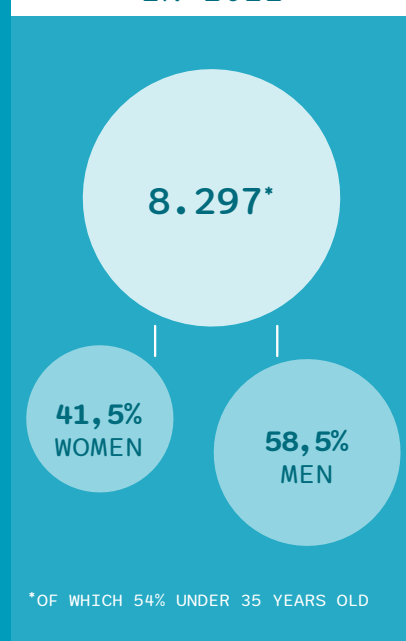
TYPE OF ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED



ORGANISATIONS



BENEFICIARIES IN 2022



Nouvelles Perspectives

SENEGAL



young people who decide to stay, invest in the country and who want to have the same social prestige as those who decide to migrate.

The first research on the representation of migration in the Senegalese media and the first exchange between Senegalese and European journalists for a collective work of journalistic co-productions were pioneering initiatives that the European Union recognised as good practice. The University of Dakar - and in particular the Centre d'Etudes des Sciences et Techniques de l'Information - decided to make the Senegalese media's monitoring of such a wide-ranging and debated phenomenon in Senegal a permanent feature.

The involvement of influencers and artists in the communication campaign was appreciated and also had an effect beyond the end of the project, testifying to a virtuous process put in place by the activities. 85.4% of the participants interviewed claimed to have increased their knowledge of the risks of irregular migration. 81.80% of the festival young participants stated that they had increased their knowledge about other regular migration opportunities and/or economic alternatives.

One of the artists involved, the rapper and president of the Afrikuturbain association decided to call the new album Jambaar, which was the name of the campaign, and to convey the campaign's message during the promotion and in the concerts he will organise.

The media play a crucial role in constructing the political but also the social discourse around migration. This is true in Europe but also in the migrants' countries of origin. According to the latest IOM survey in Senegal, 43% of potential migrants state that they do not have the necessary information, 37% do not know the risks associated with migration, and 25% mention parents and relatives as having influenced their decision to leave. This is why COSPE, which has more than 30 years presence in the country, decided to work on correct information, also experimenting with a communication campaign as part of the project 'Nouvelles Perspectives,' co-financed by the European Union's AMIF Fund. Informing and publicly discussing the social dimension of migration was a necessity that emerged from the preliminary research carried out as part of the project and from these two campaigns were developed, one informative and the other to give space, voice and prominence to the many

Millennium
Goals 2030





PROJECTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

17 PROJECTS



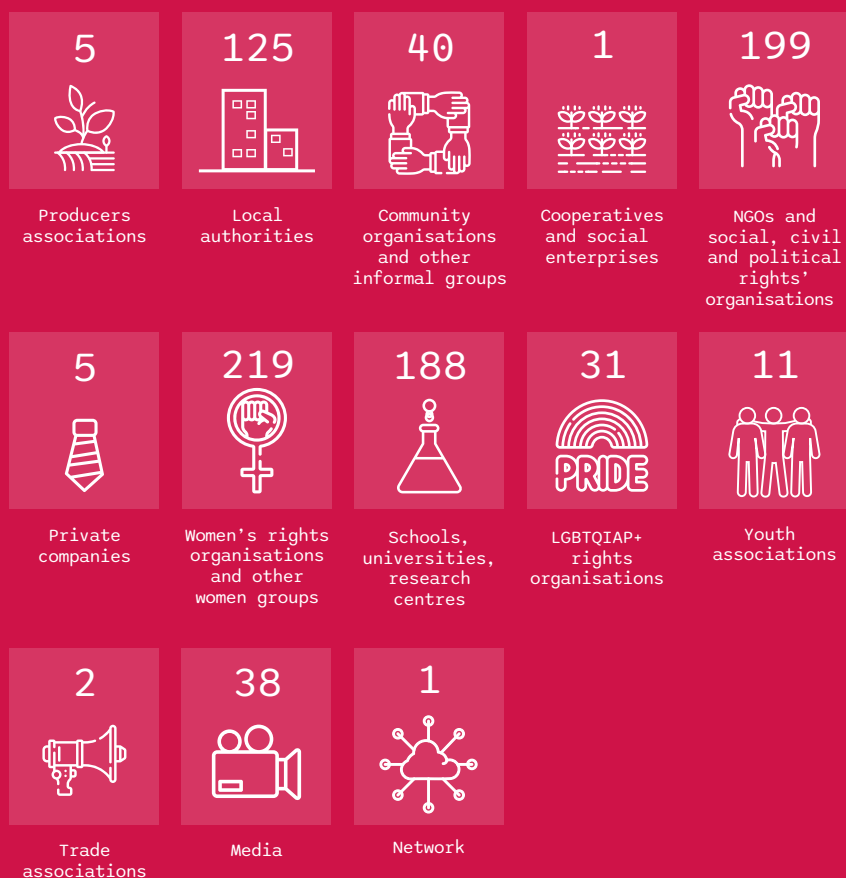
OBJECTIVES

Empowerment of women and Lgbtqiap+ people in the political, social, economic, family, individual spheres.

17 PROJECTS
11 COUNTRIES

Cape Verde, Cuba, Eswatini, Italy/ Europe, Libya, Malawi, Palestine, Senegal, Tunisia, Zimbabwe.

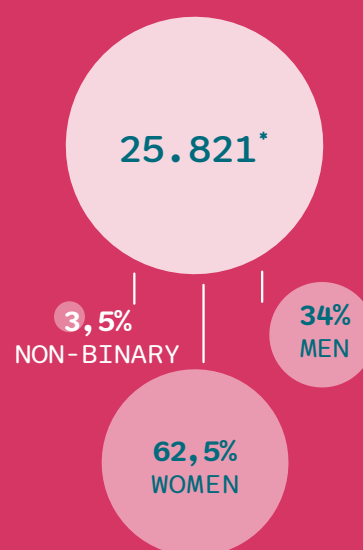
TYPE OF ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED



ORGANISATIONS



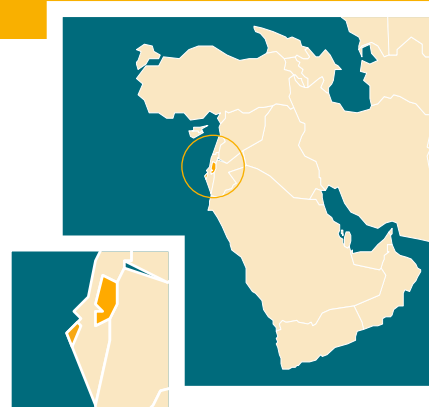
BENEFICIARIES IN 2022



*OF WHICH 54% UNDER 35 YEARS OLD

Women and Democracy

PALESTINE



© Laura Silvia Battaglia

Despite much progress in recent years, the road to full women's rights in Palestine is still fraught with obstacles. Among the female population in Palestine, there is a high level of schooling. However, this does not have a positive impact on employment: the unemployment rate, which for women is 40 percent, rises to 69 percent when considering young female graduates. In general, Palestinian women's participation in political life and access to decision-making processes appears problematic due to the patriarchal nature of Palestinian society and their exposure to forms of sexism, violence and discrimination. The picture is even more dire for Palestinian women with disabilities (PWD), who find themselves in a condition of extreme vulnerability determined by a double level of discrimination, which effectively leads them to be marginalised in the public sphere and strongly devalued in the private sphere.

The 'Women and Democracy' project worked to set up groups of women-resource persons who worked on drawing up agendas, detailed lists of common problems and also proposals for an improvement in the status and participation in decision-making.

The meetings, collective work, exchange and sharing have already represented a way out of isolation for many women. The project then supported the paths to political or economic affirmation identified by the women. As many as 322 women succeeded in proposing meetings with local authorities. The presentation of feminist demands was mainly addressed to the municipalities.

Also positive -according to the collected opinions- was the dynamic that saw the formal and informal groups of women plan and implement commu-

nity meetings of interest to the population of the communities involved, particularly on issues of inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Economic autonomy is an important lever for empowerment, and 99 women were directly supported within the project. The initiatives promoted were: marketing of local handicrafts - olive oil soaps, traditional Palestinian embroidery, Za'atar production, spices, traditional clothes, traditional food - and organisation of events to sell the products or, in the case of the community of Beit Illo (Ramallah Governorate), the creation of a small shop run by women.

Innovative pilot actions are also underway, such as supporting Radio 24 FM, created and promoted by young journalists, or the Palestinian theatre company Ayyam al Masrah - Theatre Day Productions (Tdp), the only one active in the Gaza Strip since 1995.

The project supported the production and performance of the show "The story is sick", a bold experiment that uses contemporary theatre as a tool for advocacy and denunciation to provoke and nurture reflection and public dialogue on the situation of women in the Palestinian community, in the Gaza Strip, in contexts of violence, giving different interpretations suitable for all audiences.

Millennium Goals 2030



40 years of COSPE



COSPE turned 40 this year: an important milestone that requires us to be aware and to make courageous choices, starting from a clear definition of priorities and objectives. In 2022 we have witnessed epochal changes, which have had an impact

on our work and have challenged us in our reinterpretation of what our contribution can and should be. Not only the war in Europe and nationalism as the dominant ideology, but continuous attacks on NGOs and the loss of the spirit of solidarity that

was emerging during the pandemic, as well as the lack of focus on the climate and environmental crisis. Changes of scenario have occurred in all the countries where we operate, from changes of government, to attempted coups d'état, to new pockets of poverty generated by rising prices and scarcity of raw materials, to repression of social movements.

So there are many challenges still ahead of us, which we will tackle as best we know how, through our work and commitment. In this social report you will find the data, the stories, the numbers, the words and the faces that tell this story.

*Francesca Pieraccini,
general director of COSPE*

Sam Ndlovu, 38, is the executive director of Treat (Trans research education advocacy and training) and vice-president of the Southern African trans forum, an organisation that fights against injustice and discrimination suffered by trans and gender non-binary people in various countries in southern Africa. 'Everyone,' he says in Italy for some COSPE events, 'has the power to change and improve things. That is why we must all have the courage to dream as big as possible'.

Sam Ndlovu
executive director of Treat



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* updated to July 1st 2023.

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