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SIGRID RAUSING TRUST



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1. Summary

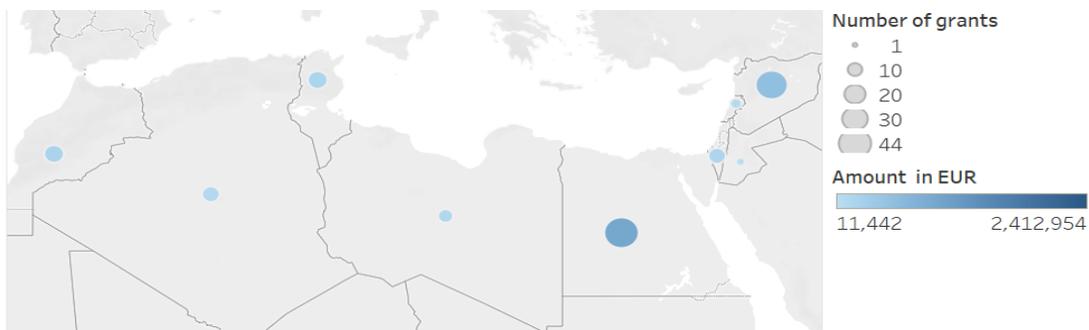
Mirroring the situation and needs of local civil society actors in the southern Mediterranean region, the salient feature of the Foundation's intervention in 2021 has been the increase in requests for urgent protection in all countries of the region, including the re-launch of a support programme for defenders at risk in Tunisia, in the face of authoritarian drift and consolidation. Beyond strengthening its internal policies aimed at creating and maintaining an optimal working environment and ethics, the Foundation has expanded its operating budget by seven percent to meet the growing challenges experienced by local human rights actors, including on their wellbeing, and to strengthen their capacity to cope and innovate to preserve their agency and legitimacy, through 140 urgent and operational grants for a total of € 2.4 million.¹

The main directions of the Foundation's support have been to:

- **Expand protection means and networks** to defend the fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly of civil society actors facing risks to their lives and agency (51%).
- **Sustain civil society actions to address injustice and inequalities** facing marginalised populations, including women, youth, LGBTIQ+ persons, migrants, and prisoners of conscience (31%).
- **Empower a younger generation of civil society actors**, including young men and women, vulnerable groups and survivors of human rights abuses, **to claim respect for human rights** (18%).

Rooted in its mission, the Foundation has continued to prioritise support to defenders, groups and associations that operate in isolated areas, accounting for 65% of all beneficiaries, so that no one is left behind. It also focused on supporting young activists and youth-led civil society initiatives (29%), women's human rights defenders (WHRDs) and their organisations (27%), LGBTIQ+ rights defenders and their organisations (8%) as well as defenders forced into exile and local migrants' organisations (36%) in the region.

Although Syrian civil society actors continue to represent a significant share of the Foundation's beneficiaries (27%) as in the past decade, Egyptian defenders became the largest recipient (32%) due to gross human rights violations in both countries.



Preliminary results of this support show that 74% of the defenders supported were able to escape threats and harassment thanks to the rapid protection grants, allowing 98% of them to regain a sense of normalcy and 64% to continue their human rights work. All the civil society initiatives supported also remain active today. Not only were they able to support nearly 10,000 marginalised people and victims of violence, 30% of whom were women, and to mobilise nearly two million participants in their online action, but also to contribute to legal progress, demonstrating considerable courage, agility and creativity in these times of crisis.

¹ Based on a review of 853 requests for support (see the appendix), the grants were aimed at protecting and supporting 58 individual defenders and 79 human rights initiatives.

2. Financial Support to Human Rights Defenders and Organisations

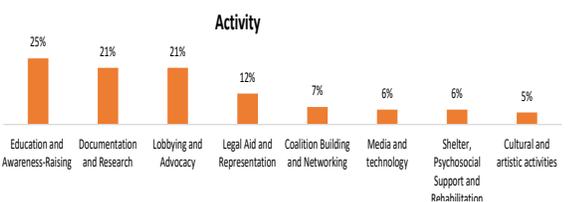
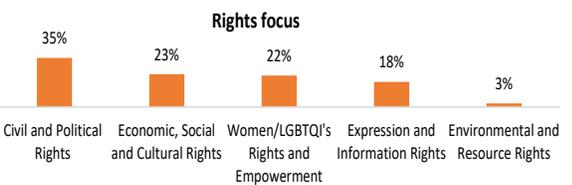
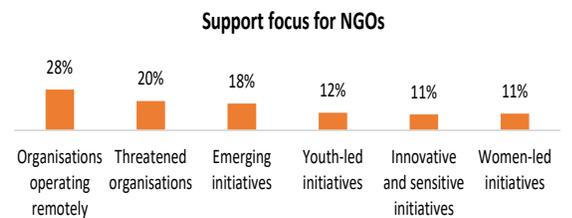
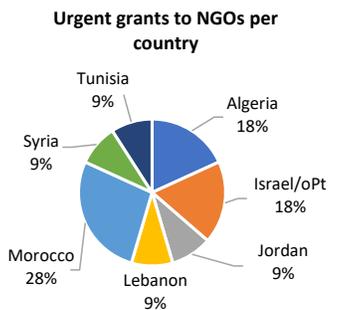
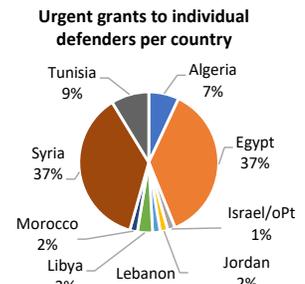
Two mechanisms have been set to respond as flexibly as possible to the needs expressed by defenders and organisations: an emergency response mechanism, through which the Board can decide to allocate small protection grants in less than ten days, and a mechanism based on bi-annual consultations of the Board, through which requests for larger operational support are considered through an open call for proposals.

Half of the Foundation’s interventions were made in an **emergency** context to protect the lives, well-being and resilience of threatened defenders and organisations in 2021. These interventions reached 12 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and 58 individual defenders, of whom 23% were WHRDs and 11% LGBTIQ+ defenders, not only from Syria, Egypt, Algeria and Libya, as in previous years, but also from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Tunisia and Morocco, for an amount of 346,754 euros.

In view of the significant mental health problems encountered by defenders, ranging from depression to post traumatic stress disorder, including when in exile, the Foundation scaled up its support (+110%) to cover psychosocial therapy and well-being needs. Moreover, urgent grants to NGOs at risk also increased (+47%) compared to 2020. Algerian, Palestinian and Jordanian NGO recipients notably sought support to cover judicial representation or to relocate their activity in response to threats and arbitrary criminalisation, while Moroccan, Tunisian, Lebanese and Syrian initiatives sought bridge funding to overcome sudden financial hassles threatening their agency.

The Foundation’s **operational support** mainly aimed at enabling threatened civil society initiatives (20%) to preserve their activity to end impunity against gross human rights violations, notably in Egypt (32%) and Syria (22%), while fostering new and sensitive initiatives to emerge, among which 34% are led by youth, to address the needs of and raise their awareness of human rights in isolated areas (28%).

In the face of increasing censorship, the Foundation increased its support for initiatives that defend the right to freedom of expression (+19% compared to 2020), with initiatives aimed at debunking “fake news,” exposing violations and creating independent spaces for online exchange and dialogue. The Foundation also increased its support (+13%) to organisations addressing sexual and gender-based violence, advancing the rights of women and LGBTIQ+ people and strengthening their participation and leadership in the public sphere, given their fundamental places in democracies and the additional gender-specific threats they face.



The work of the NGOs supported has mainly focused on the promotion and defence of civil and political rights (35%), followed by economic, social and cultural rights (23%), gender equality (22%), the rights to freedom of expression and information (18%) and environmental, land and resource rights (3%).

The Foundation has sought to respond to the concrete needs expressed by civil society actors operating in the different contexts described below.²

2.1. EGYPT: Safeguarding the Existence and Influence of the Independent Civil Society Movement

In recent years, and again this year, the Foundation has focused on supporting the resilience of the independent civil society movement in the face of systemic repression by the regime. Its interventions notably aimed at protecting the safety of 21 individual defenders and pro-democracy activists (57% under the age of 35) facing judicial harassment, and helping 19 human rights organisations,³ 43% of which are youth-led, to expand local networks to protect victims of violations and advocate for justice and accountability. This support enabled them to assist over 2,000 victims and document violations in 15 governorates, as well as developing coping capacity, including training a younger generation of lawyers and civil society leaders, to end impunity and advance the rule of law. The Foundation's grant-making capital reached € 969,103, an increase of 32% over 2020, with a couple of examples presented below.

Besides providing pro bono legal representation to over 62 political activists, human rights defenders, labour unionists, academics and journalists in 52 unfair court cases, 35 young lawyers from Qena, the Red Sea, Beni Suef and Luxor, among whom 43% women, were intensively trained by an organisation on litigation before special prosecutors and courts, as a mean to broaden protection networks for civil society actors facing arbitrary prosecutions across the country.

After years of advocacy by a coalition of associations, the Egyptian House of Representatives amended a law on 25 April 2021 to further prohibit the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) by health professionals and penalise family members who request it on their young female relatives. Although sustained campaigns by independent civil society actors attest to the positive change they can have on women's rights, it remains to be seen whether its application will be ensured, witnesses protected, and educational reforms implemented.

2.2. SYRIA: Protecting and Sustaining Civil Society to Empower Victims in Securing their Rights

With a grant-making capital of € 544,252, the Foundation maintained its priority of protecting the safety of 21 Syrian defenders, notably those recently released from jail to avoid re-arrest or in exile to avoid deportation, amidst the protracted conflict and the stalemate in the UN-led peace process. It also increased its operational support to 17 grassroots human rights organisations,⁴ 35% of which are led by women, including associations led by victims and families of victims of detention and enforced disappearance, to enable them to play a leading role in the search for justice and accountability. Finally, it supported grassroots initiatives to defend the rights of Syrian refugees and to advise and inform displaced populations in Syria about their rights, including land and property rights. Some examples of these support actions are provided below.

² A new innovative regional initiative to strengthen press freedom and journalists' knowledge of human rights was also supported.

³ 42% of the Egyptian NGO recipients have registered and relocated part of their operations abroad for safety reasons.

⁴ 71% of the Syrian NGO recipients have registered and relocated part of their operations abroad for safety reasons while the rest is based and active in the north-west part of the country.

A nascent victim-led association was supported to train former female detainees in international human rights law and storytelling, enabling them to speak out about their experiences in detention, including with local and international media, and to organise campaigns to end gender-based violence and demand the release of detainees in north-west Syria. The association is today in contact with the UN Commission of Inquiry, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Syrian human rights organisations to discuss the situation of former detainees and to participate in ongoing litigation initiatives in Europe.

As a result of intense advocacy efforts by another Syrian victims' initiative, among others previously supported who developed in February 2021 a common vision on how to advance the rights of the victims in the "Truth and Justice Charter", a UN General Assembly resolution, supported by a recommendation from the UN Commission of Inquiry, recognised the need for urgent action on this issue and called for a study to support efforts to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons in Syria in November 2021.

2.3. ISRAEL-PALESTINE: Upholding Civil Society Action in Defending Palestinian Rights

In the face of mass arrests and violence against Palestinians who have protested against forced displacement in occupied East Jerusalem since April and sustained threats to Palestinian rights and those who defend them, the Foundation provided urgent and operational support amounting to € 175,672 to ten human rights defenders and organisations, 30% of whom are based in East Jerusalem. The support mainly aimed at strengthening pro-bono legal assistance for Palestinian activists arbitrarily detained, including children, defending the rights to family reunification and challenging politically driven lawsuits brought against Palestinian and Israeli anti-occupation NGOs. In addition, support was allocated to an innovative civil society initiative using hip-hop and rap music to combat divisions by giving a stage to marginalised youth to exercise their rights, and counter the dominant narratives of the state and right-wing nationalism. Some examples of these support actions are provided below.

To challenge the arbitrary revocation of East Jerusalem residents' national insurance by the Israeli authorities following the mass arrests of Palestinian peaceful protesters, an association has not only urgently helped families get their welfare rights restored but has also filed petitions with the Labour Court and the Ministry of Welfare and Social Services to ask the National Insurance Institute to explain its actions. The swift reversal of the national insurance revocations attests to the lack of a legal basis of these measures.

In response to the increase in lawsuits against Israeli NGOs denouncing the occupation by state authorities, right-wing NGOs or individuals, a human rights organisation was able to provide legal representation to three Israeli NGOs sued for defamation and invasion of privacy because of their work defending land rights, farmers' rights and Palestinian cultural heritage. Two of these lawsuits were successfully settled or dismissed in July and August.

2.4. LIBYA: Boosting Civil Society's Influence on Legislative Reforms

Ahead of the legislative and presidential elections initially scheduled for the end of 2021, the Foundation strengthened its support to local human rights organisations in order to advance the rule of law and legislative reforms, particularly in the areas of gender parity and freedom of expression, while keeping as a cross-cutting priority the protection of defenders at risk and the access to justice for the victims of violations. The support

granted to two individual defenders and five human rights organisations amounted to € 138,494, a twofold increase compared to the previous year.

A Libyan defender and former prosecutor, exiled in Tunisia and threatened as a result of his collaboration with UN agencies and participation in advocacy missions to the Human Rights Council, relocated to and obtained international protection from the Netherlands in November 2021. He continues his work away from threats and has set up legal protection units to strengthen access to justice for victims of human rights violations in Tripoli, Benghazi and Sabha.

A human rights organisation has drafted an alternative law in consultation with Libyan journalists to regulate the media in line with international conventions. The draft was discussed in meetings with the Committee for Media Reform and Development in Libya, formed by the Government of National Unity in June 2021, the President of the Libyan Presidential Council and MPs from the parliamentary committees on media, human rights and the legislature. All pledged to support the consideration of the draft law in parliament in order to repeal the existing legislation and end decades of restrictions.

2.5. ALGERIA: Protecting Civil Society's Rights to Freedom of Expression and Association

The Foundation mainly provided urgent support (67% of interventions) to nine defenders and associations to enable them to mitigate the threats they faced because of their human rights work, including in the southern wilayas of the country. This support was aimed at strengthening their legal defence or enabling them to relocate to safer areas or abroad to avoid arbitrary detention. In addition, operational support was provided to strengthen NGO resilience (digital security), international advocacy for justice and accountability, and the protection of women victims of violence and discrimination. The Foundation's grant-making capital reached € 102,788 for local and diaspora civil society actors, with a couple of examples presented below.

A women's human rights defender was able to escape judicial harassment by moving temporarily to France, allowing her to regain a sense of security and continue her work with Algerian youth in collaboration with a French association.

A diaspora human rights organisation was established in December 2021 to support prisoners of conscience and engage in international advocacy to end impunity for arbitrary detention and ill-treatment. Two complaints of torture against two young Hirakist pro-democracy activists were filed with the UN Committee against Torture, which accepted the request for interim measures of protection and forwarded it to the Algerian state to respond to one of these cases.

2.6. MOROCCO: Promoting Local Civil Society Action in Fostering Participatory Democracy

As in previous years, the Foundation prioritised strengthening the core operations of 12 grassroots civil society organisations, 83% of which operate in seven remote regions and 42% were recently established, in order to address inequalities and empower a thousand of marginalised populations, especially women, youth and migrants, to understand and claim respect for their rights, while strengthening the implementation of legislative reforms, notably Law 103-13 on the elimination of violence against women, and Law 31-13 on the right of access to information. Together with an urgent grant in support of an individual defender, the Foundation's grant-making capital reached € 193,672, with a couple of examples provided below.

A new monthly online space for debate and exchange was launched in September 2021 to raise awareness about gender equality and the situation of women activists in mountain areas. The topics discussed, ranging from political violence against women to women's right to social protection, and the popularity of the initiative (which grew from 4,700 to 24,000 online participants in four months) were picked up by the local media and led to local authorities inviting young women activists to speak about their demands.

In November 2021, a new civil society project was launched, bringing together 70 associations, regional actors and lawyers, to strengthen links and synergies between civil society actors, institutions, and local elected officials on ways to reinforce the implementation of Law 103-13 on the fight against gender-based violence in the Souss-Massa region, which is one of the regions with the highest concentration of associations.

2.7. TUNISIA: Enhancing Civil Society Protection and Action at Local Level

Exposed to profound uncertainties since the power grab that led to the suspension of Parliament and the concentration of all powers in the hands of the Presidency in July and September 2021, the Foundation has relaunched its urgent support programme to threatened defenders, essentially interrupted after 2011, and continued to support grassroots civil society actors, half of which are emerging initiatives, to promote participatory democracy among women, youth and peasants in 17 governorates. The Foundation's grant-making capital in support of five individual defenders and eight civil society organisations amounted to € 179,093, with a few examples provided below.

With urgent support, three young LGBTIQ+ activists, who have been subjected to judicial, administrative and security harassment and ill-treatment for their involvement in the Tunisian protests that began in October 2020, have been able to move to safer locations, access medical and psychological care, and organise their legal defence to challenge arbitrary charges. Although two of them continue to face prosecution, this support has enabled them to stabilise their situation and resume their human rights work. One of the activists notably helped write a report for the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to physical and mental health on the situation of intersex people in September.

Thanks to training sessions organised on the right of access to information in nine Tunisian governorates (Tunis, Ben Arous, Jendouba, Nabeul, Sousse, Bizerte, Kebili, Gabes and Mahdia) between September and November 2021, 280 participants under the age of 35, 60% of whom were women, were able to interact with members of the National Authority for Access to Information (INAI) and ministries, and submitted 58 requests for access to information dealing mainly with public contracts to municipalities and the Ministry of Equipment and Housing.

2.8. LEBANON-JORDAN: Protecting Civil Society Agency and Innovation

Although the contexts vary considerably from one country to the other, the Foundation's support actions in Lebanon and Jordan were mainly aimed at protecting the safety of two individual defenders and one organisation facing threats because of their human rights work and supporting two innovative initiatives facing sudden challenges to continue their work in support of marginalised populations, notably youth. The Foundation's grant-making capital in Lebanon reached € 72,386, and € 11,442 for Jordan, with some examples presented below.

Thanks to timely support to cover legal representation and coordination with international NGOs, a Jordanian cartoonist and defender was found not guilty in 2021 of charges under Article 150 of the penal code for his drawing promoting respect for reproductive rights.

A unique and iconic cultural space for young people to play a greater role in their community and promote the values of cohesion and citizenship was renovated in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, while cultural and artistic activities continued to be offered to young people at the Lebanese National Theatre in Tyre, southern Lebanon. This innovative work, which brings together young people from different backgrounds, received the Austrian Intercultural Achievement Award in November, and was commended by UN Secretary General António Guterres in December.

3. Tailored Coaching in Support of Human Rights Defenders and Organisations

Beyond providing financial support, the Foundation has taken other measures to support human rights defenders and organisations, mainly by providing tailored coaching to develop their skills and capacities, collaborations and networks, as well as strengthening their access to other technical and financial resources.⁵



A range of follow-up measures were considered by the Foundation on a case-by-case basis,⁶ including the following:

- **Practical guidance and advice to expand collaborations for civil society actors at the national, regional and international levels.** The Foundation encouraged 43 of its beneficiaries to establish and maintain contacts with other activists, groups and institutions working on the same thematic areas or as needed, the participation and mobilisation of other actors to support their work. For example, it facilitated the exchange of contacts, acted as an intermediary, and forwarded a list of potential technical and financial opportunities for 34 beneficiaries. It also recommended Syrian women’s rights organisations in attending EuroMed Feminist Initiative’s training on gender sensitive legislations and secured complementary grants in support of exiled Algerian and Egyptian defenders from the European Union’s Human Rights Defenders Mechanism.
- **Referrals to strengthen solidarity and long-term protection of defenders.** The Foundation provided attestations to substantiate the profile, situation and threats faced by 32 beneficiaries and referred them to regional and international organisations and institutions whose mandate is to implement advocacy or solidarity actions and campaigns, or to help them obtain long-term protection. It also participated in solidarity meetings and coordinated actions in support of beneficiary organisations

⁵ The development of the capacities of the actors the EMHRF supports has emerged as an important cross-cutting issue to be taken into account, which has been integrated at each stage of the financial support according to their needs, and which has also strengthened the relationship of trust between the EMHRF and its beneficiaries.

⁶ Flexibility is necessary, as one size does not fit all, and many local actors found it useful if adapted and tailor-made to their needs and the developments on the ground.

and defenders, with regional partners, notably EuroMed Rights and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. Lastly, it supported, when asked, beneficiaries to testify about local developments and threats to European states and multilateral institutions, by participating in hearings prior to the adoption of policies or resolutions, or to advise them on local trends and priorities. For example, the Foundation advised the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights in designing a session addressing the issues of torture and ill-treatment in detention centres and prisons in October 2021.

- **Mentoring to build the organisational and management capacity of civil society.** It provided a peer-to-peer opportunity to share experiences and focused on encouraging and assisting 16 newly formed groups to develop realistic proposals, including training plans, early in the application process to enable the Foundation to respond effectively to their needs and development paths. The Foundation also undertook a field visit in Morocco in November to meet with beneficiary organisations to further understand civil society dynamics and priorities. Finally, it provided ongoing advice on democratic management, project implementation, and reporting - both narrative and financial - during the partnership implementation process.
- **Training and coaching by external experts or likeminded partners.** The Foundation supported the organisation of retreats including training - facilitated by external coaches/trainers - for members of civil society organisations who are exiled in several countries. The aim was to strengthen their democratic life, rethink their strategies and coping measures, and explore the opportunities that their exile may present in terms of awareness raising, networking and advocacy. For example, an Egyptian organisation was supported to organise a retreat for its staff, who were experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety, to receive training and counselling on well-being and psychological support. Another Egyptian group, recently formed and registered in Europe, was helped to organise training for its members and staff in strategic planning and organisational development by Berlin-based consultants with whom the Foundation has developed a solid relationship over the years.
- **Fellowships and traineeships to strengthen professional and academic development of civil society actors.** Supported exceptionally by the Foundation, these opportunities focus on developing knowledge and experience, particularly for a younger generation of civil society actors, so that they can play a leading role in the region's civil society dynamics and transfer the knowledge they have gained to their organisations. For example, the Foundation supported a defender to pursue a Master's degree in human rights in the United States, which enabled him to take courses in global human rights history, international human rights law, human rights advocacy and policy, and global public policy, among others. The defender has authored several published research papers, including one on Egypt's criminalisation of minority freedom of expression through blasphemy charges.

4. Organisational Issues

4.1. Internal Governance

The twelve-member voluntary [Board](#), composed of leading human rights defenders and civil society representatives, remained unchanged in 2021 but began consultations for a partial renewal in 2022. It held two meetings in May and November to review its interventions over the past ten years, and to discuss funding requests from civil society initiatives, while being consulted on a rolling basis to take decision on urgent issues.

The Board and the Secretariat have also jointly developed and reviewed internal policies aimed at creating and maintaining an optimal working environment and ethics. Beyond the drafting of a policy on the protection against sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in 2020, a code of ethics and good conduct, an external

complaint reporting mechanism and a policy on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism were developed in 2021.

4.2. Consultation of the Council of Representatives

The Board also consulted the Foundation's [Council of Representatives](#) in the framework of EuroMed Rights' General Assembly on 24 October, in order to get its opinion on the actions undertaken during the last three years and on its future directions.

On this occasion, about 70 representatives of human rights organisations from the region commended the Foundation's action, pointing out its fundamental role in Syria for example, and suggested strengthening it in the coming years while contemplating moments of joint reflection on thematic priorities, and sharing the Foundation's good practices to foster the autonomy of the civil society movement.

4.3. Financial Results and Partnerships

Since its inception, the Foundation has maintained its policy of capping administrative and human resources costs to ensure that the majority of its budget is directly allocated to activities in support of local human rights organisations and defenders. This year, activities accounted for 75% of its operating budget.

These results have been possible thanks to the trust and partnerships established or renewed with eight partners, who contributed to its activity with nearly EUR 3,4 million. The Foundation notably signed new partnership agreements with the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Open Society Foundations, the European Union Delegation to Libya, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the National Endowment for Democracy in 2021.

- Core support amounting to EUR 1,3 million (39%) was notably granted by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA),⁷ the Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT) and the Open Society Foundations (OSF).⁸
- Project support amounting to EUR 2 million (61%) was granted by the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC), the European Commission, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DAPP-HRDC), the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Open Society Foundations and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

The EMHRF also renewed its partnership with its founder, EuroMed Rights, that includes, amongst other things, the sharing of offices and related costs.⁹

The Foundation's financial statement was audited by [BDO](#) and is available on the Foundation's [website](#).

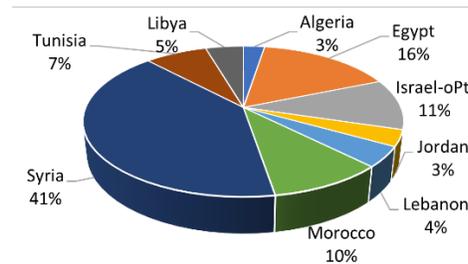
⁷ Within this core support, SIDA covers grants related to all the countries in which EMHRF is active, unless they fall outside of the OECD-DAC rules for development assistance.

⁸ Within this core support, OSF covers grants related to all the countries in which EMHRF is active, except those against which the United States maintains comprehensive sanctions.

⁹ This arrangement was put in place as of 2005 to minimise the two organisations' administrative costs in Copenhagen and Tunis.

Appendix: Overview of Grant Applications

Number & Geographic Distribution: The Foundation received and reviewed 853 applications and requests (an increase of 12% compared to 2020), 40% of which were urgent.¹⁰ The applications mainly came from Syria, Egypt, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and Morocco, as reflected in the pie chart below.



Rights and Population Focus: The applications mainly dealt with the promotion and defence of civil and political rights (36%), followed by women’s and LGBTIQ+’s rights (18%), economic, social and cultural rights (14%) and the right to freedom of expression and information (12%).

Reasons for Rejection: The main reasons which have justified the ineligibility of the applications are:

- The proposals did not meet the Foundation’s main [criteria for support](#) and received negative external recommendations (36%).
- The activities suggested fell outside the geographical mandate of the Foundation (33%).¹¹
- Applications otherwise fulfilled the criteria but were rejected because the applicants were not facing threats or could have access to other support mechanisms, and the applicant’s action and performance in the field were not documented (31%).

Average Time for Response and Decision: As a general rule, the Foundation endeavours to make rapid decisions on requests for support received, while recognising that the review may take longer in war situations. The intervals between the receipt of the application, the initial response from the Secretariat and the decision taken by the Board are illustrated below:

Average time ¹²	Response ¹³	Decision ¹⁴
<i>Inquiry</i>	1 day	N/A
<i>Urgent application</i>	2 days	17 days
<i>Standard application</i>	10 days	87 days

¹⁰ Eight percent were still under assessment at the end of 2021.

¹¹ Where requests fell outside the Foundation’s mandate, the Secretariat advised and referred 39% of applicants to other partners and donors.

¹² The average time is calculated on the basis of 80% of applications and requests received.

¹³ The Secretariat conducts a full due diligence review on each application received. Within 48 hours of receiving an urgent request, the Secretariat schedules a telephone conversation or asks for additional information, if necessary.

¹⁴ The Board takes all decisions based on the application and the due diligence review performed by the Secretariat.