



EQUI
POP.
ORG

2020
2021

Cooperation

Definition: awareness of our interdependencies; leading us to 'take action with'; by developing collective intelligence; driven by the principle of equality.

Cooperation means entering into relations while accepting that these may change us. In today's world, our need for cooperation is great.

Summary

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Sparkling change

Equipop works alongside stakeholders to drive social change at grassroots level.

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Mobilise

Equipop mobilises influential stakeholders to forge a legal and institutional environment conducive to human development and especially the improved status of women and girls.

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Equipop supports development partners by building their capacity.

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Find out more about Equipop

Equipop combines social and political action, project design, technical assistance, and partnership development to improve the health and rights of women and girls worldwide.

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Acronyms

- **AFD** Agence française de développement
- **SRHR** Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- **CSE** Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- **GEF** Generation Equality Forum
- **IPBF** Pananetugri Initiative for Women's Well-being
- **WAHO** West African Health Organisation
- **RJFAO** West African Young Feminists Network
- **FP/RH** Family Planning / Reproductive Health
- **SWOP** State of the World Population
- **UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund
- **GBV** Gender-Based Violence

Editorial

In 2020-21, the world faced a twofold challenge: dealing with the crisis taking hold and defining new rules for life thereafter. During this time, Equipop worked alongside many partners to set about tackling several questions. One of these very much echoes our mission: will the post-Covid world finally recognise the contributions made by grassroots movements and organisations in building our societies, especially those by youth movements and feminist organisations?

Their work during the crisis proved vital to support governments, whose ability to grasp and address requirements in their entirety showed signs of limitations. Many of Equipop's partners spared no effort in championing a response that gave consideration to the deepening inequalities, especially regarding gender, the importance of stepping away from a purely biomedical approach, and of keeping issues on the agenda which were likely to slip down the list of priorities, such as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Demonstrating remarkable adaptability in the light of new restrictions, our partners also continued their work to guarantee access to health services for women and young people, foster their political involvement, stop female genital mutilation and early marriage, combat sexist violence, and more.

Yet, despite tributes paid to grassroots movements, despite the support shown in the seats of power for initiatives promoting rights and health, despite the announcements by certain institutions to adopt feminist policies, there is no guarantee that what we firmly aspire to will happen, i.e. new global public action stemming from renewed cooperation among non-profit networks, governments and philanthropists. In order to achieve this, the share of public funds allocated to non-profit organisations must be reviewed. It is also crucial to change the way partnerships are run, and to move from a top-down, standardised approach that is systematically based

on corporate management logic, whose limits have been proven, to a bottom-up approach that implies respecting local diversity and the specific expertise of each organisation. As for non-profit organisations, they need to develop further links both within the civil societies in their local area (for example with journalists and artists) and with other organisations through transnational alliances.

This period of accelerated transformation which we are going through calls for urgent progress towards a cooperative approach. We must do so by associating our knowledge, expertise, values and cultures while being aware of our interdependence and focusing dialogue on the principle of equality. That is the challenge that Equipop seeks to take on. The last few months have taught us a lot and pushed us even further to exact equal partnerships and to challenge the manner in which we work. Thank you to all the people and organisations that support us towards this goal.

Aurélien Gal-Régniez, Executive Director
Alain Marié, Chair

2020 in brief

We have supported activists, organisations and movements to uphold changes in favour of a more equal world.

→ Financial support

33 organisations supported in eight West African countries

€1,113,875 granted

Up 65% from 2019

Catalyst effect:

€1,500,000 additional funding for partner organisations thanks to our support

→ Our initiatives

Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights

Raising feminist voices and values

Facilitating women's and young people's involvement in building our societies

→ Support for organisational development and life-long learning

Launch of a quality label with

21 West-African organisations

LABEL ampli
AMPLIFICATEUR DE RÉUSSITE
Démarche qualité pour les actrices du changement social

Co-certification of

14 organisations

Support given to 41 organisational development projects

22 knowledge sharing workshops run

We have brought women's and young people's rights issues to the forefront in designing public policy and budgets, and promoted feminist values.

→ Support for collective action

Assistance given to 13 incubation projects in favour of youth SRHR in six countries

2 networks supported



ALLIANCE DROITS ET SANTÉ

Réseau d'ONG pour les femmes d'Afrique



1 sub-regional campaign promoting CSE

>9 million people affected

- Support offered to three non-profit networks as part of the Generation Equality Forum
- Contributor to three regional and global campaigns (feminist approaches, SRHR)
- Continued participation in the Generation Equality Forum's SRHR coalition
- Direct involvement with four West African governments in designing public policy
- Strategic and technical monitoring of French feminist diplomacy

Equipop's partners in West Africa

SENEGAL

- AJS (association of Senegalese legal advisers)
- ANJ SR-PF (national youth alliance for reproductive health and family planning)
- ENDA Santé (health non-profit organisation)
- GESTES (gender and societies study and research group)
- JED (youth and development)
- LARTES- IFAN (research laboratory on economic and social transformations)
- ONG 3D (democracy, local development, human rights)
- RAES
- Siggil Jiggen network
- ROAJELF Sénégal (West African network of young women leaders)
- Solthis Sénégal

GUINEA

- AGBEF (Guinean association for family well-being)
- CAM (friends of the world club)
- CJFLG (Guinean young girl leaders club)
- PROSMI foundation
- POSSAV (platform of vaccine support civil society organisations)
- ONG SARA (farming networks support organisation)
- UNFPA Guinea

IVORY COAST

- AFJCI (association of Ivorian women legal advisers)
- ASAPSU (support group for health and urban self-promotion)
- LEADAFRICAINES
- ONG MESSI (youth movement for education, health, solidarity and inclusion)
- ONEF (national organisation for children, women and families)
- RIJES (Ivorian youth against AIDS network)
- SOS Children's Villages - Ivory Coast
- UNFPA-Ivory Coast

TOGO

- SOS Children's Villages -Togo
- Fonds XOESE (fund for francophone women)

MALI

- AJCAD (youth association for active citizenship and democracy)
- AMSOPT (Malian association for the monitoring and guidance of traditional practices)
- Ebenezer International
- Pivot Group/women's rights and citizenship

- Pivot Group/health and populations (coalition of CSOs in favour of repositioning FP)
- MSI (Marie Stopes International)
- RENAJEM (national network of Malian youth)
- ROAJELF-Mali (West African network of young women leaders)

NIGER

- CNJFL (Nigerian young girl leaders)
- FP/RH coalition
- Young girl leaders committee
- Congafen
- Dimol
- Hayatoune
- Lafia Matassa
- ONPSME/Baani
- Ratanga Club-Niger
- Scouts du Niger (scout movement)
- SongEs

BURKINA FASO

- Asmade
- Burcaso (council of NGOs/CBOs and organisations fighting against STIs / HIV / AIDS)
- Gascode (health, communications and development support group)
- IPBF (Panaretugri initiative for women's well-being)
- MMF/ANBF (Women's March Global / Burkina Faso national branch)
- PROMACO (marketing and communications for health programme)
- RAJS (African youth, health and development network)
- Rama Foundation
- Ratanga Club-Burkina
- SOS/JD (SOS youth and challenges)
- SOS Children's Villages - Burkina
- Voix de Femmes (women's voices)

BENIN

- ANCB (national association of mayors)
- BACAR (African advisory and support office)
- CALVIF
- CeRADIS (ideas and action centre for integrated development and solidarity)
- GRAFED-Ong (action research and training group on epidemiology and development)
- OSV/Jordan (organisation for service and life)
- ROAJELF Bénin (West African network of young women leaders)
- Scoutisme Béninois (scout movement)

Tools for a more feminist world



Young activists from around the world swung into action during the Generation Equality Forum to make their voices heard and bring about societal change. This global effort aimed to overcome two obstacles: firstly, to ensure French-speaking voices were heard, especially those from regions such as West Africa, which are often side-lined in international processes; secondly, to make sure local militants were not excluded, given the majority of events were held online.

To help counter these hurdles, Equipop published a #FeministGenerations activism guide in February 2021, in association with the West African Young Feminists Network. This 'handy guide to making your voice heard' brings together expert advice from activists in eight countries on how to take action for feminism worldwide. They each share their own perspective of the transformative action required to build more equal societies.

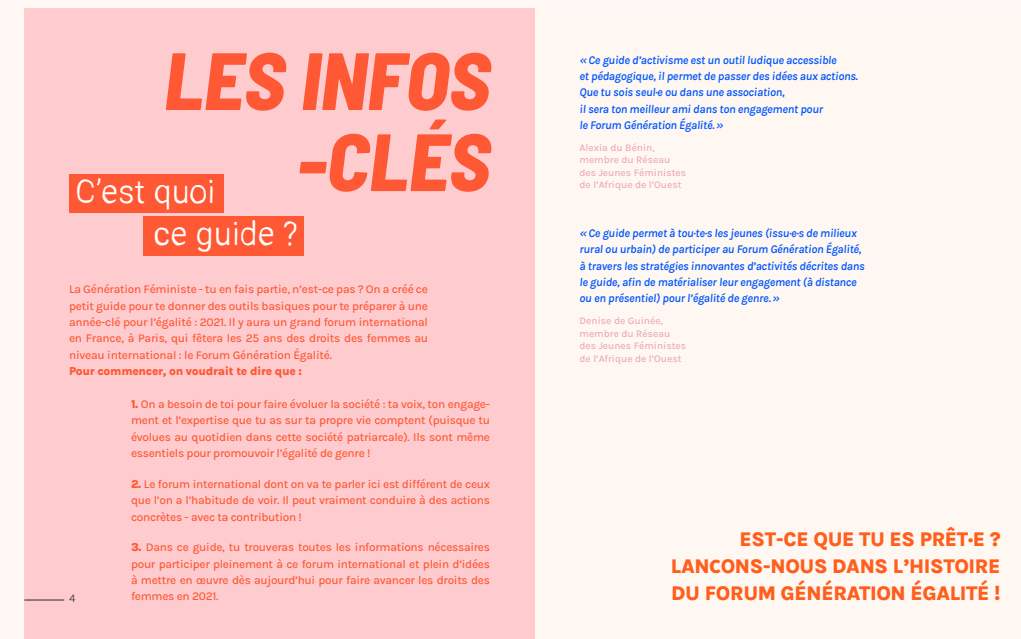
UNDERSTANDING THE GEF BETTER

This guide explains what the GEF is, how to get involved, and what young people can do in practice to bring about gender equality more quickly. It includes ideas for action that organisations, youth movements and young activists can take.

The tool was presented to around one hundred youth organisations in France and in West Africa. Equipop also ran sessions to present the guide in association with militant organisations such as En Avant Toutes and Feminists in the City. In order to foster dialogue and action, a Facebook group was set up for the launch of the guide, including young activists working for the French-language part of the GEF.

“ This guide to activism is a fun, accessible and informative tool that helps readers put their ideas into action. Whether you work alone or as part of an organisation, this will be your loyal companion throughout the Generation Equality Forum. ”

Carine Alexia Hountondji, Benin



“ This guide to activism is important not only because it promotes feminist decision-making, but also because it unites and involves feminists through collective action. ”

Rose Diémé, Senegal

Sparking change

Equipop works alongside local stakeholders to drive social change at grassroots level.





Young people's health: nothing without them

Since the 2000s, Equipop has been supporting organisations and projects that seek to improve young people's health, especially their sexual and reproductive health and rights, paying particular attention to young women and teenagers. In 2020, this objective remains central to Equipop's work and partnerships. It raises collective issues that we need to explore further: what role can young people play in projects and policies? How can we build genuine partnerships with a diversity of young people? What can feminist approaches bring to youth participation?

One of the guiding threads of the projects on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people and teenagers in which Equipop is involved draws on the principles advocated by adult education and life-long learning. The main principle of this model is to take action with young people, not for them. It is based on the belief that anyone is capable of formulating an informed understanding of the issues they face and of the world in general, provided they have access to information and can develop critical analysis in relation to their peers. This approach has proven its worth, especially in terms of comprehensive sexuality education.

Supporting youth organisations

Equipop has been working in partnership with AJCAD Mali (Youth Association for Active Citizenship and Democracy) since 2013. These budding activists are committed to making young people's voices heard in Malian decision-making bodies. The organisation aims to step up young people's civic engagement through grassroots and media mobilisation. AJCAD Mali also gets involved in high-level regional and international policy-making, like during the recent Africa-France summit.

Strategic partnership with JED: an popular education organisation

The Senegalese NGO JED (Youth and Development) and Equipop have been developing a strategic partnership for several years, focusing on the issue of young people's involvement in building societies, and more specifically on promoting the rights and health of women and young girls. JED has operations nationwide and believes that young people are the most effective means of enacting social transformation. Over 10,000 teenagers and young people have benefited from their work on awareness raising, training, integration, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and environmental protection.

Taking inspiration from adult education means recognising the fact that other types of knowledge, such as what young people have gained from their own experiences, are just as valid as technical and scientific knowledge. Young people's health from the adult education perspective could therefore be viewed as a dialogue between young people's knowledge, the experience of movements and collectives that champion health rights, and the knowledge of doctors, technicians, and researchers. This makes it possible to build knowledge collectively, by challenging the hegemonic modes of knowledge transmission, and implies drawing on alternative teaching tools such as drama, games, and art.

#JeVeuxSavoir (I want to know): youth-centred advocacy for CSE

#JeVeuxSavoir (I want to know) is a grassroots political movement developed and run by members of the Rights and Health Alliance network which is campaigning for West African states to step up their commitments to providing high-quality comprehensive sexuality education. Several cornerstones of this campaign have ensured young people's full involvement. These include: working with artists; collecting and promoting young people's stories to show how lives can be transformed through access, or a lack of access, to information about CSE; training and equipping young people to appeal directly to the authorities.



#OnDoitAgir (we must take action) - photos and drawings in support of health democracy

#OnDoitAgir is a project to empower young people, led by four organisations in Benin (the Scout movement, ROA-JELF, JVS and OCJ). It raises young people's collective awareness about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and helps them assert these rights before the local and national authorities. Photos and drawings were used to illustrate the reality for young people and make their voices heard. They spoke out as one against the barriers depriving them of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and demanded greater commitments from local and national authorities.



FROM PARTICIPATION TO PARTNERSHIP TO FIGHT FOR HEALTH EQUALITY

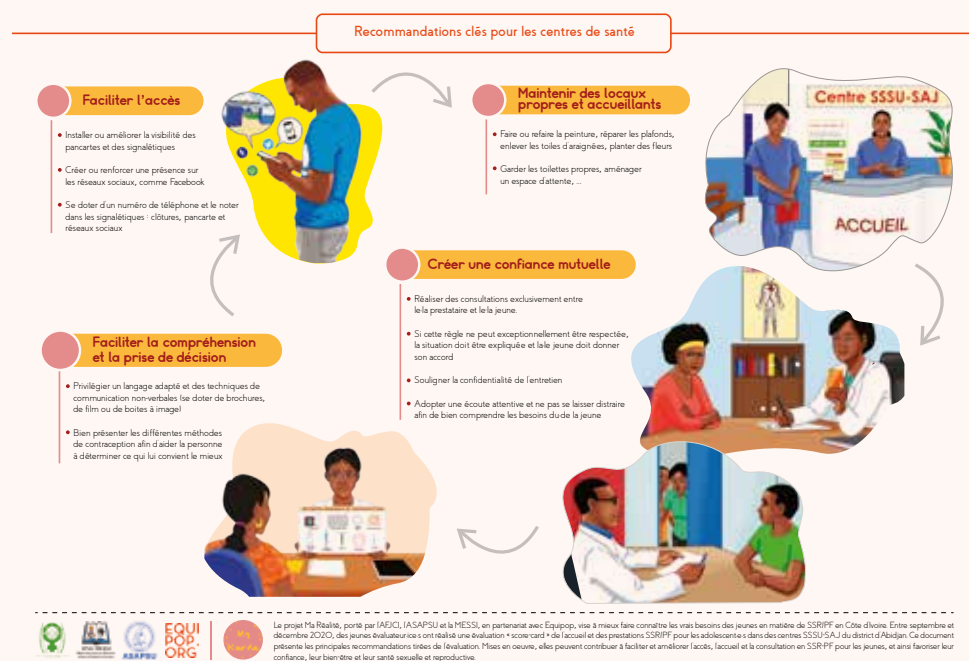
Challenging inequalities in society, especially violations of young people's rights to sexual and reproductive health, remains the main concern of the organisations supported by Equipop. This means working on youth empowerment. It is a question of developing partnerships with young people so they can get involved, work alongside professionals, redress the power balance in the design and implementation of projects, but also influence programmes and policies about them. Individual empowerment thereby turns into a collective movement that strives to further the rights of a marginalised social group. Several partners do this through social audits, for example. At the level of Equipop, building true partnerships means using our privileged position and our influence to insist on young people, and more specifically young women, being systematically involved in the process of designing health programmes and policies. That is what we consistently endeavour to achieve. This also means providing long-term support to youth organisations fighting for their rights!



Social auditing: a way of enabling young people to be part of the debate on the quality of SRHR services

A state is 'beholden' to its citizens, especially the young, and responsible for ensuring their rights are respected and they have fair access to high quality public services. Groups of citizens can use social audits to assess the quality and efficiency of public services, especially at a local level, and hold the authorities to account.

Equipop has supported social audit initiatives led by young people in Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast. These audits are based on flexible, adaptive tools, inspired by community scorecard mechanisms, and use criteria established with young people. By means of this assessment method, services can be scored, challenges related to quality and access identified, and solutions found or recommendations made to the authorities.



This document outlines the main recommendations made by the scorecard evaluation conducted by a group of young assessors. Implementing such recommendations may contribute towards facilitating and improving access, information and the quality of SRH-FP services for young people.

FOCUS ON ROAJELF Benin

ROAJELF Benin (West African Network of Young Women Leaders) has partnered Equipop since 2018, bringing together young Beninese women who are taking action to promote their rights and female leadership. They focus particularly on involving women and girls in decision-making processes and the development of this part of West Africa. ROAJELF Benin was given financial and organisational support, thereby increasing its capacity to manage and take action, which raised its profile among donors and stakeholders in the region. In turn, ROAJELF Benin offers support to fledgling feminist organisations in Benin, like in 2021 with Camp Obirin, which offered training on collective empowerment to some fifty young Beninese girls.

TOWARDS A FEMINIST APPROACH TO YOUTH PARTICIPATION

"Nothing about us, without us", the youth now hammer home, quoting Nelson Mandela's famous phrase. In order to go beyond the slogan and foster true participation, we must keep asking ourselves some fundamental questions. Among these, the issue of representation remains pivotal. How can we ensure diversity of involvement, given that it is often the most socially integrated and educated young people who are able to devote time and energy to projects and consultations? More specifically, how can we ensure young women are equally represented, and that the dynamics set in motion actually help fight against gender inequality? Good intentions are not enough to make youth participation a genuine driving force behind emancipation and equality. Feminist approaches can contribute to this collectively.



Mobilise

Equipop mobilises influential stakeholders to forge a legal and institutional environment conducive to human development and especially the improved status of women and girls.

25^e ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA CONFÉRENCE DE PÉKIN



Equipop mobilised for the GEF

Equipop was involved in preparations for the Generation Equality Forum for over 18 months. This international gathering took place from 30 June to 2 July 2021 in Paris, 26 years after the Beijing conference which became a seminal event worldwide in terms of gender equality. Alongside several non-profit movements, such as the West African Young Feminists Network, the Rights and Health Alliance, and in France, the Feminist Generations Collective, Equipop took action to help put public pressure on governments.

1

Mobilising governments and civil society in francophone West Africa

Equipop advocates for feminist public policies to be adopted at national and international level. With this in mind, Equipop campaigned for ambitious financial commitments to come out of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), especially for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), the fight against gender-based violence (GBV), feminist organisations worldwide, and youth participation in decision-making processes. Equipop's strategy was to arrange bilateral meetings with governments and institutions at various political levels, while holding public discussions with them in order to elicit meaningful commitments.

INITIAL AWARENESS RAISING

The first challenge consisted in publicising the Generation Equality Forum. This institutional process, managed by UN Women, France and Mexico, was almost unheard of in West Africa. Equipop therefore endeavoured to make it easier for West African stakeholders to get involved by various means. This included two national workshops, in Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast, bringing together representatives from the national and local authorities, international organisations as well as civil society. These encounters led to institutions engaging in the GEF process, by identifying common interests with civil society representatives, not least on the issue of women's rights at a national level. Online mobilisation sessions were organised in several countries, often at a regional level, and

sometimes in association with partner organisations, aimed particularly at young feminists. Initial discussions produced a #FeministGenerations activism guide, which became a very practical tool for the next stages (see page 8).

THE PIVOTAL ROLE PLAYED BY THE WEST AFRICAN YOUNG FEMINISTS NETWORK

Equipop offered special support to the West African Young Feminists Network (RJFAO) to help young activists from eight countries get as involved as possible in the GEF process. The network settled on three particular points to champion:

- ▶ better representation of West African youth at the GEF;
- ▶ involvement of young people in decision-making processes;
- ▶ greater financial support for West African feminist organisations.

In advance of the GEF, they took the opportunity to make their voices heard at a regional level during a virtual dialogue with the organisers. Six of the nine activists invited to the online meeting with Delphine O, France's Ambassador to the GEF, and Oulimata Sarr, UN Women's Regional Director for West and Central Africa, were members of the network. They pointed out the challenges relating to digital inclusion, the language barrier, and physical representation. On a number of occasions, whether during in person events in the capital, or international events held online, the activists were able to share their perspective on issues relating specifically to their region. Their expertise matched three of the GEF's action coalitions; sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, and feminist movements and leadership. Their advocacy work systematically emphasised the need to activate different instruments in order to spark a truly transformative dynamic at a regional and international level.

The GEF's 6 action coalitions

1.
Gender-based violence

2.
Economic justice and rights

3.
Bodily autonomy and SRHR

4.
Feminist action for climate justice

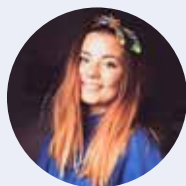
5.
Technology and innovation for gender equality

6.
Feminist movements and leadership

The network also represented West Africa in the global #StopTalkingStartFunding campaign, organised by the Feminist Generations Collective (see sidebar p24). This offered an opportunity to assert their demands, not least in the media through an opinion piece published in the press in eight countries, and also to establish ties with French organisations such as En Avant Toutes and Égaé. The latter was in the process of launching the Les Expertes Sénégal project and able to offer media training. The network's involvement in the GEF is seen as a step towards greater participation in all relevant international arenas, including the UN. Micheline Wendyam Kaboré, a member from Burkina Faso, was thus invited by UNFPA to speak before the CSW (Com-

mission on the Status of Women) during a side event entitled *Bodily autonomy and SRHR for generational equality: what type of leadership is required?* Finally, the network's array of activities provided a certain media exposure, particularly through the voices of Oumou Salif Touré (Mali) and Hadja Idrissa Bah (Guinea), who were interviewed on popular French-language radio and television programmes. Two members, Dieynaba N'diom (Mauritania) and Awa Mah Camara (Mali), were also interviewed in local languages - Fulfulde and Mandingue - on RFI Dakar radio.

INTERVIEW



Léa Thuillier

En Avant Toutes
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What specific part do youth movements have to play in international processes?

Youth mobilisation is vital if we want to build inclusive international processes which take into account everyone's reality and experience. Younger generations' ideas and demands still meet too often with infantilisation, or even paternalism, based on the idea that adults know better what is right for them. Yet, it is the younger generations that will have to tackle the major social, political and ecological challenges of the future. It is high time that we listened to them!

What did it add to work with West African activists?

Working as a network, pooling resources, acting jointly: that is the key. Firstly, because speaking as one gives our voices more weight, carries them further and makes our demands much more impactful. It also means we can discuss our specific realities and above all, what we have in common. In advance of the GEF, En Avant Toutes organised #HearYouthVoices, an inter-organisational event to bring together young French and West African activists. Their meaningful, relevant work produced a list of 11 joint recommendations on four topics: SRHR, the fight against sexist and sexual violence, the fight against cyber violence, and prevention. These recommendations were presented to Elisabeth Moreno, French minister for gender equality, diversity, and equal opportunities, during a live Instagram event viewed by over 15,000 people.



SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PROCESSES

Due to the health crisis, many West African feminists were unable to come to Paris, so Equipop offered technical and/or financial support to its partners, the Rights and Health Alliance and the West African Young Feminists Network, during multi-stakeholder satellite events held in Abidjan, Bamako, Dakar and Ouagadougou in association with the French Embassies. This led to the development of partnerships over the medium term, like in Mali, where the French Embassy decided to support the collective work of activists by funding an action plan.

We seized the opportunity presented by the GEF in many areas to build bridges between global advocacy and local initiatives, for example: in Burkina Faso on the effectiveness of free contraception and the consideration of teenagers' and young people's needs; in Ivory

Coast on reintroducing the law on health and reproduction onto the political agenda; in Guinea on integrating comprehensive sexuality education into curricula; in Mali on reintroducing draft legislation on GBV.

Oumou Salif Touré represented the RJFAO in Paris, during the opening session of the GEF and spoke at the Financing Feminist Movements high-level event. The purpose of her address was to emphasize the need to provide significant, flexible and sustainable funding to feminist organisations in West Africa. Alongside this, other members took part in official online side events. Zipporah Ndione, an activist from Senegal, moderated the youth session discussion within the SRHR action coalition. As for Ephrasie Coulibaly from Ivory Coast, she took part in the Feminist Generations Collective event entitled *Standing up for feminism: our bodies, our genders, our choices*.



Equipop's action in relation to France, the GEF host country

ADVOCACY AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

Equipop led strong advocacy work in France, to influence both the overall organisation of the GEF, given the French government was a decision maker, and French public policy. This involved working in different arenas, the main one being the Feminist Generations Collective, which is composed of some 50 organisations. Equipop and four other organisations formed the Collective's secretariat, which took continual action, requiring a high level of adaptability to the changing context. Regular discussions took place with the authorities, at a technical and ministerial level. Messages from the campaign which shaped 2021, #StopTalkingStartFunding, focusing on funding to put an end to gender-based violence, were delivered to the highest level during a meeting with Emmanuel Macron on the first day of the GEF.

#StopTalkingStartFunding, a global campaign against GBV

The Feminist Generations Collective, in association with #NousToutes, launched a global campaign against GBV in May, #StopTalkingStartFunding.

It makes two demands: that at least 0.1% of each country's GDP be dedicated to the fight against sexist and sexual violence; that access to justice be guaranteed and facilitated for victims. Through this campaign, heads of state were called upon to make firm financial commitments to put an end to GBV, in the form of an online appeal. Campaigning culminated on 23 and 24 June, a week before the GEF, with a 24-hour Feminist world tour.

Broadcast live, this event united feminists from every continent and over 30 countries. This offered a further opportunity to make the voices of young West African feminists heard, so Equipop worked with its partner networks to facilitate their involvement. Aurélie Gal-Régniez, Director of Equipop, opened the world tour with Anne-Cécile Mailfert, Chair of the Fondation des Femmes, and Françoise Moudouthe, Executive Director of the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) by looking at the issue of funding to combat sexist and sexual violence.

Equipop also organised an event on Media and gender-based violence, which was attended by journalists from four countries. Our partners at JED (Senegal) broadcast a Feminist opening and the RJFAO hosted the round table which launched the Francophone sisterhood cycle.

On the eve of the GEF opening, the Feminist Generations Collective organised a press conference in Paris alongside Oxfam and the Fondation des Femmes. This initiative took an original format (on a barge which travelled up the Seine River to the Finance ministry) and highlighted the #StopTalkingStartFunding campaign demands.



“ To devote at least 0.1% of each country's GDP to the fight against sexist and sexual violence; to guarantee and facilitate access to justice for victims. ”

COMPLEMENTARITY WITH ADVOCACY FOR A FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

The approach taken towards the GEF was consistent with our over-arching advocacy work in support of the implementation of a true feminist foreign policy. This year, Equipop contributed towards the work of France's High Council for Gender Equality, including the report presented to two ministers entitled *Feminist diplomacy, from a mobilising slogan to a real change dynamic?* and helped prepare the 2022 French presidency of the European Union.

As leader of Coordination SUD's gender commission, Equipop contributed to key talks with French development policy operators in order to make progress towards a better and more concrete integration of the gender approach into programmes. Equipop also put forward its expertise to help create the Support Fund for Feminist Organisations, managed by the French Foreign Ministry and AFD, which owes its existence in large part to the advocacy work carried out the previous year. These initiatives were coupled with monitoring the long parliamentary process on the French draft programming bill on solidarity-based development and the fight against global inequalities, which led to the inclusion of feminist diplomacy in Article 1, and a commitment to make gender a significant objective for 75% of projects, and a main objective for 20%.

SRHR-specific advocacy

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS AND HEALTH ALLIANCE NETWORK

At the end of 2019, Equipop initiated an international movement which led the GEF organisers to validate the creation of an SRHR action coalition. Equipop therefore contributed to the work of this coalition through several points.

Firstly, Equipop became involved in the coalition in its capacity as a member of the Rights and Health Alliance, one of the co-leaders, and played a particularly active part. The Rights and Health Alliance took part in every official session. Its spokesperson, Agathe Blanc from AFJCI (Association of Ivorian Women Legal Advisers), supported by several other members, kept the dynamic going across the network between meetings by establishing representative focal points per country.

Throughout the year, the network helped foster a more inclusive approach and real West African representation by advocating for the removal of language barriers and the systematic provision of French-language interpreting services. In addition, the network worked particularly hard to make Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) a key focus of the coalition, and published recommendations on this issue. This combined advocacy work paid off, as the coalition's final road map closely follows the Rights and Health Alliance's position paper. The network's demands were notably taken up by the two states to champion the coalition, France and Burkina Faso, which instilled a drive towards a human rights-based approach.

INTERVIEW



Agathe Blanc

AFJCI (Association of Ivorian Women Legal Advisers),
spokesperson for the Rights and Health Alliance within the GEF's
SRHR coalition

What position did the Rights and Health Alliance network take?

The alliance's involvement was a major experience that demonstrated its commitment to joining global initiatives to promote SRHR. Its position within the coalition was two-fold. Firstly, to share our experience in implementing CSE (#JeVeuxSavoir campaign, sub-regional partnership), through which we were able to make CSE a major topic, with the support of all the SRHR coalition's leaders. Secondly, to uphold the voices of francophone African countries, which often do not have access to these global discussion platforms.

What did commitment to this international process offer the Rights and Health Alliance?

Committing to this process undoubtedly raised the profile of the network as well as the work which we do to improve the health and rights of women and girls in West Africa. In addition, it showcased us as a partner of choice for SRHR operations in francophone West Africa. Indeed, by playing an active and constructive part in drafting the coalition's road map, the alliance clearly demonstrated it has proven experience and that it can act as an interface between the coalition and SRHR stakeholders in West Africa.



WORKING WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN BURKINA FASO

Equipop worked closely with the authorities in Burkina Faso, which led the GEF's SRHR coalition. Conversations took place at the highest level, whether with the Minister for Health, Prof. Charlemagne Ouédraogo, or the First Lady, Mrs Sika Kaboré, as well as at a more technical level. For example, Equipop acted as an intermediary between UN Women and Burkina Faso's Demographic Transition Technical Secretariat. In addition, Equipop offered financial support to IPBF (Panaretugri Initiative for Women's Well-being), which stepped up civil society action in Burkina Faso.

Several events were held in light of this, such as the webinar on *Women's and girls' SRHR: the issues and challenges in Burkina Faso one month from the GEF*, co-organised with the First Lady and the Minister for Health. The purpose of this was to fuel the collective debate on issues echoing those of the Generation Equality Forum, such as integrating the human rights-based approach in public health, and improving teenagers' access to sexual and reproductive health services. The other panellists represented international organisations such as UNFPA and WAHO. Finally, the presence of Marie Ba, Director of the Ouagadougou Partnership's coordination unit, marked the beginning of discussions related to the GEF between Equipop and the Ouagadougou Partnership.

This cooperation with the Burkina Faso authorities was also undertaken with a view to bringing other regional governments on-board. The Ouagadougou Partnership was instrumental in making this happen. These crossover discussions led to a joint commitment by six countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Togo) made during the GEF in July on four key priorities: family life education, free healthcare, access to high quality services for young people through school and university centres, improving integrated care units.

Possibilities are also opening up beyond West Africa. As part of the work to mobilise the French-language arena, Equipop facilitated experience sharing between the Health Ministries in Burkina Faso and Madagascar on the subject of *A comparative perspective on the issues of teenage pregnancy and family planning*, during one of the GEF's Madagascar satellite events.



PROMOTING UNFPA'S ANNUAL REPORT, 'MY BODY IS MY OWN'.

The long-term relationship between Equipop and UNFPA became apparent on several occasions this year. Firstly, on 14 April, Equipop facilitated the launch of the State of the World Population (SWOP) 2021 annual report entitled *My Body is My Own: Claiming the Right to Autonomy and Self-Determination*. On 1 July, Equipop helped organise a meeting in Paris between Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA and young French feminists at an open-air exhibition based on the content of the 2021 SWOP. These events demonstrated that the issues raised by UNFPA resonate strongly among West African and French youth.

They also helped bolster the partnership between UNFPA and the French government. During the GEF, France announced an unprecedented increase in its financial contribution, with a €90 million commitment to UNFPA Supplies over five years. Several European countries also made political and financial commitments in support of SRHR

(including Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland and Sweden). This followed on from the *Trusted Government Meeting* which brought together a dozen diplomats looking to find out more about the GEF and readjust the involvement of their respective governments. This meeting was co-organised by Equipop, as member of the Countdown 2030 Europe consortium, and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

“ €90 million granted to UNFPA Supplies over five years. ”



4

US\$40 billion were pledged in Paris at the beginning of July 2021, including US\$23 billion from state governments. This aggregated figure looks impressive on paper but will remain abstract unless each individual commitment is honoured.

Equipop and its partners shall now be striving to monitor these commitments made by France and by West African nations to SRHR. We plan to support the GEF's official accountability work, implemented under the aegis of UN Women, by continuing to support the various non-profit movements in which we participate. The involvement of young people in this monitoring process and the ensuing implementation of public policy is one of the major areas to consolidate. The continued funding of feminist organisations is another, and perhaps the most important if the plans outlined at the GEF are to bring about transformative change.

What's next?



INTERVIEW



Oumou Salif Touré

What can we expect post-GEF?

Last June, the GEF brought together states, international organisations, civil society and the private sector in order to define a series of concrete actions to advance gender equality and women's rights worldwide, in six areas. As a member of the Young Feminists Network, it is very important to take a stance following the GEF. Led by Burkina Faso, co-leader of the SRHR action coalition, six countries from the Ouagadougou Partnership (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Togo) came together to draft joint commitments.

In all, the Burkina Faso Health Minister presented eight commitments in Paris, focusing on family life education, coordinating action, allocating resources to health work, promoting national, inclusive, social dialogue on ending GBV, and improving young people's access to RH/FP services, among other things.

It is imperative that we monitor these commitments closely within our different countries and that those responsible take ownership to ensure that they are actually implemented, and that the GEF does indeed spark a sub-regional drive towards gender equality.



AURÉLIE GAL-REGNIEZ
Directrice Générale d'Equipop

FORUM GÉNÉRATION ÉGALITÉ
LES DROITS DES FEMMES À L'HONNEUR

Equipop and its partners mobilised for the GEF

With the support of

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ALLIANCE DROITS ET SANTÉ
Réseau d'ONG pour les femmes d'Afrique

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Mobilisation
of civil
society



Commitments
made by the
countries
present



Monitoring
of
commitments



**GÉNÉRATION
ÉGALITÉ**
POUR LES DROITS
DES FEMMES
ET UN FUTUR
ÉGALITAIRE

30 June to 2 July 2021 in Paris



Oumou Salif Touré takes
the floor at the GEF

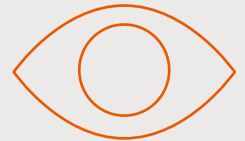


40

billion for equality



A global campaign to end sexist
and sexual violence



**EQUI
POP.
ORG**



ALLIANCE DROITS ET SANTÉ
Réseau d'ONG pour les femmes d'Afrique

**Collectif
Générations
Féministes**

03

Support

Equipop supports development partners by building their capacity.





Raising feminist voices

In West Africa, just like in other parts of the world, the fight for gender equality is being revived through the rise of budding feminist voices that are associating new areas of action with the long-standing fight for women's rights.

While it may seem paradoxical, women's rights activists and organisations receive very little financial support, despite being very effective change enablers. Only a minimal part of the development aid budget is generally earmarked for them. In francophone West Africa, feminist organisations are no exception to the rule, especially movements of young feminists. Yet, in the face of strong conservative trends, their contribution to building fair societies is pivotal. With this in mind, Equipop provides resources to support the collective action of West African feminist movements

STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE ACTION WITH RJFAO

Since 2018, Equipop has run several projects to support the West African Young Feminists Network (RJFAO), which comprises feminist activists from eight francophone West African countries. This includes providing resources to the network and its members to help them meet, hold joint discussions about feminist principles and values, as well as work together on joint advocacy projects. The network also holds discussions about militants' well-being, their mental health, and mutual support which members can provide to each other. Since it was set up in 2018, the West African Young Feminists Network has increased its impact, raised its profile and begun to bring on board an increasingly broad membership. It is now seeking to continue consolidating its work by moving towards an over-arching feminist drive in francophone West Africa. Having started out with some thirty members, the network is now looking to open up gradually and bring in new feminist energy.

SUPPORTING THE ARRAY OF FEMINIST DYNAMICS COMING TO THE FORE IN WEST AFRICA

West Africa is teeming with feminist energies. In each country, stakeholders are coming together to take collective, transformative action. Equipop supports several national feminist initiatives, by providing funds to these movements and supporting their various needs, in order to empower and strengthen them. Its work also involves building cooperation among these stakeholders and establishing opportunities for young feminists to meet and discuss. These encounters enable feminists to carry out preliminary work on their own representations, including on issues that sometimes lack consensus (bodily autonomy, LBTQIA+ rights, sex work, etc.), in order to take time to develop feminist arguments and analyses in line with their work to protect women's rights. It is also a means of fostering sisterhood and spreading feminist knowledge among militants with wide ranging backgrounds and expertise. Equipop helps facilitate this type of opportunity for dialogue, like it does for feminist café debates, and for organisations setting up national feminist meetings.

CONSOLIDATING THE INFLUENCE OF YOUNG FEMINISTS IN ORDER TO RAISE THEIR VOICES AND INCREASE THEIR POWER

The influence of young feminist movements cannot be considered without challenging the balance of power in the societies in which they operate, and the way that their requests are taken into account in the design and implementation of policies and programmes. The transition to fairer societies requires these people to have access to decision-making arenas where they can stake their claims, but also challenge these power dynamics. With this in mind Equipop is working to facilitate its feminist partners' access to the networks and resources at its disposal with the idea of transferring and sharing power and influence. To do so, Equipop intends to help feminists be seen as vital stakeholders in defining public

policy, while remaining aware of the risk of institutionalising and depoliticising the feminist fight. The role played by international aid operators is key: they can challenge funding practices, not least by emphasizing the non-compete principle for feminist stakeholders, open up decision-making and seats of power to a diversity of feminists by encouraging their involvement in the different political processes, and establish a feminist interpretation of public issues.

Burnout among militants: how to combat this phenomenon?

Feminist militants - who juggle family and professional commitments alongside their activism, in contexts where reactions to feminism across society as well as among family and friends can sometimes be hostile - often hit periods of burnout. This type of breakdown is often exacerbated by cyber-bullying and online violence. Taking collective action is one way of combating this phenomenon and making progress on the issue of militants' well-being, as Cornélia Glélé, a feminist from Benin, explains: "This is a common occurrence, especially due to cyber-bullying. You fall apart, you feel misunderstood. Look for comfort from other feminists. Switch off a while if you need to, and take some time out".



The West African Young Feminists Network

- **8 countries:**
Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal
- **Complementary feminist expertise**
- **Manifesto:**
We, young feminists, seek to protect and promote:
 - bodily autonomy
 - the power of women's knowledge
 - women's economic power (promoting jobs for women and equal pay)
 - the economic power of women's organisations (apportioning a big enough budget to promote equal societies)
 - women's political power

www.feministesao.org



“ Working as a network enables us not only to be aware of different women's rights initiatives and progress in our region, but above all to share innovative practice together. This also builds synergies to help us work together at a regional level in order to influence decision-making at the highest level. ”

Zipporah Ndione

Chair of ROAJELF Senegal, member of the West African Young Feminists Network

Young West African feminists take action to bring about societal change.



Women and cinema: changing perspectives thanks to a festival in Benin

Écran Bénin, an organisation led by Cornélia Glélé, gives pride of place to women working in the film industry at the Cotonou International Women's Film Festival (FIFF-Cotonou). The first festival, in 2019, dealt with the issue of violence against women and brought 2,000 people together during screenings, debates between the public and filmmakers, and ceremonies. Equipop is a partner of the second festival, which should have been taking place in 2021 (postponed due to health restrictions). The event offers an opportunity to discuss the difficulties faced by female filmmakers, actresses and film industry professionals in an environment known for its sexist practices, and whose productions often reduce women to essentialist roles. By promoting female figures, Écran Bénin projects inspiring examples which foster the development of sisterhood. Écran Bénin aims to ensure the continued existence of the FIFF every other year.



Malian feminists stand united against Sidiki Diabaté

Malian feminists joined forces in September 2020 to launch an online campaign to boycott the singer Sidiki Diabaté, following accusations of domestic violence. The case was taken to court and the singer sent to Bamako central prison. The action taken by young women from Malian civil society represents a unifying victory, just like the joint work carried out by these young women with organisations such as HERA, a foundation set up in 2015 by Nadia Myriam Bioule. Its goal is to fight violence against women, promote legal assistance for women who are victims of violence, and to work towards education and care services for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and conflict zones. The issue of domestic violence was covered without resorting to humour, which is an important step in the fight against the regular trivialisation of such acts. Several feminist organisations in Mali have emerged over recent years, offering a real showcase for feminism in the Malian capital.



Voix de Femmes (Women's voices) podcasts

A feminist podcast has been created by the Voix de Femmes collective. For the first time in Mauritania, several episodes were produced and broadcast which dealt with feminism, how this translates into Mauritanian society and challenging gender clichés and stereotypes. The podcast, like the collective, hosts women from an array of communities throughout Mauritania speaking in different languages, which makes it inclusive and accessible. The aim is to give currency to feminism, help people better understand what it is about, and challenge the role of Mauritanian women in society.



The IPBF's feminist 'cabarets'

Observing how difficult it is for young women in Burkina Faso to talk about feminism, on the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in 2020, the Pananetugri Initiative for Women's Well-being (IPBF), led by Micheline Wendyam Kaboré, launched its first feminist 'cabaret' in Ouagadougou. These bimonthly meetings bring together some twenty young girls from Burkina Faso who are community activists or volunteers, to help build their political awareness on feminist issues and concepts, and offer a chance to discuss and debate these notions in an African context. These meetings offer young women and girls safe, supportive spaces to discuss issues among militants and solve problems collectively, including personal issues.



Young girls from Guinea take action against child marriage

One of the main activities of the Guinean Young Girl Leaders club (CJFLG) is to organise monitoring to prevent cases of gender-based violence. Family members of girls at risk of forced marriage regularly call on members of the club to intervene. Their ability to detect high-risk or known cases has been proven, making them an essential resource for government services. The Gender, Child and Morals Protection Office (OPROGEM), a division of the Guinean police force set up in 2009, works very closely with the club, which flags up any girls at risk of forced marriage or violence, so that the OPROGEM can take care of the victim and organise criminal prosecution.

Find out more about Equipop

Equipop combines social and political action, project design, technical assistance and partnership development to improve the health and rights of women and girls worldwide. Equipop works from grassroots level, by means of strong partnerships with change stakeholders, through to the highest level of international decision-making. Equipop champions feminist values and places the gender approach at the heart of its work.



Today, Equipop has around 30 employees and 72 members, and an annual budget of €2.97 million. The organisation has an office in Europe (Paris) and two offices in West Africa (Ouagadougou and Dakar).

A vision, and values

A world where the rights of everyone, irrespective of their sex or gender, are respected, including their sexual and reproductive rights, and where everyone can play an active part in building fair, sustainable societies.



RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Equipop advocates for the universal recognition of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and for them to be applied to everyone, everywhere, through social and political assimilation and participatory processes.



WELL-BEING, FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

Equipop believes that society's well-being is not measured solely by economic indicators, but also by the ability of the people who comprise a society to make informed, independent choices, while accepting their responsibilities within the groups to which they belong.



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Equipop champions human development which offers everyone the same opportunities for social, political and economic fulfilment. We advocate development which is mindful of equality and solidarity, especially between the sexes and across different generations, because present-day success should not be achieved at the expense of part of the population, or of future generations. For us, building stronger links is one of the major challenges.

These values lead to principles



ADOPTING A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

Equipop adopts a participatory approach in its action as systematically as possible. Indeed, we believe that this approach offers a quality guarantee, especially in terms of ownership, responsibility, sustainability, assimilation, empowerment, and legitimacy. Based on the establishment of a permanent dialogue, the main aim of this approach is to involve the various stakeholders as closely as possible in our work: our non-profit partners, medical and social workers, parliamentarians, policymakers and of course the people we target through our work.



DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

Instead of opting solely for internal growth, we have chosen to develop the scope and quality of our actions through a strategy of multi-stakeholder alliances and partnerships (civil society organisations, parliamentarians, journalists, researchers, civil servants, technical experts, and so on). This way of working draws on complementary expertise and develops an adaptable and responsive approach. For over 20 years, Equipop has been working relentlessly with West African organisations which share its vision.

Endowed with in-depth knowledge of local societies and their dynamics, these partners can foster change in their respective countries. Benefiting from our complementarity, we have developed trust-based relationships over time which enable us to build and lead programmes together, especially those targeting women and girls, as well as advocacy work tailored to the local socio-political situation.



NETWORKING

Equipop has also set up or joined networks of social change stakeholders: international aid organisations, feminist activists, research organisations and universities, public institutions, companies, and so on. We work with networks in France, in Europe, in francophone sub-Saharan Africa and worldwide. Our involvement takes place at various levels: group work and collective position papers, coordinating working groups, and taking part in decision-making bodies (board of trustees).

A mission

The organisation's purpose is to improve the status and living conditions of women worldwide.

In francophone sub-Saharan Africa, Equipop has gradually focused some of its work on young girls, especially those not covered by existing policies or programmes.

The organisation built on its initial expertise in sexual and reproductive health and rights, to expand into several areas of intervention (health, education, the economy), while systematically including a gender approach.

In order to carry out its work in francophone sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in Europe and worldwide, Equipop works with, among others:

- civil society organisations with which we have developed close working relations;
- traditional leaders, women's groups and youth groups;
- NGO coalitions and platforms;
- healthcare professionals;
- technical and administrative experts;
- researchers;
- academics;
- journalists;
- parliamentarians;
- policymakers or administrative directors.

Our work is divided into three complementary parts:



Sparking change

social change through projects run in close collaboration with local stakeholders.



Mobilise

policymakers and citizens in France, West Africa and worldwide to foster a political and institutional environment conducive to human rights, especially women's rights.



Support

development partners by building their capacity.

Knowledge and expertise

Over the years, Equipop has developed its knowledge by mobilising a range of disciplines: political science, public health and medicine, sociology, anthropology, economics, demographics, science and administration. We strive to draw on these different perspectives systematically in order to produce the most integrated approach possible. This serves as a real asset to help understand the logic of the different stakeholders with which we work: men and women from the communities where we have operations, community leaders, partners, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and so on.

We draw on three areas of knowledge in particular.

Areas of knowledge

PUBLIC POLICY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Equipop is experienced in advocacy targeting policymakers. We have sound knowledge of the stakeholders and the inner workings by which public policy is established and implemented. Whether at a local, national or international level, this enables us to raise awareness, inform and influence policymakers (governments, ministers, high-level civil servants) to secure their support for specific programmes and political reforms, as well as their effective implementation.

In addition, the expertise we have developed is reputed by the parliamentarians who seek our advice.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Equipop draws on its knowledge in the field of public health. Our team has developed a cross-cutting understanding of how health systems operate, particularly in West Africa, and more specialised knowledge on specific areas such as access to contraception, emergency obstetric care, fistula, female genital mutilation, and child marriage.

The organisation uses its knowledge to work both on prevention (health education, risk reduction, changing social norms, etc.) and on organising medical services (training healthcare professionals, user participation, HIV/AIDS integration and reproductive health).

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND GENDER

Equipop draws on the field of social sciences to adopt an approach that is mindful of each community's diverse range of needs and interests. To do so, we rely on the gender approach. Rather than targeting women as a separate group, this approach looks at the way in which people act, react and interact, depending on their sex and their social position, under the influence of dominant sexual and family models. Our analysis highlights the fact that being a man or a woman in a given society can lead to socially constructed roles which we need to understand and challenge if we wish to drive forward social change.

The gender approach acts as a decisive tool to promote new ways of behaving. Among other things, it involves empowering women and involving men.

Giving consideration to gender enables us to focus on a dual purpose: on the one hand, at a political level, to achieve gender equality for greater justice; on the other hand, at a socio-economic level, to create a basis for truly sustainable development thanks to the equal involvement of men and women.

Expertise

We draw on three main types of expertise to implement our work, in close collaboration with our partners.

PROJECT DESIGN

Equipop has developed skills in planning, steering and coordinating projects, both as leader and within consortiums. Alongside its partners, the organisation identifies needs, builds intervention strategies, defines participatory methodologies which incorporate gender, mobilises resources, conducts operational and financial monitoring, evaluates the processes and outcomes, and capitalises on the experience.

INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY

Equipop facilitates knowledge and understanding of the issues surrounding its mission, with a view to highlighting social needs and fostering local stakeholders' ability to take action. We also work to shape how public policy and programmes are defined and monitored.

This involves a range of activities: organising events, study trips and information campaigns; drafting and publishing documents; preparing personalised responses to information requests from journalists, parliamentarians and experts; assembling and providing critical analysis of legislation, public policy and programmes; formalising and disseminating position papers; initiating and getting involved in institutional consultation mechanisms; running and taking part in task forces.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Equipop builds the capacity and fosters experience sharing among development partners. Equipop helps design, implement and evaluate joint projects (not least through design thinking), supports its partners' organisational development, builds their administrative and financial capacity, facilitates the mobilisation of resources, performs consulting activities, co-conducts shared analyses, contributes to producing educational tools, designs and delivers training.

Networks

Equipop has always believed that working together acts as a powerful driver for change. In 2020, the NGO furthered its commitments to a number of networks in France, in Europe and in francophone sub-Saharan Africa. These include:



Alliance Droits et Santé (Rights and Health Alliance)

alliancedroitsetsante.org
This network of French and West African civil society organisations works to improve the status and health of women and girls in West Africa.



Awid
awid.org
Awid (Association for Women's Rights in Development), set up in 1982, is an international, feminist, non-profit organisation that supports movements fighting for gender justice and the rights of women worldwide.



Collectif Prévenir & Protéger (Prevention and Protection Collective)

@PPProtéger
This collective comprises 14 French organisations that work to safeguard the rights of children and further the rights of women and teenage girls.



Collectif Santé Mondiale (Global Health Collective)

collectif-sante-mondiale.fr
This collective includes nine French organisations (Action Contre la Faim, Equipop, Global Health Advocates France, Médecins du Monde, One, Oxfam France, Planning Familial, Sidaction and Solthis) which advocate to make global health a French priority.



Coordination Sud coordinationsud.org

Coordination SUD provides national coordination for French aid, emergency and development NGOs and is dedicated to supporting and representing their positions before public and private institutions in France, in Europe and worldwide.



Countdown 2030 Europe countdown2030europe.org

The Countdown 2030 Europe network comprises 15 organisations that work to make sexual and reproductive health and rights a priority issue in the development policies of European and EU countries.



Droits humains pour tou-te-s (Human rights for all)

droitshumains.unblog.fr
This grassroots collective aims to spur French public institutions into discontinuing the term traditionally used for human rights, *Droits de l'homme* (mankind's rights).



EndFGM endfgm.eu

EndFGM is a European network of NGOs which fosters European action to end female genital mutilation.



Excision, parlons-en! (Let's talk about excision)

excisionparlonsen.org
This network aims to help bring together organisations and other legal entities, as well as individuals, around the issue of excision in France and worldwide.



F3E f3e.asso.fr

F3E (fund for the promotion of cross-cutting studies, preliminary research and evaluation) is a French network of NGOs and local authorities dedicated to improving the impact and quality of the work of international aid organisations.



Générations Féministes (Feminist Generations)

This collective comprises organisations campaigning for the adoption of feminist approaches in France's national and international policies.



Girls Not Brides girlsnotbrides.org

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of over 500 civil society organisations determined to bring an end to child marriage and enable girls to achieve their potential.



IBP ibpinitiative.org

The Implementing Best Practices (IBP) initiative is a global partnership that aims to scale up proven practices in terms of family planning and reproductive health. Set up in 1999 by the WHO, USAID and nine cooperation agencies, the initiative now has over 45 members worldwide (donors, international technical assistance organisations as well as national and regional partners).



Partenariat de Ouagadougou (Ouagadougou Partnership)

partenariatouaga.org
This partnership was launched in 2011 during the Burkina Faso Regional Conference on Population, Development and Family Planning, by the nine governments of the francophone West African nations and their technical and financial partners, in order to spur progress in the use of family planning services in these countries.



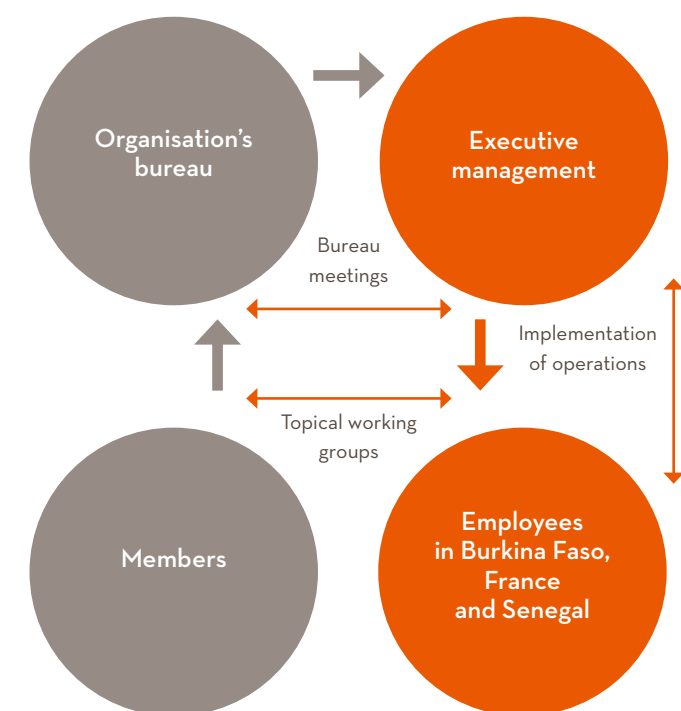
West African Young Feminists Network

This network comprises West African militant feminists who work actively in the field and wish to make their voices heard in national, regional and international decision-making processes, especially those related to women's and girls' rights.

Civic commitment and professional involvement

Equipop relies on a nine-person bureau and a multi-disciplinary team comprising some thirty staff members to define and implement its mission. Once per year, some seventy members gather for the General Meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION



Key



LE BUREAU

Dr. Alain Marié
Chair

Dr. Luc de Bernis
Treasurer

Mai Tran
General Secretary

Hadja Idrissa Bah
Member

Dr Marly Bah
Member

Dr. Béatrice Cuzin
Member

Aurélien Desrumaux
Member

Pr. Pierre Foldes
Member

Wendyam Micheline Kabore
Member

The bureau meets on average once per quarter.

STAFF MEMBERS IN 2020

MANAGEMENT

Aurélien Gal-Régniez
Executive Director

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Nathalie Perrotin-Milla
Communications Manager

Priscille Bansé
Communications Officer

Louis Guinamard
Communications Officer

Marion Lambert
Communications Officer

Tara Mukeku-Cilolo
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Bintou Mariam Traoré
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Maude Henry
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Khadidiatou Sy
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Hélène Ménard
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Sokhna Fall Ba
Project Officer

Perrine Duroyaume
Capitalisation and Evaluation Advisor

Jeanne Fournier
Innovation and Support Officer

Ndeye Marième Ly Diagne
Head of Programmes, Senegal

Ramatoulaye Mballo
Innovation and Support Officer

Maïmouna Ndoye
Coordinator of the Young West African Feminists project

Elise Fouillet
Innovation and Support Officer

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Elise Fouillet
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Elise Petitpas
Innovation and Advocacy Expert

Fatim Nikiéma Traore
Project Officer

Maïfoux Nassirou
Innovation and Social Mobilisation Officer

Fatim Tambadou Diallo
Innovation and Support Officer

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Administration and Finance Manager

Siré Hermann Barro
Administrative, Financial and Organisational Development Support Officer

Macoumba Fall
Administrative and Financial Monitoring Officer

Pascal Ilboudo
Organisational Development Technical Advisor

Sibiri Koné
Administrative and Logistics Assistant

Kadidia Rabo
Head of Support Roles, Ouagadougou office

W. Fidèle Sawadogo
Administrative, Financial and Organisational Development Support Officer

Nicolas Schlegel
Accountant

Joining the Equipop team

TEAMS



Bintou TRAORE
Communications
Dakar



Habsatou SABAYOU
SRHR
Niamey



Perrine DUROYAUME
Capitalisations
Paris



Stevie Reine YAMEOGO
SRHR
Ouagadougou



Cina GUEYE
Capitalisations
Dakar



Khadidiatou SY
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Dakar



Priscille Jinette BANSE
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Ouagadougou



Souguirimpou COMBARI
Organisational
Development
Ouagadougou



Coumba MBAYE
Administration-Finance
Dakar



Maïmouna NDOYE
Feminist
Movements
Dakar



Ramatoulaye MBALLO
Feminist
Movements
Dakar



Tara MUKEKU-CILOLO
Communications
Paris



Eva RAZAFINAROVO
Gender
Dakar



Ndeye Marième LY DIAGNE
SRHR
Dakar

GOVERNANCE



Marly BAH
Reunion Island



Micheline Wendyam KABORÉ
Ouagadougou

Equipop's budget

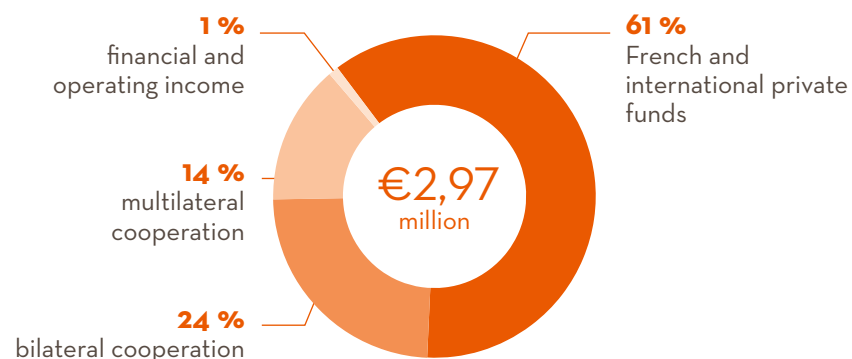
In 2020, 90% of Equipop's expenditure was allocated to its social missions. Equipop's budget increased by 10% from the previous year, and ended the year with a surplus.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Equipop's 2020 budget came to €2.97 million, up by 10% from 2019 (€2.68 million). 61% of this year's budget came from private funds, including international foundations (mainly the Hewlett Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation). Institutional funding amounted to 38% this year, 24% from French bilateral cooperation institutions (mainly the Agence Française de Développement) and 14% from multilateral cooperation institutions (United Nations agencies, West African Health Organisation).

Equipop continues to strengthen and develop new technical and financial partners, and to foster collaboration, which is key to driving forward projects.

Alongside this, we have increased our support to African civil society organisations by working hard to mobilise resources for the latter as well as targeting new donors.



USE OF FUNDS

Expenditure rose in 2020, reaching €2.84 million. 90% of Equipop's expenditure is allocated to the organisation's social missions through around twenty projects. Overhead costs are controlled in accordance with sector-specific criteria.

Despite the Covid-19 health crisis, which affected travel and in-person events, the implementation of activities in relation to projects launched in previous years continued in 2020, including Change Lab, Protéger la Prochaine Génération, Let's change, DEMSAN and Countdown.

In line with the forecasts, 2020 saw a significant increase (65%; €1.1 million) in aid granted to partner civil society organisations within the scope of three support funds: Innovation Fund, Organisational Development Fund, Strategic Fund.

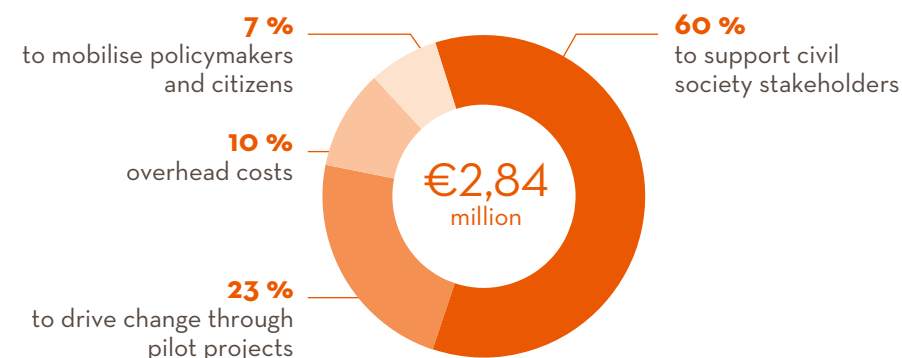
During the second half of 2020, several large-scale projects were launched for which Equipop secured multi-annual commitments from the Agence Française de Développement and Expertise France.

In light of this, a second regional office with a permanent team was opened in Dakar, Senegal. The budget allocated to human resources increased by 9% from 2019, owing to the recruitment of staff to implement projects.

The year-end result shows a surplus of €132,663.

This is mainly due to the controlling of operating costs with regard to the volume of activity. This surplus has helped increase the organisation's reserves. One of our medium-term goals is to build up capital in order to be in a better position to implement innovative activities, to invest in professionalising the organisation's support roles, and to weather the unpredictable nature of project funding while retaining internal expertise.

Equipop draws up annual accounts which are audited by Mazars SA statutory auditors. The 2020 annual accounts, as well as the auditor's report are available in full on equipop.org.
mazars



Communications

Equipop strongly believes in the importance of raising the voices of women and young people, and of facilitating the sharing of knowledge generated by activists and organisations. That is why Equipop places communications at the heart of its work and its support to partners. This approach has significantly raised the online and media profile of our advocacy work and the values upheld by Equipop and its partners.

6 events

HELD IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Feminists speak out
3 November 2020
General Meeting

My body is my own
14 April 2021
SWOP UNFPA

GEF
18 May 2021
Webinar in Burkina Faso

Mobilising Adolescent and Youth SRHR event
2 April 2021

Francophone sisterhood
23 June 2021
Patriarchy and bodily autonomy

The media faced with gender-based violence
24 June 2021

EQUIPOP.ORG

33 instances

OF MEDIA COVERAGE IN 2020-2021



36 000

FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS



3 publications

PRODUCED BY EQUIPOP IN SUPPORT OF ITS PARTNERS



4 publications

PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF EQUIPOP



Acknowledgements

In order to carry out its mission, Equipop relies on the support of many individuals and organisations that share its convictions and support its work. To all the members and volunteers who contribute to the organisation, the partners that offer financial support, without which our projects could not be implemented, the NGOs and local

organisations with which we have developed strong, long-lasting partnerships, the experts and civil servants with whom we co-build policies and programmes, the journalists and internet users who disseminate our information and messages, we would like to extend our warmest thanks for your support and loyalty.

We would like to give special thanks to:



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 and take action.



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 highlights.



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 to take a look behind-the-
 scenes at Equipop.



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 to keep up to date with
 the Equipop's news and
 innovations in the sector.



On Youtube
[Equipop](https://www.youtube.com/Equipop)
 to watch videos of Equipop's
 and our sector's news.

Crédits

The activity report is also
 available on our website:
www.equipop.org

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Activity report

Equipop combines social and political action, project design, technical assistance and partnership development to improve the health and rights of women and girls worldwide. Equipop works at grassroots level, through strong partnerships with change stakeholders, through to the highest level of international decision-making. Equipop champions feminist values and places the gender approach at the heart of its work.



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