



EQUI
POP.
ORG

2021
2022

Systemic change

Definition: A process through which structures are changed, especially those which underpin inequalities; changes to a set of complex interactions, including gender relations; changes which aim to address the causes of a problem rather than just the effects.

Within patriarchal societies, fighting gender inequality means making changes to how things are organised, to models, structures, and rules across a range of domains (employment, household tasks, culture, sexuality, violence, government, education, health, and more).

Antonym: marginal adjustments.

Summary

01

Spark change

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

page 10

02

Mobilise

Equipop mobilises influential stakeholders to forge a legal and institutional environment conducive to human development and especially to compliance with women's and girls' rights.

page 22

03

Support

Equipop supports development stakeholders, especially organisations working for women's rights and health worldwide.

page 32

04

Find out more about Equipop

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

page 42

Editorial

It is always a challenge to try to encapsulate the previous year's essence in just a few lines. Equipop's work covers a variety of regions and a range of levels, from highly local to international. We activate complementary drivers: support to changemakers, political advocacy, project management, knowledge production. Looking back over previous months therefore means confronting mixed feelings, three of which we will share with you.

From Afghanistan to the Sahel region, not forgetting Ukraine, political instability and armed conflict have affected many countries, with an ensuing increase in gender-based violence. From Turkey to the United States, not forgetting the cybersphere, anti-rights action led by increasingly coordinated and funded movements have resulted in significant steps backwards. Throughout the world, Covid has continued to exacerbate socio-economic and health inequalities, including gender-based inequalities, which are compounded by religious and mercantile extremism. All these observations underpin what we feel to be vitally clear: urgent action is required!

Reflecting this urgent situation, the second feeling to stand out is genuine enthusiasm in response to the vibrant array of alternative initiatives. Over the past few months, Equipop has indeed been involved in a multitude of initiatives with campaigners, informal groups and organisations that are forging ahead with their work to resist, to offer care to the vulnerable and to build fairer, more sustainable societies. Many of these were designed and run by young people, women, feminist movements, or their allies. As such, our partnerships, especially in West Africa, have developed, as Equipop increases its role in supporting and working with these initiatives.

Finally, the third feeling to emerge as we look back is that of responsibility. On a political level, 26 years on from the last World Conference on Women in Beijing, 2021 saw the Generation Equality Forum, whose ambition was to relaunch the gender equality road map. Financial commitments were made. Alongside this, some countries (re)stated their commitment to promote feminist policies. We welcomed this course of action. Yet for all that, we are aware that institutionalising the word 'feminist' runs the risk of leaving it devoid of meaning and of its very real power to give rise to what we seek to see happen: genuine systemic change.

Realising the political declarations of the past requires grassroots, non-profit, and intellectual movements to be involved in shaping policies and to bring those responsible to account. We will do our share. To this end, we shall continue to take part in knowledge sharing on feminist and gender issues, and in developing common positions and action with the partners we support, and more broadly, with NGOs, international cooperation organisations, experts, researchers and academics. The basis of these partnerships must include marginalised women, who, owing to aspects of their identity other than gender, for example class, minority ethno-cultural group, or sexual orientation, are subject to specific situations of domination or oppression, and are rendered invisible. This roadmap implies comprehending the complexity of power relations. We are striving to tackle this with your crucial support.

Aurélien Gal-Régniez, Executive Director
Alain Marié, President

WE **CEMENTED OUR SUPPORT** FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS AND CAMPAIGNERS INCLUDING:

- 89 feminist collectives in eight West African countries
- 63 grants awarded totalling €1,030,750
- 30 new partnerships with various organisations and movements
- Supporting or running some 20 different spaces to foster dialogue among feminists from different countries

WE TESTED **APPROACHES, CAPITALISED AND SHARED KNOWLEDGE ON...**

- Empowering young people regarding their sexual and reproductive health and rights with Alliance Droits et Santé
- Projects to combat gender-based violence in Burkina Faso, France, Niger and Senegal, and contributed to a guide on understanding and taking action on GBV.

... AND BY MEANS OF:

- Cycles of reflection with Feminisms & Health and Francophone Sisterhoods
- Links with universities in Senegal, France and Egypt

WE WERE INVOLVED IN **MOVING DECISION MAKERS AND INSTITUTIONS TOWARDS ADOPTING FEMINIST POLICIES:**

- 6 countries given support to follow the Generation Equality Forum
- Feminist approaches promoted in electoral campaigns in France through work with four partners (Fondation des Femmes, CGF, CSM, CSUD)
- Promotion of menstrual health alongside young rights advocates and UNFPA
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education promoted in association with Unesco
- Gender mainstreaming championed in HIV policies

IN 2021



Equipop's partners in West Africa

MAURITANIA

- Initiative Santé de la Reproduction
- Voix de Femmes (women's voices)

SENEGAL

- AJS (association of Senegalese legal advisers)
- ANJ SR-PF (national youth alliance for reproductive health and family planning)
- Plus jamais ça ! (Never again collective)
- ENDA Santé (health non-profit organisation)
- GESTES (gender and societies study and research group)
- JED (youth and development)
- JGEN Senegal
- LARTES- IFAN (research laboratory on economic and social transformation)
- ONG 3D (democracy, local development, human rights)
- RAES
- ROAJELF-Senegal (West African network of young women leaders)
- Solthis Sénégal
- Warkha TV
- YWA (Youth Women for Action)

GUINEA

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

IVORY COAST

- Actu-elles
- AFJCI (association of Ivorian women legal advisers)
- ASAPSU (support group for health and urban self-promotion)
- CPDEFM (local advocacy and promotion of child, women and minority rights)
- Gouttes Rouges
- LEADAFRICAINES
- Ivorian Women's Rights League
- MESSI (youth movement for education, health, solidarity and inclusion)
- ONEF (national organisation for children, women and families)
- SOS Children's Villages - Ivory Coast
- Stop au chat noir (sexual abuse charity)
- UNFPA Ivory Coast

TOGO

- SOS Children's Villages -Togo
- XOESE Fund (fund for French-speaking women)

MALI

- ADDAD (organisation advocating for the rights of cleaners and home help)
- AJCAD (youth association for active citizenship and democracy)
- AMSOPT (Malian association for the monitoring and guidance of traditional practices)
- Citoyenneté-elles
- Ebenezer International
- GMC Mali (Global Media Campaign)
- Pivot Group/women's rights and citizenship
- Pivot Group/health and populations
- MSI (Marie Stopes International)
- RENAJEM (national network of Malian youth)
- ROAJELF-Mali (West African network of young women leaders)
- COSC/ PF Mali (coalition of civil society organisations promoting family planning)

NIGER

- CNJFL (Nigerian young women leaders)
- SR/PF coalition (reproductive health & family planning)
- COJEFIL (Committee of young women leaders)
- CODD (convergence for sustainable development)
- CONGAFEN (coordinating body for women's non-governmental organisations and non-profits in Nigeria)
- Hayatoune
- Lafia Matassa
- ONPSME/Baani (Nigerian organisation promoting mother and child health)
- Ratanga Club
- Niger scout movement
- Solthis Niger
- SongEs
- DIMOL

BURKINA FASO

- ASMADE (Songui Manégré / supporting endogenous development)
- ANCB (national association of mayors)
- Burcaso (council of NGOs/CBOs and organisations STIs / HIV / AIDS)
- Emma L Infos
- Femin-in
- Rama Foundation
- Gascode (health, communications and development support group)
- IPBF (Panaretugri initiative for women's well-being)
- MMF/ANBF (Women's March Global / Burkina Faso branch)
- PROMACO (marketing and communications for health programme)
- Ratanga club - Burkina
- SOS/JD (SOS youth & challenges)
- SOS Children's Villages - Burkina
- TaaféVision
- Voix de Femmes (women's voices)
- Women in Global Health
- Association of Burkina women legal advisers
- RAJS (youth, health and development Africa network in Burkina Faso)

BENIN

- CALVIF (support centre combating violence against women)
- CeRADIS (ideas and action centre for integrated development and solidarity)
- Dimol
- Filles en Action (girls in action)
- Young Amazonian women for development foundation
- GRAFED-Ong (action research and training group on epidemiology and development)
- Jeunes Filles Actrices de Développement (young women for development)
- BACAR (African advisory and support office)
- OSV/Jordan (youth reproductive health and family planning NGO)
- ROAJELF Benin (West African network of young women leaders)
- Benin scout movement
- Women in Power

Creating joint spaces to share ideas

Firm in the belief that action and ideas are inextricably linked, Equipop contributes in its own way to supporting and running joint spaces to share ideas. For us, it is about helping foster connections across different disciplines and geographical areas, between theory, practice and art. Whether online, within universities or during conferences, these spaces help us to learn, to discuss our points of view, to share experience and resources, and to devise new ideas for action together.

Francophone Sisterhoods



Tone up your sisterhood

January 2022

- **Chaneline Mevowanou**, feminist activist from Benin, founder and adviser for the feminist group Young Women for Development
- **Lina Abou-Habib**, expert on gender mainstreaming in development policies and practices for the Doria Feminist Fund
- **Louise Delavier**, Head of Programmes and Communications at En avant toute(s)

Burnout among campaigners

April 2022

- **Aminata Libain Mbengue**, psychologist and feminist campaigner from Senegal
- **Marie-Renee Nwoes**, psychologist, feminist activist specialised in gender and sexuality issues in Cameroon
- **Ahlem Bousserwel**, feminist and campaigner, General Secretary of the Tunisian Association for Democratic Women

Fighting back against anti-rights movements as feminist collectives

June 2022

- **Jeanne Hefez**, Advocacy Advisor at IPAS
- **Laurence Meyer**, Head of Social and Racial Justice at the Digital Freedom Fund
- **Amy Sakho**, Country Advocacy Programme Officer at Planned Parenthood Global

Feminisms & Health



Who owns women's bodies?

November 2021

- **Fatou Sow**, Senegalese feminist sociologist

How to take a feminist approach to gynaecology? How to prevent and care for gynaecological and obstetrical violence better? What is feminist sexual education? How can women take back ownership of medical knowledge?

February 2022

- **Laura Berlingo**, obstetrical gynaecologist specialised in sexual health and care for women victims of violence

What are the feminist issues related to women reclaiming ownership of medical knowledge? How do you set about writing a book (e.g. the *Our Bodies, Ourselves* manual) by and for women? What can feminist anthropology of health contribute to this process?

May 2022

- **Mounia El Kotni**, feminist anthropologist, co-author of the new edition of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*

Dakar Universities



Women in Senegalese society: new studies on gender and feminism

March 2022

- Organised by the Senegalese Virtual University

Women, identity, politics, rights and socio-economic trends: a comparative perspective

March 2022

- Organised by Nubianlane and the IG2P laboratory based in the political sciences department of Chaikh-Anta-Diop University (UCAD)

Spark change

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





General mobilisation against gender-based violence!

For many people the world over, enduring aggressive behaviour for being a woman, or for not complying with expected gender roles, is an everyday reality. This is something Equipop and its partners have observed continually for over 20 years. Combating gender-based violence has therefore become a pivotal part of our work.

Over the years, we have seen what may be referred to as a continuum of violence take shape: links between different expressions of gender-based violence have become increasingly apparent, as well as their systemic dimension and the fact that they are closely related to sexism and to male dominance. Alongside this, we have also jointly identified tools to help prevent and handle this violence.

An observation: sexual and gender-based violence is universal and related to male dominance

From female genital mutilation to forced pregnancy and child marriage, from sexist insults to rape and gynaecological and obstetric violence (GOV), women and girls worldwide are at risk of assault throughout their lives. Gender-based violence is neither time-bound nor country-specific. It may be exhibited differently in varying contexts and evolve over time, for example with the arrival of new expressions of violence such as cyber-bullying and cyber-violence. This violence is universal. It knows no geographical boundaries. Victims span all origins, classes, ages, cultures and religions. It exists both in the private realm (within couples and families) and in the public arena (schools, social or religious institutions, workplaces, the street, public transport).



Gender-based violence is therefore intrinsically linked to the structure of our patriarchal societies, founded on gender inequality. Feminist works have examined how this acts as a means of social control over women's bodies and independence. These works have also demonstrated how this violence is fuelled by the belief that women belong to men and should submit to their will. As such, gender discrimination is not only behind this violence, but it also contributes significantly towards its acceptance and invisibility. Gender discrimination intertwines with other power dynamics related to origins and class for example, which leads to different levels of social injustice. Some women who find themselves at the crossroads of several types of discrimination and oppression are therefore particularly at risk. Moreover, some types of violence are actually directed at specific groups.

Take action, but how?

Building a world free from sexual and gender-based violence requires as many people as possible to take action, from an individual level to a global level, in every part of society. It requires many different drivers; there is not one type of magic solution. Yet, over the years, Equipop and its partners have come to certain firm beliefs and identified the priority drivers through which they can contribute to this global fight.

EXPOSING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE

One of the major challenges of the fight against violence lies in its invisibility, as social, institutional and subjective resistance to recognising this phenomenon is widespread. Firstly, due to the fact that gender violence is the dominant norm and that it is internalised by the whole of society, including women themselves. For example, the latest Demographic and Health Survey in Senegal shows that 40% of women think that it is normal for a man to beat his wife in certain circumstances, from burning food to refusing sexual relations. In addition, the language used by media and society seeks to camouflage reality with euphemisms like 'crime of passion' for femicide, 'abusers' for rapists, or 'wandering hands' for sexual assault. Yet naming violence means politicising the issue and drawing a clear line between what is acceptable and what is not. It is also important to highlight that there is little political investment in research, that even qualitative data is in desperately short supply, that very few women's narratives are made public, and on the rare occasions that they are, they are often discredited. To help bring this into the public eye and improve understanding around violence, Equipop contributes to a wide range of initiatives: offering financial support to organisations and activists who take to the streets or to the media to speak out against violence; running spaces to disseminate feminist experiences and research; as well as publishing a collection of accounts of women's lives and even helping carry out research.

Preventing female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage by making them part of the sexual and gender-based violence continuum.

For almost 20 years, Equipop has supported community-based operators and organisations working in an integrated and holistic way to stop FGM practices in West Africa and in France. Initially, this work specifically aimed to bring a stop to the practice of female circumcision and offer medical care for the consequences. Yet girls who are subject to female circumcision are also often at risk of forced marriage. Both these practices stem from the same structural causes: a patriarchal system based on gender inequality. The only way we can put a sustainable halt to female genital mutilation and forced marriage, much like the fight against any form of gender-based violence, is therefore to change social norms and challenge the unequal power balance. That is why, in the future, those working to bring an end to female circumcision and forced marriage wish to give even greater consideration to the continuum of violence by extending their mission to include the prevention of all types of sexual and gender-based violence. Similarly, medical care required following female circumcision shall be extended to include broader legal and psycho-social support for sexual and gender-based violence. Alongside this, specific activities will be conducted with men and boys to encourage them to challenge their masculinity.

SENEGAL

Combating gynaecological and obstetric violence (GOV)

GOV is a specific form of sexual and gender-based violence that prevails worldwide but which was only recognised very recently, following action by women's groups (such as the Plus jamais ça! collective¹ in Senegal and the Paye ton utérus² movement in France). It includes a wide range of acts which may be ill-intended (insults, threats, abrupt gestures) or non-consensual, as well as judgemental, or even discriminatory attitudes towards women, especially young women, and sexist surgical acts, such as the 'husband stitch'³, sexual abuse or rape by healthcare professionals. These acts appertain to the power and control that social systems, institutions and individuals have over women's bodies. The 'Our Bodies, Our Health' programme combating GOV in Senegal, run by a consortium of several Senegalese organisations in association with Equipop, will be focusing on this issue by giving women a voice (single-sex discussion group) and a platform to share their experiences. The extent of this phenomenon will be quantified through a nation-wide quantitative and qualitative study conducted by a Senegalese research laboratory specialised in gender issues. This will help raise awareness about how structural and symbolic violence shapes GOV. A committee has also been set up to update and republish *Notre corps, notre santé. La sexualité des femmes d'Afrique sub-saharienne*⁴. It will draw on the whole breadth of women's experiences and act as a source of knowledge about the body, how genitals function, sexual and reproductive rights and gender-based violence (including GOV), taking a feminist, emancipatory approach. Healthcare professionals will be closely involved and offered training and support in providing respectful care.

- **Partners:** ENDA Santé, ROAJELFF, ANJ-SR/PF, GESTES, Plus jamais ça! collective
- **Allies:** strategic committee members: 12 women sociologists, obstetrician-gynaecologists, midwives, doctors, researchers, feminist activists, gender experts and psychologists.
- Project co funded by AFD (French Development Agency) - FISONG (sectoral innovation NGO) against GOV launched in 2020.

1. <https://www.facebook.com/PlusjamaiscaVGO/>
2. #PayerTonUterus
3. The husband stitch is a medical procedure involving extra, unnecessary stitching following an episiotomy to tighten the vagina and increase the husband's pleasure during sex.
4. In French (Our body, our health. Women's sexuality in sub-Saharan Africa)



INFORMING AND RAISING AWARENESS

Information and awareness raising are powerful tools. Education, and especially comprehensive sexuality education in schools and in informal settings, as well as training for professionals, public policymakers and the media, are essential. Any initiative that helps raise the profile and voices of realities other than the dominant narrative can also be transformative. It is vital to support the creation of spaces for women's voices to be heard which offer access to information and tools that they can use to take action, to protect themselves and to make a fresh start. Finally, Equipop has also identified work on masculinity as an avenue to explore from earliest childhood.

DETECTING VIOLENCE AND OFFERING CARE

Detecting violence, giving a voice to affected women, analysing their needs for and with them, offering guidance and giving them access to support services and specialist assistance are all key steps in offering effective care. Gender-based violence (GBV) requires coordinated action by various services to which women need to be guided according to their preferences and needs. Informed consent must always be obtained before sharing information, every time guidance is offered.

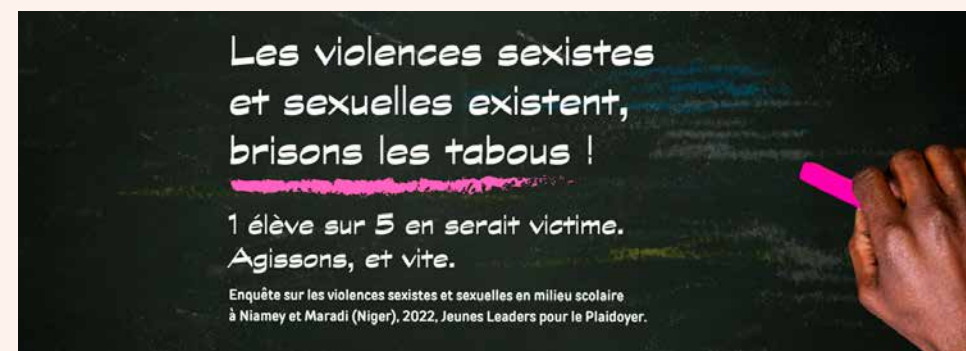


MAKING ACTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE A POLITICAL PRIORITY

It is vital to mobilise public authorities in order to put gender-based violence on the political agenda. This means ring-fencing sufficient financial resources to provide training and capacity building to professionals (healthcare workers, teaching staff, social workers, police officers, legal professionals and the judiciary) at every stage of victim support. Funds must also be allocated to ensure shelter, support and care services for victims and their children operate effectively in order to assist the healing process.

NIGER

Reporting and preventing sexual and gender-based violence in schools



No continent is free from sexual and gender-based violence in schools. Despite global awareness of the phenomenon, little in-depth research has been conducted into the issue from a feminist perspective, and above all limited significant action taken to condemn it. Recent studies in France¹ show that institutions and professionals actually contribute to maintaining an environment that allows this violence to persist with virtual impunity. As part of the Jades II project in Niger, Equipop and Lafia Matassa support a group of young leaders advocating to improve the social, institutional and legal context in support of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). These young advocates, spanning a dozen different movements and organisations, took action during the 2020-21 presidential and general elections by challenging those standing on the issues they face in terms of SRHR. Following the elections, these young Nigerians worked in an idea lab incubator to devise an advocacy and communications campaign. They decided to draw on their own experiences to flag up sexual and gender-based violence inflicted on girls and boys in or around school on account of stereotypes, norms and gender roles. Their aim is to spur the government to incorporate

action against sexual and gender-based violence into the rules governing secondary school. They decided to begin with a survey at schools in Niamey and Maradi in order to highlight the magnitude of the phenomenon, people's responsibilities, as well as the consequences on the lives of victims. Despite the context and sensitive nature of the issue, authorisation was granted to conduct the surveys (individual questionnaires for pupils, staff and a focus group) and data collection based on a protocol approved by the National Ethics Committee and overseen by the Health and Education ministries.

- **Partners:** Solthis, Lafia Matassa
- Project supported by AFD, Paris City Hall, Fondation de France.

1. *Mixité et violences ordinaires au collège et au Lycée, Lycée (co-education and the mainstreaming of violence in secondary schools)*, supervised by Patricia Mercader, Annie Léchenet, Jean-Pierre Durif-Varembont, Marie-Carmen Garcia, pub. Érès, 2016

Women's rights and health; preventing and lessening vulnerability in times of crisis and post-Covid-19

This front-line project focuses on the early detection of women who have been victims of sexual and gender-based violence, recording these cases and offering care so that they can begin the process of recognition and recovery.

What makes it innovative is the fact that the work is carried out in busy public areas such as train stations and markets, and that it involves women leaders with extensive networks and a high level of community influence. The commitment these women show, as well as their ability to detect issues, offer active listening and empathy are fundamental in providing information and guidance to women who are often subject to a combination of gender-based violence (denial of resources, privation of property, insults and bullying, denial of parental rights, physical and psychological abuse).

These women often end up in situations of great suffering and need tailored, combined care including legal, medical, psychological, social and economic support. The services provided can address this need. Women are offered a caring, non-judgemental approach as well as support from qualified professionals to guide them through any procedures they choose to follow. This is the first, key step on the road to recovery and empowerment which, once underway, often leads to women survivors becoming involved in action against violence themselves.

- **Partners:** IPBF, Voix de Femmes, association of Burkina women legal advisers.
- Project supported by AFD.



How to combat sexual and gender-based violence in France?

Formal and informal movements against sexual and gender-based violence are very active in France. Equipop contributes to this, for example by taking part in the initiatives led by the *#Nous Toutes* collective, set up in 2018, which culminate every year in demonstrations across major cities in France on 25th November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Equipop also helped promote the emergency plan to advance gender equality, launched by Fondation des Femmes, France's foundation for women's rights, which called on those running in the presidential and parliamentary elections to commit to implementing ten priority measures to promote gender equality once elected. The first three focus on violence issues:

03.

Set up specialised teams and courts that are willing and trained in combating violence against women, based on the Spanish model.

Other measures, if actually implemented, could also help reduce violence, such as 'Ensuring every child is taught about equality, sexuality and emotional life at school'. During the election campaign, Equipop worked alongside Fondation des Femmes to increase the number of meetings with those running for office. In all, over 70 candidates signed the emergency plan. 35 of those signatories now have a seat in the French parliament and long-term work has begun to turn the success of the 'Ecoutez-nous bien!' (Time to listen) campaign into a real reduction in sexual and gender-based violence.

01.

Invest €1 billion per year to put an end to domestic violence. By training professionals who may be in contact with women who have been victims of violence, by tripling the number of places in specialised shelters, and increasing funding to charitable organisations.

02.

Establish a national coordination body to combat violence against women, under the auspices of the President of the Republic. Protection for women must be made central to all public policy by setting up a body tasked with studying, monitoring and assessing public policy transparently at the highest level of government.

SUPPORTING CAMPAIGNERS AND ORGANISATIONS

Women's groups and activists play a vital part, and they need support. Several studies have shown that the major progress points made in combating violence were accomplished thanks to the mobilisation of women. It is women who are often at the forefront of social, political, institutional and systemic change. They also play a pivotal role in the provision of medical, legal, psychological and socio-economic support for victims, as policies and public services are often not capable of addressing the vast need. For several years, Equipop has been offering long-term support to organisations but also campaigners, especially in West Africa, as well as their collective initiatives. This is a strategic part of our work which is destined to be developed over the coming years.



Gender-based violence: what is it and what can I do?

From #Niinamenos to #Bringbackourgirls, not forgetting #YoTeCreoVzla, #Stopexcision and #Strengthtosayno, since 2017 and the #MeToo campaign, hashtags have been popping up all over social media to condemn gender-based violence. This momentum has given international legitimacy to the action of those working on this issue for centuries, and has given it new impetus. Aside from general awareness-raising, for this fight to succeed, concerted and sustainable efforts must be made by stakeholders across our societies and in every sector (health, education, law enforcement, justice).

As activists, organisations and movements, we have an important part to play. Equipop designed this short guide as an invitation to be part of this incredible movement. It offers some key ideas to help understand what violence encompasses, and action points to show how we can help prevent and handle it. Gender-based violence is neither acceptable nor inevitable. By joining forces, we can reverse the trend. We hold the power and the responsibility to do so.

The guide is available online: https://equipop.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/equipop_guide-VBG_digital.pdf



Mobilise

Equipop mobilises influential stakeholders to forge a legal and institutional environment conducive to human development and especially to compliance with women's and girls' rights.





For feminist public policies from local to global levels

Feminist public policies must be implemented in order to challenge the patriarchal system and achieve gender equality. If policies have already been drafted by the authorities, organisations need to intervene at this stage to co-build and bolster them. If not, civil society organisations can help chart a course. With this in mind, Equipop worked at three different levels this year: monitoring the Generation Equality Forum, promoting feminist foreign policy, and promoting feminist approaches at a regional level.

Monitoring the Generation Equality Forum

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF) was held in early summer 2021 in Paris, on the initiative of France, Mexico and UN Women. This major international event on gender equality gave rise to a host of commitments totalling \$40 billion, including \$23 billion in public funding. Although the six action coalitions set up at the time helped focus the work to be done, the whole process surrounding the GEF clearly lacked a monitoring mechanism. Consequently, it was up to organisations to take on this role.

This year, Equipop therefore got involved in various parts of the GEF: as part of the SRHR action coalition, alongside the West-African Rights and Health Alliance network, and within the accountability working group run by UN Women. The Feminist Generations collective, of which Equipop is a member of the secretariat, held regular meetings with the GEF organisers, including at France's highest institutional level. This political pressure must be maintained over the coming months, as despite the 'commitment monitoring chart' set up by stakeholders and published by UN Women, a considerable amount of time has already slipped by in implementing the commitments, whose deadline is 2026.

In July 2021, ROAJELF Senegal, with the support of Equipop, organised a sub-regional meeting of the West African Young Feminists Network in Dakar. This capacity building session on state accountability, existing mechanisms in West Africa, as well as high-level advocacy with the Senegalese authorities on the issue of gender-based violence (GBV) provided a strategic opportunity in readiness for nationwide dissemination.

This event also offered the chance to capitalise on the mobilisation of members in West Africa and on the international arena, and to establish how the network should be involved in monitoring the commitments made by six member states of the Ouagadougou Partnership for the GEF's SRHR coalition.



SUPPORT TO ORGANISATIONS KEEPING THE PROCESS ALIVE IN WEST AFRICA

Despite the relative inertia at a global level, the GEF was closely watched in West Africa. Equipop continued to offer support to the West African Young Feminists Network, which has members across eight countries. The network organised a post-GEF debrief workshop, which went on to help rally enthusiasm at a national level. In keeping with the support it offered non-profit consortia in 2020, Equipop took part in national workshops, for example in Burkina Faso, and in Niger with Young Women Leaders Nigeria.

These workshops helped build cooperation within non-profit movements as well as involve the local authorities in rolling out the commitments made at an international level. For example, in Senegal, social and political mobilisation encouraged a more decisive commitment from the Director of Gender Equality to support young people's work and to set up a national coordination and monitoring framework for post-GEF activities. The campaigns' media coverage had a significant impact: 65,000 people listened to the 13 radio programmes broadcast in different languages, and 21,000 people saw the digital campaign.

INTERVIEW



Dr Euphrasie Adjami

Technical Secretary for the advancement of demographic transition, Office of the Health Minister, Burkina Faso

As co-leader of the Bodily autonomy and SRHR coalition, what was Burkina Faso's role in the GEF's drive in West Africa?

As part of the GEF, Burkina Faso's Health Ministry assigned the Technical Secretariat for the advancement of demographic transition to help it lead on developing eight commitments made by six countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Togo) to work together to promote SRHR over the five coming years. In order to make these regional commitments operational, the six countries and Senegal then met in Ouagadougou in December 2021 to produce a corresponding regional implementation road map.

To date, various technical bodies have been, or are on the point of being established (regional coordination committee, regional technical unit and national technical committee in each country). Each country has been tasked with drawing up an annual action plan to pave the way to embark on activities in favour of a generation of equality. In Burkina Faso, several initiatives based on transforming social, legal and political norms have been implemented in an inclusive and participatory way, alongside civil society, technical and financial partners and the private sector, including Family Life Education (the national term used for Comprehensive sexuality education), and improving access and the quality of contraception services. Burkina Faso has already produced a national frame of reference for Family Life Education alongside a user guide. These documents have been approved by the Minister of Health in association with the other relevant ministries. We are advocating for an SRHR-friendly environment at every level of decision-making, for greater commitment from our various technical and financial partners, and for the implementation and monitoring of the commitments made by the FP2030 global partnership and at the GEF.



Promoting feminist foreign policies

One of Equipop's key contributions lies in developing feminist public policy at a level where its legitimacy is clear-cut: the international arena. Although feminist activists and researchers have been analysing international relations for decades, the first government to publicly adopt a feminist foreign policy - Sweden - did so less than ten years ago. A dozen governments have followed suit since, to varying degrees. Equipop adheres to this general trend, that entails fine-tuning potential feminist foreign policymaking and charting how it can be implemented.

A position paper has been drafted to this effect. Several different concrete tools were identified: transforming institutional culture (especially through training for high-level politicians and public servants), making public policy more coherent, significantly increasing funding to promote gender equality, involving and supporting feminist researchers and activities, ensuring monitoring and accountability for commitments made in this area.

IN FRANCE: MOVING FROM 'FEMINIST DIPLOMACY' TO A TRUE FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

In France, Equipop is in regular contact with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, as well as the French Development Agency, to monitor whether the various strategies being developed or renewed (health, SRHR, etc.) aid progress towards a true feminist foreign policy. Indeed, no official reference framework has yet been published on the subject. Urged by civil society, the French government has taken several initiatives, such as organising the GEF and steering the SRHR action coalition, as well as setting up a support fund for feminist organisations. In addition, the 'Solidarity Development' act of August 2021 sanctions 'feminist diplomacy' in its first clause. Yet there is so much still to do, not least increasing the allocation of human and financial means so that a feminist approach can be incorporated into foreign policy as a whole, rather than simply in a few key sectors such as health.

The three 'R's underpinning feminist foreign policy



Rights

Putting freedom, women's rights and gender equality at the heart of foreign policy work.



Resources

Mobilising sizeable, sustainable resources worthy of the issue and its ambitions.



Representation (of women)

Ensuring women participate fully (state employees and feminist movements) in co-constructing and implementing feminist foreign policy.

Equipop also takes action by sitting on France's High Council for Equality (HCE), where it is responsible for officially assessing the implementation of France's international strategy for gender equality. Over the next three years, Equipop will co-chair the HCE's 'Feminist diplomacy and international and European issues' commission. This will enable dialogue to continue with an array of stakeholders on the various key topics, for example the 'Women, peace and security' agenda.

HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN THE RUN UP TO THE FRENCH ELECTIONS

Parliamentary and presidential elections were held in France this year, the two most significant elections for five years, thereby offering a major advocacy opportunity. Through a range of collective action, Equipop helped identify and uphold the key feminist issues in public and political debates, especially feminist foreign policy.



Equipop met several campaign teams to present its recommendations in collaboration with the campaigns led by Fondation des Femmes as well as those run by Coordination SUD, the Global Health Collective and the Feminist Generations Collective. This awareness raising was vital, insofar as political parties know very little, if anything, about feminist foreign policy.



Fighting gender-based violence at a national level

At a national level, Equipop and its partners have been campaigning for policies to fight gender-based violence. In Ivory Coast, for example, Equipop provided technical and strategic support to activists demanding laws to protect victims of gender-based violence. In France, Equipop was involved in the 'Écoutez bien!' (Time to listen) campaign run by Fondation des Femmes, central to which was the fight against gender-based violence. This was also the case for the 'Grande cause, petit bilan' publication. Produced in association with Oxfam France and other charitable organisations, this substantive work assessed action taken to address gender equality during Emmanuel Macron's five-year term in office. It was given extensive media coverage and quoted to the President of the Republic during the only televised TV debate he attended before the first round, organised by ELLE-LCI.

1. In French





Incorporating feminist perspectives at a regional level

As rights issues are inextricably linked, regardless of their geographical roots, Equipop works to promote feminist approaches at every level, from local to international, paying particular attention to the links between these different rungs of decision-making. One of these is particularly worthy of focus: the regional level.

In West Africa, women's rights and family planning agendas have not always seen eye to eye. Certain gatherings, such as the Nairobi conference in 2019 (ICPD+25), helped initiate closer relations, yet tensions remain. Equipop's stance has therefore been to foster dialogue grounded in a rights-based approach, focused on individuals, which takes precedence over a quantitative approach to public policy.

This year was marked by the announcement of the Ouagadougou Partnership's new civil society strategy. Equipop contributed to the ideas shared in various forms (consultations, regional workshop, etc.) so as to found this revised version on a human rights-based approach and on a stronger partnership with regional youth organisations and feminist activists.

INTERVIEW



Marie Ba

Director of the Ouagadougou Partnership's Coordination Unit (UCPO)

This year, the UCPO presented the Ouagadougou Partnership's new civil society strategy. How does this repositioning apply in practice today?

Following a decade of progress due in particular to the involvement of civil society in RH/FP, the Ouagadougou Partnership set itself the ambitious target of an additional 6.5 million women users of modern family planning methods in nine member countries of the Ouagadougou Partnership by 2030. In order to reach this target, and in view of the increased involvement of civil society organisations in the repositioning of family planning, the Ouagadougou Partnership decided to launch a new civil society strategy in June 2021.

The aim is to mobilise civil society as productively as possible to monitor the commitments made by governments to reach the Ouagadougou Partnership's post-2020 objectives, build a broader, more inclusive narrative around FP, as well as increase support with resilience in the face of humanitarian crises. With this in mind, incorporating feminist movements offers an opportunity to broaden the advocacy ecosystem to include other connected sectors, such as gender equality, education and economic empowerment.

It also expands the advocacy points around family planning and fuels the commitment to women's rights in general.

Equipop has been working with UNESCO and UNFPA since 2018 on a regional advocacy process for high-level political commitment with the education and health ministries in West and Central Africa to promote comprehensive sexuality education (CES). As co-chair of the Technical Working Group, Equipop has endeavoured to ensure the progressive voices of young people and feminist activists in the sub-region are heard, for instance through a commitment accountability framework. Prior to this, Equipop helped shed positive light on CES through a communications and advocacy campaign entitled 'Education saves lives', in the face of strong, organised opposition in various countries.

Upholding SRHR is also crucially important at a European level. In November 2021, Equipop was at the initiative of an opinion piece entitled 'Sexual and reproductive rights must define the French Presidency of the EU', which was backed by 75 feminist organisations from some 30 countries and published in the Ouest France newspaper. Emmanuel Macron subsequently called for abortion rights to be included in the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights.

03

Support

Equipop supports development stakeholders, especially organisations working for women's rights and health worldwide.





Supporting feminist initiatives in French-speaking West Africa

Year on year, Equipop has expanded its support for feminist movements. In French-speaking West Africa, the support Equipop offers is varied, and tailored to the needs of feminist campaigners and organisations: provision of financial resources; provision of technical resources; help with experience and knowledge sharing spaces; assistance with collective initiatives.

Meeting the funding requirements of feminist movements

According to AWID, women's rights organisations only receive 0.13% of the development aid budget, and only 0.42% of grants from foundations are allocated to women's rights projects (see: *Où est l'argent pour l'organisation des mouvements féministes ?*¹, AWID, 2021). Yet, widespread funding for feminist movements is a powerful way to advance gender equality.

In light of this, Equipop has for several years put together its own contribution to the funding requirements of organisations and campaigners, whose primary work focuses on upholding women's rights. It has therefore set up project-based funds. The aim is to provide secure, flexible funding while adhering to a feminist funding approach. This results, among other things, in:

- **less competition** among feminist organisations through the implementation of restricted calls for expressions of interest;
- **the development of strategic**, trusted partnerships, fuelled by regular dialogue between the organisations supported and Equipop;
- **easier access to funding** tailored to the specific requirements of feminist organisations, and to their operating costs.

In addition, despite the fact that a lack of legal status in feminist organisations' own countries - due to problems completing administrative procedures to obtain a legal status, or because they have chosen not to register officially - can often stand in the way of access to funding, it is not a limiting factor for Equipop. Indeed, an organisation's ability to take action is not dependent on its legal status. The most important factor for Equipop is an organisation's ability to align with a transformative approach to power relations between men and women. Alongside this, Equipop monitors funding opportunities available to feminist organisations and can help them prepare their response to calls for proposals as required.

This work requires continual dialogue with funding bodies, as the latter's funding and accountability criteria often limit how far the principles on which we wish to base our financial support are applied. While this dialogue may be complex, it also presents an opportunity for us to help change partnership frameworks with the main public or private funding bodies.

1. in French (Where is the money for feminist movements?)

WE GO FOR CHANGE!

Following a restricted call for expressions of interest issued in 2021 by Equipop as part of the Feminists in Action fund, JFAD (Young Women for Development) will be implementing a project entitled 'We Go For Change!' in Benin. In response to the trivialisation of sexual violence, the lack of protection offered to survivors and the trend towards standardising out-of-court settlements for sexual violence, JFAD has decided to take action in the town of Abomey-Calavi, and more specifically Abomey-Calavi University, Benin's largest higher education establishment. Several activities have been planned:

- training for police officers, online activists and women's rights organisations, etc.;
- community-level outreach sessions to promote a zero-tolerance culture with regard to gender-based violence;
- setting up a 'health and well-being' space within the university as a place for students to go and be heard.

Towards a model feminist fund

Aside from pointing out the meagre percentage of development aid granted to women's rights organisations, it is interesting to look at how resources are allocated in a feminist funding ecosystem. According to AWID (*Vers un écosystème de financement féministe*, 2019²) the main principles are:

- basic funding, which can be used flexibly, enabling organisations to decide freely how it should be allocated;
- project grants, to be used over a short period of time for specific activities/projects;
- implementation partnerships, which are particularly popular among development agencies and governments, and which attribute feminist organisations the role of helping to achieve development agencies' and governments' objectives.

Clearly, the major funding pools are tied to the most restrictive conditions, whereas the smaller funding pots (including feminist funds) go hand in hand with more flexible arrangements.

2. In French (Towards a feminist funding ecosystem)

It is a collective fight: we must strengthen ties!

Alongside financial support, Equipop has been working to build ties among its different partners and allies worldwide, especially in West Africa. With this in mind, Equipop has contributed to a variety of collective projects.

Equipop regularly brings together over 80 feminist campaigners from across eight West African countries to host a range of collective discussions, predominantly online, from preparing for international events to brainstorming opportunities for feminist movements as well as debriefing and responding to national news. Against this background of consolidating ties and fostering dialogue among feminists, in early 2022, Equipop was given the opportunity to run a 'Feminist Powerzone' during the Women and Climate festival organised by Empow'her in Niger. This discussion area set up during the festival was designed and implemented with a group of some 60 West African feminists who worked together online to organise several key moments. Over the course of the two-day event, five feminists appointed by the group attended the festival and ran debates and working sessions on sisterhood, women's political power and the background to feminist movements in Africa. Once back in their own countries, they organised feedback sessions with their sister campaigners. Equipop also organised some online discussion sessions, in association with RJFAO and other national campaigners in order to debrief and better understand current events related to women's rights in some countries in the region, such as the legalisation of safe abortions in Benin. In order to delve deeper into certain key topics, Equipop also organised several online conferences, the 'Francophone Sisterhoods' sessions, bringing together feminist experts from various French-speaking arenas, to create an opportunity to share ideas and co-develop feminist thinking.



INTERVIEW



Carelle Laetitia Goli

Legal adviser, blogger and feminist activist

How were feminists involved in the Powerzone?

We were involved at two different levels: during preparations and during the event itself. As feminists we worked together on selecting priority topics in advance. There are indeed subjects which unite us as West African feminists, on which we have the same experience and face the same challenges. For example, we talked about women's rights during times of crisis, and minority rights. There were five of us feminists who took part in the Powerzone sessions. We strived to support each other to lighten everyone's load. It was a great example of sisterhood, everything was done with a great deal of care and consideration.

What oiled the wheels of this collective effort?

As feminists, we seek sisterhood in our daily lives. So, we made sisterhood a unifying notion that was central to this event. We sought to experiment with it, and after to go back and share it with those women who had stayed behind. It was also strengthened by the fact that we were just among women feminists, and that is a rare thing in our daily lives. These three days of friendship offered an opportunity for us to share our concerns, whether in the form of confessions, where we tried to bring out any campaigning weariness, or in the form of empathy and celebration.

What did you take away from this experience?

Firstly, everything we, as West African feminists, had in common. We share the same burdens, the same experiences, the same training challenges. I also remember a great discussion I had with Mrs Hadari, a feminist 'predecessor' and trailblazer in Niger, during a session on women's participation and political power. We need to create more such opportunities for dialogue with kindly feminist predecessors and cross the generational divide.

At the same time, Equipop has also been helping feminist campaigners build ties with women and girls in their own countries. This regional drive was launched for the feminist talks tours, and co-built with feminists from eight countries. It is about creating spaces for women and girls to speak out about their concerns, their difficulties, their priorities and needs in terms of rights, especially those who are marginalised (rural women, women with disabilities, from working-class backgrounds, without an education or who have dropped out, women working in the informal economy, etc.).

These tours will take place during 2022. Several principles have emerged from these collective feminist experiences, which guide Equipop's support for collective action:

- sisterhood
- intergenerational ties
- transnational links
- connections between people from different backgrounds

It is apparent that pooling our energy is vital, both to strengthen the political aspect of the feminist struggle, and to offer collective protection to campaigners from the threat of individual violence.

Femin-in's Feminist Meetings



In late 2021, the feminist organisation from Burkina Faso, Femin-in, organised the second Ouagadougou Feminist Meetings with the support of Equipop, bringing together some fifty young people from Burkina's capital over the course of a week. In response to the difficulties faced by young campaigners interested in feminist issues to gain access to information on the background to West African feminist movements, and to the demand for training on online and in person activism techniques, this feminist organisation decided to run an annual training and discussion session to offer young people the keys and resources they need. Over the course of the five-day event, Femin-in invited activist speakers to discuss the origins of West African feminist movements, from precolonial predecessors to the Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists, and current-day feminist campaigners in Burkina Faso.

Firing the imagination: working with women from the culture and arts sector

Culture (films, podcasts, drama and dance) as a means to deconstruct gender-based stereotypes and politicise feminist issues is a tool that Equipop has used for many years. Examining how women can take back ownership of the 'female gaze' in art and fiction is also a significant element of social change.

In that vein, Equipop has been working with an increasing number of stakeholders from the cultural sector interested in feminist issues. Following a first collaborative experience for the Cotonou International Women's Film Festival, Equipop decided to repeat this type of partnership with a range of festivals and cultural events in the same region. These partnerships are conducted in a variety of ways: strategic discussions on how to direct events; provision of funding to bring in feminist campaigners; participation in panel discussions on issues related to Equipop's expertise; as well as technical support to help communicate via social and other media.

These cultural stakeholders are also seeking to work more closely with so-called traditional feminist campaigners. Equipop has helped build these links, including with people from the cultural sector involved in gender issues. With this in mind, Equipop attended the Africa Women's Film Festival, organised in Dakar, and took part in discussions about setting up a network of women's film festivals.

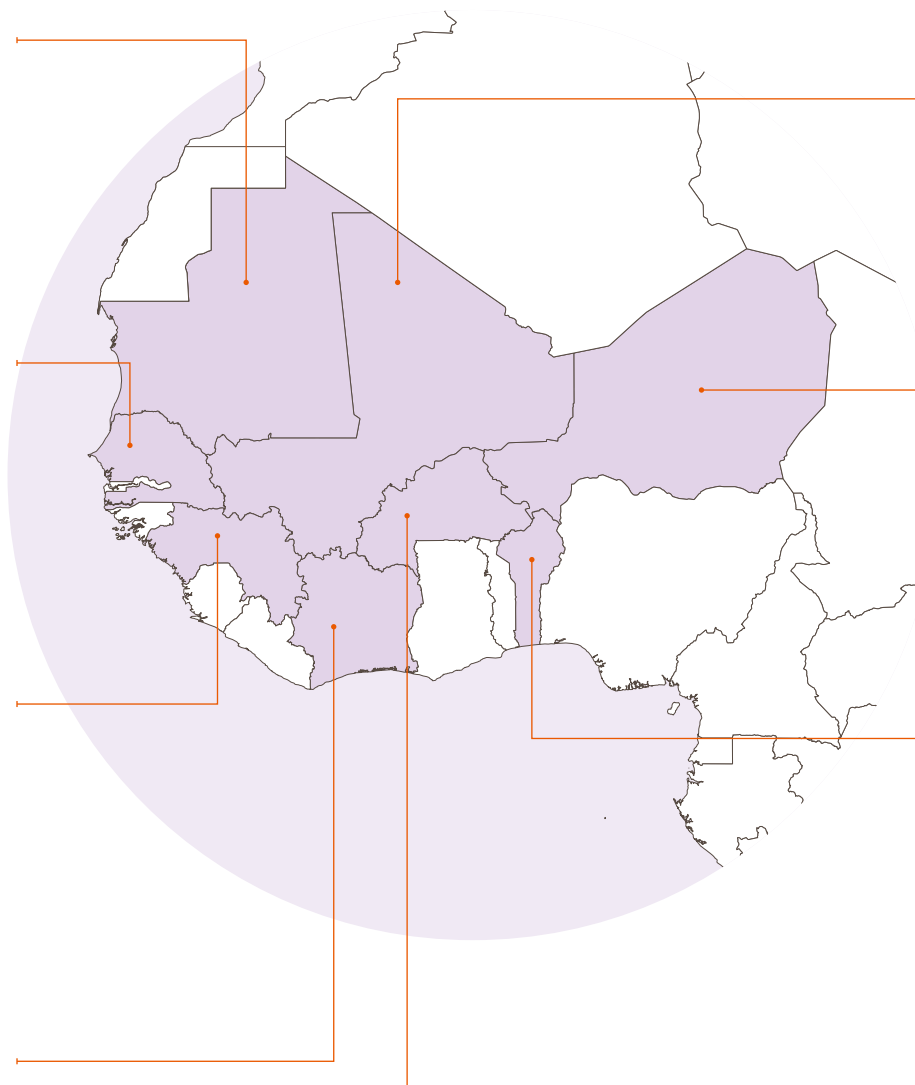
For better female representation in the film industry



Through the Écrire au Féminin (Writing for Women) initiative, TaaféVision has trained ten women every year since 2020 in Burkina Faso on gender-aware screenwriting. The training is delivered by audio-visual and film professionals, such as the Burkina director-producer Mamounata Nikiema, who is specialised in producing creative documentaries, or the French film director, Dominique Aru, who runs the production department at La Générale drama school and film academy in Montreuil, France. With the support of Equipop, through the Feminists in Action fund, TaaféVision is planning the third Writing for Women session, which will go as far as producing a feminist short film. Through this work, TaaféVision aims to equip women seeking a place for themselves in the film industry, and to influence the representation of women in films produced in Burkina Faso.

West African tour of initiatives by feminist campaigners

Every year, Equipop offers support to almost one hundred West African organisations and activists. At a local, regional and national level, these partners implement concrete action to promote women's rights at grassroots level. Here are some examples of the wide-ranging and complementary action led locally by young feminist organisations.



INITIATIVE POUR
LA SANTÉ DE LA
REPRODUCTION

MAURITANIA

Making young people aware of gender-based violence and their rights

The NGO Initiative Santé de la Reproduction trains young volunteers on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as gender-based violence. These volunteers then meet up in clubs and raise awareness among their peers on women's rights through discussion groups and artistic displays.



SENEGAL

Putting African feminist ideas on the map

ANJ SR-PF (the national youth alliance for reproductive health and family planning) has launched a series of literary cafés. The members of women's rights organisations who attend discuss works by African and Afro-descendant feminist writers. These meetings put pioneers such as Awa Thiam back on the feminist agenda, and foster the emergence of collectively built feminist narratives.



GUINEA

Action against female genital mutilation and child marriage

The Guinean Young Women Leaders club is home to young activists aged 14 to 20 years old. Since 2016 they have been taking action against child marriage, marital rape and female genital mutilation. The club's activities also include a workshop on international fundraising and financial and administrative management intended for young members of Guinean organisations.



IVORY COAST

Supporting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence

The Ivory Coast League is a feminist network set up by women to take action against sexual and gender-based violence, and support victims. This includes psycho-social support, financial assistance, referral guidance to appropriate medical services, and help with legal procedures.



MALI

Raising awareness

about female genital mutilation

In Mali, GMC trains volunteers in outreach work to combat female genital mutilation. These volunteers go out into local communities to organise 'discussion groups' offering information and challenging beliefs about FGM in order to make progress towards relinquishing this practice.



NIGER

Supporting girls in their academic careers

The Nigerian Young Women Leaders Unit organises activities including support clubs and mentoring in rural areas. It offers academic support to girls at school and encourages sisterhood among them. The girls leading these clubs are also trained in leadership skills, violence at school, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and advocacy.



BENIN

Bolstering the feminists with disabilities movement

Calvif is the leading care centre in Benin offering shelter to victims of violence against women. It also organises activities in support of feminist movements: for example, training campaigners with disabilities on feminist activism. The aim is to bolster the disabled women movement in order to combat stereotypes, ableism, and all forms of discrimination.



BURKINA FASO

Upholding the rights of domestic workers

ADDAD Burkina supports young domestic workers in insecure situations. Its work includes helping them find accommodation and food. Information about sexual and reproductive health is also provided. Furthermore, ADDAD assists them with legal procedures in cases of sexual or gender-based violence committed by their employers.

Find out more about Equipop

Equipop blends social and political action, project design, and technical and financial assistance to improve the health and rights of women and girls worldwide. Our priorities lie in contributing to trans-local collective action and providing flexible, long-term support to campaigners and organisations. Equipop champions feminist values and places the gender approach at the heart of its work.



Today, Equipop relies on around thirty employees and seventy-two members, with an annual budget of €3,79 million. The association has an office in Europe - in Paris - and two offices in West Africa - in Ouagadougou and in 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 2021, the organisation 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 women's rights worldwide.



Collectif Prévenir & Protéger (Prevent and Protect 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 (World Health collective) collectif-sante-mondiale.fr

This collective includes nine French organisations (Action Against Hunger, 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

The Droits Humains pour Tou-te-s 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 female circumcision)
excisionparlonsen.org
Excision, parlons-en! aims to help bring together organisations and other legal entities, as well as individuals, around the issue of female circumcision 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 international aid workers' action.



Générations Féministes
The Feminist Generations collective comprises organisations campaigning for the adoption of feminist approaches in France's domestic and foreign 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 IBP (Implementing Best Practices) 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 WHO, USAID and nine cooperation agencies, IBP now has over 45 members worldwide (donors, international technical assistance organisations, as well as national and regional partners).



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



The West African Young Feminists network
This network comprises West African feminist campaigners 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.

Equipop's lifeblood

Equipop relies on a board of eleven trustees and a multi-disciplinary team comprising some thirty staff members to define and implement its mission. Once per year, some sixty members gather for the General Meeting.

During an Extraordinary General Meeting on 30 November 2021, new articles of association were passed. These established a decision-making body in the form of a board of trustees to supplement the work of the bureau. The role of these trustees includes appointing the members of the bureau, which meets on average every quarter, and defining Equipop's strategic focus.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr Alain Marié Chair	Noemi Grütter Member
Ndeye Fatou Kane Vice-chair	Marion Lambert Member
Wendyam Micheline Kabore General Secretary	Khadidiatou Sy Member
Dr Luc de Bernis Treasurer	
Hadja Idrissa Bah Member	
Dr Marly Bah Member	
Dr Béatrice Cuzin Member	
Pr Pierre Foldes Member	

THE NEW TRUSTEES



Ndeye Fatou Kane is a Senegalese gender sociology researcher. Her research initially focused on Senegalese feminism, in relation to the theory of intersectionality, then

moved on to masculinities, with the second part of her research looking into the construction of Senegalese masculinities from a politico-religious perspective.

"What particularly strikes me about Equipop's work is how it builds bridges with West African feminists. As someone who comes from a West African country - Senegal - I observe all this cooperation with great interest."



Noemi Grütter works for UNFPA in Rwanda on the sexual and reproductive health of teenagers. With a Master's in human rights and humanitarian action, and an advanced

certificate in gender studies from Science Po Paris, Noemi worked as a consultant for Equipop, responsible for establishing a strategy for its involvement in international human rights systems.

"What I particularly like about Equipop's work is first and foremost the human rights-based approach. In addition to that, Equipop really puts the spotlight on feminist campaigners, who are experts on their situation and their rights. By supporting these feminists directly to develop their skills, Equipop plays a vital part."



Marion Lambert joined Equipop in 2017 and works as Communications Officer at the Paris office. She helps implement the communications strategy,

works closely with members of the different divisions, and assists Equipop's partners in running communications projects.

"I attach great importance to intersectional and inclusive feminism, and to ensuring the voices of anyone subject to gender-based violence - whether women, sexual or gender minorities, people of any ethnicity, nationality or social class - are heard and their human rights respected. I'm thinking specifically about sexual and reproductive rights, which range from sexuality education to abortion rights and action against sexual and gender-based violence."



Khadidiatou Sy is the West African advocacy coordinator, based in Equipop's Dakar office. She contributes to establishing Equipop's vision, strategic focus and priorities.

"Bodily autonomy is a fundamental part of how I see equality. Freedom of choice must be upheld. This is a central issue in reaching gender equality. In the West African context, this struggle needs to be fuelled, revived. In Senegal, pioneering women undertook to uphold these rights, taking a strong, assertive, political stance. I feel that these women are still fighting, and that the issue of generational transmission is at stake. We have seen alarming steps backwards in the rights to exercise these choices, but also in semantics; even those people who used to be committed to these issues are now getting cold feet, they no longer dare to speak out, to use certain words like 'gender' or 'feminist' due to pressure from anti-rights conservative movements. Even some campaigners self-censor within their own feminist movements. As a member of the board of trustees, I am contributing to this collective resistance."

The team in 2021



Sokhna Fall Ba
Project Officer



Souguirimp Combari
Administrative,
Financial and
Organisational
Development
Support Officer



Pape Ababacar Diouf
Driver &
Administrative-
Logistics Assistant,
Dakar



Élise Fouillet
Innovation and
Support Officer



Cina Gueye
Capitalisation and
Skills Transfer Officer



N'deye Khady Babou
Head of Programmes



Lucie Daniel
Advocacy Expert



Marie Dubost
Advocacy Intern



Jeanne Fournier
Innovation and
Support Officer



Louis Guinamard
Communications
Officer



Priscille Bansé
Communications
Officer



**Ndeye Marième
Ly Diagne**
Head of Programmes,
Senegal



Perrine Duroyaume
Capitalisation and
Evaluation Advisor



Aurélie Gal-Régniez
Executive Director



Kate Hart
Head of
Development and
Partnerships



Siré Hermann Barro
Administrative,
Financial and
Organisational
Development
Support Officer



**Fatim Tambaou
Diallo**
Innovation and
Support Officer



Macoumba Fall
Administrative
and Financial
Monitoring Officer



Noemi Grütter
Advocacy Intern



Hrubech Hombessa
Communications
Intern



Pascal Ilboudo
Organisational
Development
Technical Advisor



Ramatoulaye Mballo
Innovation and
Support Officer



**Nathalie
Perrotin-Milla**
Head of
Communications



Eva Razafinarivo
Programme
Coordinator



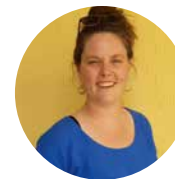
Brigitte Syan
Advocacy Manager
for West Africa



Sibiri Koné
Administrative and
Logistics Assistant



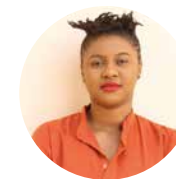
Coumba Mbaye
Head of Support
Functions, Dakar



Elise Petitpas
Innovation and
Advocacy Expert



Habsatou Sayabou
Innovation and
Support Technical
Advisor



Bintou Mariam Traoré
Communications
Officer



Marion Lambert
Communications
Officer



Hélène Ménard
Joint Head of
Programmes and
Development



Dominique Pobel
Head of Programmes
and Development



Nicolas Schlegel
Accountant



Fatim Nikiéma Traore
Project Officer



Philippine Lambert
Advocacy Intern



Tara Mukeku-Cilolo
Communications
Officer



Kadidia Rabo
Head of Support
Functions,
Ouagadougou



Benjamin Sitbon
Head of Finance



Nadia Yabila
Head of Programmes



Nora Le Jean
Head of Innovation
and Support



Maïmouna Ndoeye
Programme
Coordinator



Nicolas Rainaud
Advocacy
Manager, France
& International



Khadidiatou Sy
Advocacy
Coordinator



**Steevie Reine
Yameogo**
Innovation and
Support Officer

Equipop's budget

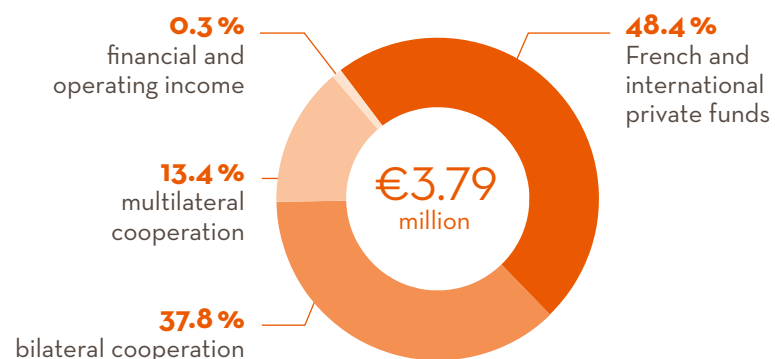
In 2021, 93% of Equipop's expenditure was allocated to its social missions. Equipop's budget increased by 28% from the previous year, and ended the year with a surplus.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Equipop's 2021 resources amounted to €3.79 million, up 28% from 2020 (€2.97 million). 48% of this year's funding came from private sources, including international foundations (mainly the Hewlett and Bill & Melinda Gates foundations). Institutional funding amounted to 51% this year, 38% from French bilateral cooperation institutions (mainly AFD, the French Development Agency) and 13% from multi-lateral 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 increased significantly in 2021, reaching €3.66 million. 93% of Equipop's expenditure was allocated to the organisation's social missions through 25 projects. In line with the sector's criteria, overhead costs were low.

In 2021 Equipop continued, and stepped up, implementing activities pertaining to previous years' projects, including Change Lab, Consolidating Young Feminist Movements in West Africa, Youth on Alert, Protecting the Next Generation, Let's Change, DEMSAN, Countdown 2030. The gradual lifting of restrictions related to the Covid-19 health crisis meant travel was once again possible, as well as in-person events.

25 projects were implemented in 2021 (22 in 2020).

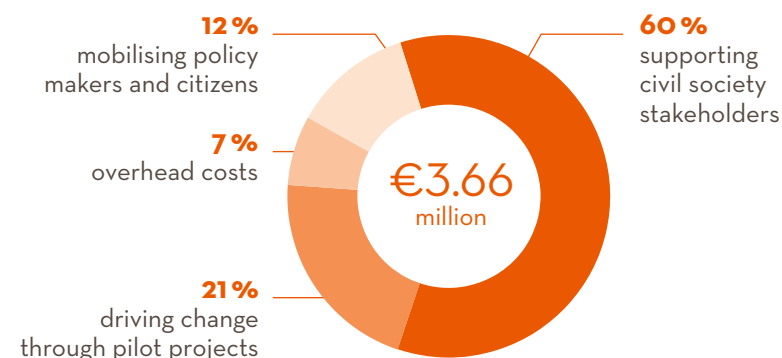
Two large-scale multi-annual projects were launched in 2021: the Feminists in Action Fund and SANSAS, a project to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights for teenagers and young people in Senegal.

Aid granted to partner civil society organisations topped €1 million, through three support funds: the Innovation Fund, the Organisational Development Fund, and the Strategic Fund.

The budget allocated to human resources increased by 18% from 2020, owing to the recruitment of staff in West Africa to implement projects.

The year-end result shows a surplus of €136,412. 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 our own funds in order to cover working capital requirements, 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 2021 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.

9 publications

PRODUCED BY EQUIPOP IN SUPPORT OF ITS PARTNERS



7 films

PRODUCED BY EQUIPOP IN SUPPORT OF ITS PARTNERS



EQUIPOP.ORG

28 appearances

IN FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA IN 2021-22



40,000

SUBSCRIBERS ON SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES



7 events

IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Alliance Droits et Santé (Rights and Health Alliance)
26 November 2021
Panel on youth empowerment for a transformative approach to SRHR

Feminisms & Health
30 November 2021
Conversation with Fatou Sow

Feminisms & Health
16 February 2022
Conversation with Laura Berlingo

Feminisms & Health
4 May 2022
Conversation with Mounia El Kotni

Francophone Sisterhoods
23 January 2022
Tone up your sisterhood through networking

Francophone Sisterhoods
13 April 2022
Burnout among campaigners, responding together to violence

Francophone Sisterhoods
15 June 2022
Fighting back collectively against anti-rights movements

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:



Follow Equipop's latest news



On our website
equipop.org
 to find out more
 and take action.



On Twitter
[@Equipop_Ong](https://twitter.com/Equipop_Ong)
 to follow our news and our
 sector's news in real time.



Via our newsletter
 to receive a regular
 summary of our news
 highlights.



On Facebook
[equi.org](https://www.facebook.com/equi.org)
 to discover exclusive
 content and share more
 with our community.



On Instagram
[@Equipop_Ong](https://www.instagram.com/Equipop_Ong)
 to take a look behind-the-
 scenes at Equipop.



On LinkedIn
[@equipop-ong](https://www.linkedin.com/company/equipop-ong)
 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.

Credits

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

Design and production

Head of content:
 Aurélie Gal-Régniez
Editor in chief:
 Nathalie Perrotin-Milla

Editors and contributors:

Elise Fouillet, Aurélie Gal-Régniez,
 Louis Guinamd, Nora Le Jean,
 Ramatoulaye Mballo,
 Hélène Ménard, Maïmouna Ndoeye,
 Nicolas Rainaud, Kaya Sy
Editorial administration:
 Priscille Bansé, Louis Guinamd,
 Nathalie Perrotin-Milla

Graphic design:

Jean-Luc Gehres
www.welcomedesign.fr
Illustrations: Noémie Klein,
 Léa Onofri
Photography: Equipop, Riccardo
 Venturi, Rachida Amadou Bella,
 Benoît Robert, EtriLabs, Mozaic
Printing: Simon Graphic, Ormans
 This document is printed
 on certified paper.
English translation: Sarah Mackley,
 Clayborn Communications,
www.clayborncommunications.com

Activity report

Equipop blends social and political action, project design, and technical and financial assistance to improve the health and rights of women and girls worldwide. Our priorities lie in contributing to trans-local collective action and providing flexible, long-term support to campaigners and organisations. Equipop champions feminist values and places the gender approach at the heart of its work.

Equipop
www.equipop.org
info@equipop.org

Paris office
6 rue de la Plaine
75020 Paris - France
Tel: +33 (0)1 74 01 71 24
Fax: +33 (0)1 74 01 71 25

Ouagadougou office
09 BP 1660
Ouagadougou 09
Burkina Faso
Tel / Fax: (+226) 25 40 88 02

Dakar office
BP 29761 Dakar Yoff
Sénégal
Tel: +221 33 820 84 14