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**Let's strengthen**

**our**



**feminist**



**solidarities**



# SOLIDARITY:

A space in which to cooperate and address our vulnerabilities.

An effective way of acting in response to collective challenges.

A means of forging connections to build fair societies and peaceful global coexistence.

Solidarity applies to every level of social life, from local communities to international relations. It involves the mutual recognition of the plural nature of humankind, our interdependency, and our respective responsibilities.

Solidarity raises awareness of what we have in common, while offering the means for people to feel a sense of belonging.

For an issue such as gender equality to become the subject of solidarity, several conditions need to be met: a shared understanding of the issues, recognition of injustices and systems based on domination, the drafting of agreements, collective mobilisation, allocation of resources, and the implementation of practical solutions.

Solidarity does not exclude conflicting points of view, however it requires imagination and goodwill.

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# Editorial

In recent months, as crises have grown and intensified – wars, climate change, democratic erosion, deepening inequalities – organisations working to uphold human rights and forge social cohesion have been facing unprecedented challenges. Funding cuts and the weakening of civic space have placed considerable pressure on those striving for a fair, sustainable world. Women's rights and gender equality advocates in particular bear the brunt of these pressures.

For Equipop, this situation calls for putting solidarity into action at the very heart of our commitment. Not an abstract form of solidarity, but a political, tangible solidarity rooted in cooperation, mutual respect and dialogue. In 2024, we provided 70 partners (and over 100 projects) across 12 countries with financial and organisational support. We helped create spaces to exchange knowledge, share ideas, and develop transnational strategies. Through the Francophone Feminist Alliance, we also helped enable women's rights advocates to engage in multilateral forums. In addition, we expanded our training programmes to include journalists, students, activists, local authorities, technical and financial partners, research institutions and international agencies in order to build capacity and strengthen resistance in the face of reactionary backlash, and to foster the emergence of collective, sustainable solutions.

For Equipop, solidarity means recognising that we are all links in a wider chain of people and organisations, and that it is vital to nurture the connections that bind us. It also means understanding that we are part of this world and are shaped by its dynamics, for better or worse. Taking this approach helps us look at the world with lucidity, and regularly challenge our own assumptions. Throughout the year, we continued to reflect on how we build partnerships that take account of unequal power relations, and how we exercise our influence, guided by a constant desire to learn from others.

More than ever, we see a widening gap between the world as it stands, deeply interdependent, and the world that some seek to impose, built on fear and isolationism. Yet this trend is neither inevitable nor irreversible. There are other ways forward, rooted in cooperation, dignity, and justice.

Against this backdrop of uncertainty, solidarity is not a distant ideal. It is both a daily practice embodied by countless people, and a prerequisite for our ability to respond, resist, and imagine other futures. That is why Equipop continues to work alongside its partners to nurture multiple forms of solidarity – grounded, living, and feminist.

Aurélien Gal-Régniez  
Executive Director

Sisterhood support Partnership Mobilisation Building feminist alternatives



# In 2024

ist solidarity ■■■ Strengthening feminist solidarity ■■■

## We cemented our assistance to women's rights and LGBTQIA+ rights organisations and campaigners

- Financial support provided to 111 projects and 70 partners across 12 countries, amounting to €8.5 million.
- Regional roots consolidated in France and in the MENA region.
- Spaces facilitated for feminists and researchers to meet, discuss, produce and share knowledge (Agora, symposium, exchange trip).
- Development and dissemination of tools within feminist movements to build collective capacity.
- Training delivered on new areas such as menstrual dignity and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.
- Collective grants awarded and tailored support provided to research projects run by and for feminists, as well as regional advocacy campaigns.

## We championed feminist voices and ensured they were heard by policy makers

- 270 organisations across 61 countries mobilised to sign an open letter on the urgent need to uphold gender equality and increase funding for feminist organisations.
- Launch of the Francophone Feminist Alliance to strengthen the participation, influence, networking, and funding of Francophone feminists in international decision-making spaces.
- 150 partners empowered financially and technically to be involved in decision-making spaces.
- Support provided to French-speaking feminist delegations to attend the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the CSW in New York, and the International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville.

## We promoted, produced and shared knowledge

- Organisation of the Feminism & Health, and Francophone Sisterhood discussion series, through which we raised awareness on: abortion rights; feminist education for children and teenagers on sexual and gender-based violence; feminist care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence in hospitals; gynaecological and obstetric violence; connections between feminist approaches and the fight against HIV/AIDS.
- Organisation of Women and Media day alongside Prenons la Une! and La Fronde, in partnership with France's Economic, Social and Environmental Council.
- Production of the report: *How to build a feminist Europe? The challenges posed by the far right in the wake of the European elections.*
- Production of two capitalisation reports following the Feminists in Action project: *Empowering Feminist Organisations: Guidelines for Transformative Support, and Feminist Struggles: Key Concepts in Practice. Deconstructing, speaking out, and sisterhood.*
- Production of a report following the symposium: *Finding a space of our own between campaigning and research to talk about a feminist approach to SRHR!* which brought together 40 researchers and activists from 14 countries across West and North Africa, as well as Europe.

Let's strengthen  
our  
feminist  
solidarities



# Spotlight on Equipop's partners

## BEN

### BENIN

- CALVIF (Centre d'aide et de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes)
- CeRADIS (Centre de réflexions et d'actions pour le développement intégré et la solidarité)
- Filles en Actions
- Fondation des Jeunes Amazones pour le Développement
- Jeunes Filles Actrices de Développement
- Le BACAR (Bureau d'Appui-Conseils d'Afrique pour les Réalisations)
- OSV/Jordan (Organisation pour le Service et la Vie)
- ROAJELF Bénin (Réseau Ouest-africain des jeunes femmes leaders)
- Scoutisme Béninois
- Women in Power Association
- Association des Femmes pour une Relève Orientée (AFRO BENIN)
- RESCUE AND HOPE
- Ecran Bénin
- Association Barika
- Réseau paix et sécurité des femmes de l'espace CEDEAO (REPSFECO)
- WANEP
- Jeunesse Regard et Actions (JRA-ONG)
- ASSOCIATION YONBA
- Jeunes Médiateurs du Bénin
- Le réseau Social Watch Bénin
- Maison de la Société civile
- Jeunes Médiateurs pour la Paix (JMP)
- Osnia GBANKOTO

## BFA

### BURKINA FASO

- ASMADE (Association Songui Manégré / Aide au développement endogène)
- Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour la Tolérance et la Paix du Centre Nord (RFLTP/CN)
- Burcaso (Conseil burkinabé des ONG/OBC et associations de lutte contre les IST / VIH / sida)
- WOMA Média (nouveau nom de Emma L Infos)
- Mouvement Citoyen FEMIN IN
- Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour la Tolérance et la Paix du Centre Nord (RFLTP/CN)
- IPBF (Initiative Pananetugri pour le bien-être de la femme)
- MMF/ANBF (Marche Mondiale des Femmes / Antenne Nationale du Burkina Faso)
- SOS/JD (SOS Jeunesse & Défis)
- Taafé Vision
- Voix de Femmes Burkina
- Association des Femmes Juristes du Burkina Faso
- Diakonía – Burkina
- ADDAD Burkina Faso
- AGMS (Aucune Grossesse en Milieu Scolaire)
- ABBEF
- JASRPFB/BF

## CIV

### IVORY COAST

- Actuelles
- AFJCI (Association des femmes juristes de Côte d'Ivoire)
- ASAPSU (Association de Soutien à l'Autopromotion Sanitaire et Urbaine)
- CPDEFM (Citoyennes pour la promotion et défense des droits des enfants, femmes et minorités)
- Gouttes Rouges
- LEADAFRICAINES
- Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits des Femmes
- MESSI (Mission des jeunes pour l'Education, la Santé, la Solidarité et l'Inclusion)
- ONEF (Organisation nationale pour l'enfant, la femme et la famille)
- SOS Village d'enfants – Côte d'Ivoire
- Stop au chat noir
- RIJES
- WOMAN AFRICAN FREEDOM (WAF)
- Réseau paix et sécurité des femmes de l'espace CEDEAO (REPSFECO)
- Réseau des Médiatrices de paix
- Opinion éclairée
- Plateforme de la Société civile pour la Paix et la démocratie en Côte d'Ivoire (PSCPD)
- Organisation pour la Réflexion et l'Action Féministe (ORAF)
- Engage and Share
- AIBEF
- ASCCI
- Sauvons 2vies
- Communauté des jeunes Engagé-e-s de Côte d'Ivoire

## FRA

### FRANCE

- ONG Seed
- IMPACT
- Filactions
- Lou Novio Jouen
- Resacoop
- Occitanie Cooperation
- Yvelines Cooperation

## GIN

### GUINEE

- Club des Jeunes Filles Leader de Guinée
- WAFRICA Guinée
- Malaff

## LBN

### LEBANON

- Fe-male

## MAR

### MOROCCO

- Kif Mama Kif Baba
- Union d'Action Féministe – Tanger

## MLI

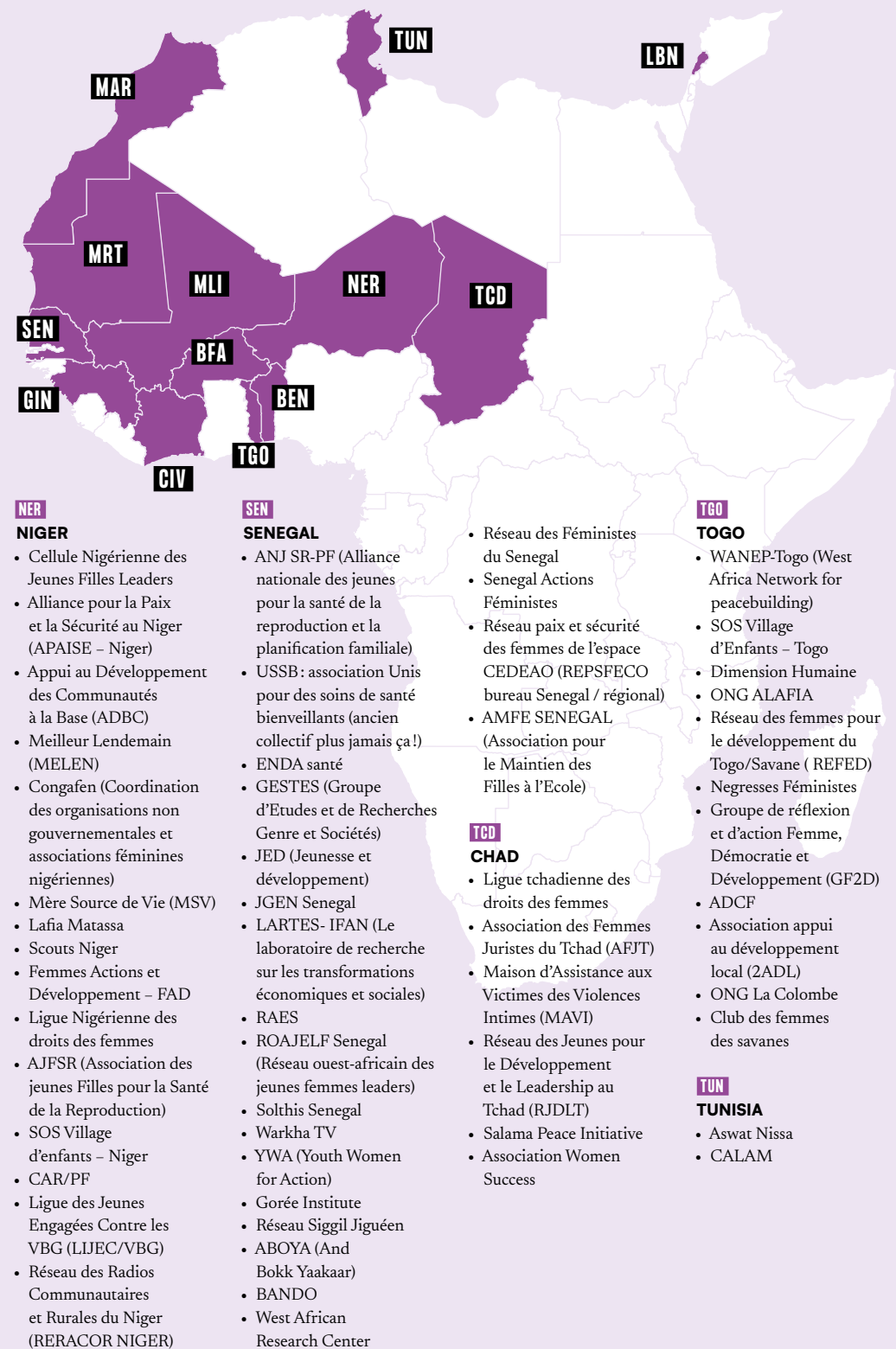
### MALI

- ADDAD (Association de défense des droits des aide-ménagères et domestiques)
- AJCAD (Association des Jeunes pour la Citoyenneté Active et la Démocratie)
- AMSOPT (Association malienne pour le suivi et l'orientation des pratiques traditionnelles)
- Citoyenneté-elles (C-Elles)

## MRT

### MAURITANIA

- Initiative Santé de la Reproduction
- Voix des femmes



## NER

### NIGER

- Cellule Nigérienne des Jeunes Filles Leaders
- Alliance pour la Paix et la Sécurité au Niger (APAISE – Niger)
- Appui au Développement des Communautés à la Base (ADBC)
- Meilleur Lendemain (MELEN)
- Congafen (Coordination des organisations non gouvernementales et associations féminines nigériennes)
- Mère Source de Vie (MSV)
- Lafia Matassa
- Scouts Niger
- Femmes Actions et Développement – FAD
- Ligue Nigérienne des droits des femmes
- AJFSR (Association des jeunes Filles pour la Santé de la Reproduction)
- SOS Village d'enfants – Niger
- CAR/PPF
- Ligue des Jeunes Engagées Contre les VBG (LIJEC/VBG)
- Réseau des Radios Communautaires et Rurales du Niger (RERACOR NIGER)

## SEN

### SENEGAL

- ANJ SR-PF (Alliance nationale des jeunes pour la santé de la reproduction et la planification familiale)
- USSB : association Unis pour des soins de santé bienveillants (ancien collectif plus jamais ça!)
- ENDA santé
- GESTES (Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherches Genre et Sociétés)
- JED (Jeunesse et développement)
- JGEN Senegal
- LARTES- IFAN (Le laboratoire de recherche sur les transformations économiques et sociales)
- RAES
- ROAJELF Senegal (Réseau ouest-africain des jeunes femmes leaders)
- Solthis Senegal
- Warkha TV
- YWA (Youth Women for Action)
- Gorée Institute
- Réseau Sigil Jiguéen
- ABOYA (And Bokk Yaakaar)
- BANDO
- West African Research Center

- Réseau des Féministes du Senegal
- Senegal Actions Féministes
- Réseau paix et sécurité des femmes de l'espace CEDEAO (REPSFECO bureau Senegal / régional)
- AMFE SENEGAL (Association pour le Maintien des Filles à l'Ecole)

## TCD

### CHAD

- Ligue tchadienne des droits des femmes
- Association des Femmes Juristes du Tchad (AFJT)
- Maison d'Assistance aux Victimes des Violences Intimes (MAVI)
- Réseau des Jeunes pour le Développement et le Leadership au Tchad (RJDLT)
- Salama Peace Initiative
- Association Women Success

## TGO

### TOGO

- WANEP-Togo (West Africa Network for peacebuilding)
- SOS Village d'Enfants – Togo
- Dimension Humaine
- ONG ALAFIA
- Réseau des femmes pour le développement du Togo/Savane ( REFED)
- Negresses Féministes
- Groupe de réflexion et d'action Femme, Démocratie et Développement (GF2D)
- ADCF
- Association appui au développement local (2ADL)
- ONG La Colombe
- Club des femmes des savanes

## TUN

### TUNISIA

- Aswat Nissa
- CALAM



# Networks

Equipop has always believed that working together acts as a powerful driver for change. In 2024, the organisation furthered its commitments to a number of networks in France, in Europe, and across francophone sub-Saharan Africa. These include:



## FRANCOPHONE FEMINIST ALLIANCE

Established in early 2025, the Francophone Feminist Alliance (AFF) is an initiative that strengthens the participation of Francophone feminists in multilateral spaces, in order to raise their voices and advance their advocacy.



## RIGHTS AND HEALTH ALLIANCE

[alliancedroitsetsante.org](http://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 (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.



## WORLD HEALTH COLLECTIVE

[collectif-sante-mondiale.fr](http://collectif-sante-mondiale.fr)

This collective includes 11 French organisations (Action Against Hunger, Action Santé Mondiale, Equipop, Médecins du Monde, ONE, Oxfam France, Planning Familial, Sidaction, Solidarité Sida and Solthis) which advocate to make global health a French priority.



## COORDINATION SUD

[coordinationsud.org](http://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](http://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.



## ENDFGM

[endfgm.eu](http://endfgm.eu)  
EndFGM is a European network of NGOs which promotes European action to end female genital mutilation.



## EXCISION, PARLONS-EN!

[excisionparlonsen.org](http://excisionparlonsen.org)  
Excision, parlons-en ! aims to help bring together organisations and other legal entities, as well as individuals, around the issue of female genital mutilation in France and worldwide.



## F3E

[f3e.asso.fr](http://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 workers.



## IBP

[ibpnetwork.org](http://ibpnetwork.org)

Boasting over 100 members including international non-governmental organisations, local civil society organisations, universities and more, the IBP network brings together partners to share best practice, exchange experiences and tools in support of family planning and reproductive health programmes. Its work focuses on supporting knowledge sharing, documentation, and research into implementation.



## NOUSTOUTES

[noustoutes.org](http://noustoutes.org)

Nous Toutes is a feminist collective of volunteer activists open to all, whose aim is to put an end to sexual and gender-based violence, which disproportionately affects women and children in France. The collective is action-orientated, and pursues two main objectives: to demand effective public policies to combat sexual and gender-based violence, both in terms of funding and implementation, and to raise public awareness on the realities and underlying mechanisms of such violence, through action, communications, and training.



## ODAS CENTRE

[centre-odas.org](http://centre-odas.org)  
ODAS is a regional partnership mechanism dedicated to empowering the safe abortion movement across French-speaking Africa. ODAS offers training opportunities, shares best practice, coordinates strategies, mobilises funding, and facilitates networking.



## OUAGADOUGOU PARTNERSHIP

[partenariatouaga.org](http://partenariatouaga.org)  
The Ouagadougou Partnership was launched in 2011 during the Burkina Faso International 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.



## HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

[plateformedmh.fr](http://plateformedmh.fr)  
Human Rights Platform (PDH) is a group of French NGOs working internationally to advocate and champion human rights. It offers French NGOs focusing on this issue at international level a permanent space to share and collaborate. This enables members to raise their profile, increase their representation, connections and mutual support.



## THE WEST AFRICAN YOUNG FEMINISTS NETWORK

[@FeministesAO](https://www.instagram.com/feministesao)

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.



## WALKING THE TALK

[4ff.global](http://4ff.global)  
Walking the Talk advocates for feminist foreign policy and gender equality policies to be implemented in Germany, France, the UK, the Netherlands, and across the EU. Inclusive foreign policies that uphold gender equality and reflect the voices of women and LGBTQIA+ people from the South, by providing funding to progressive, intersectional feminist organisations.

# MOBILISING

**Mobilising policy makers and citizens to uphold women's rights and more broadly, to ensure feminist approaches inform how our societies are built.**





# RESIST, UNITE, TRANSFORM

## A year of feminist mobilisation



As gender equality and international aid come under direct attack around the world, Equipop has set about strengthening its alliances to drive powerful mobilisation across multiple institutional spaces.

For many years, feminist campaigners and researchers have been sounding the alarm about the rise of large-scale anti-rights movements, supported by reactionary governments, wealthy conservative interests, and extremist religious groups. Their attacks have serious, tangible consequences for women and LGBTQIA+ people, especially with regard to bodily autonomy, and often foreshadow broader attacks on human rights and democracy.

## Diverse forms of mobilisation

This is what Equipop strives to achieve, whether by spearheading initiatives, contributing to them directly or indirectly, or, most often, by supporting civil society partners. This involves participating in decision-making spaces, in a formal capacity as well as on the sidelines, producing analyses and position papers to inform public debate, conducting public policy evaluations, engaging in media outreach, and more broadly, fostering connections across non-profits, politics, the media, and academia.

## Gender equality has become a hard power issue

The backlash phenomenon is well-known, and Equipop has helped document it over recent years. However, it is gaining momentum, and 2024-2025 is a pivotal moment. Following D. Trump's decision to abruptly halt USAID funding, and the drastic cuts to development assistance enacted by several European countries (including the UK, France, and Germany), the very essence of international aid is ultimately under threat. This is further exacerbated by ongoing geopolitical crises and a growing trend towards the militarisation of societies.

For decades, a wide range of stakeholders have strived to make women's rights and gender equality the core issue underpinning international relations, to no avail. Moreover, feminist analyses of international relations, which have long highlighted the connection between masculinist culture and the risk of geopolitical instability, have been largely overlooked. As such, illiberal forces have effectively transformed gender equality and human rights into geopolitical issues in their own right.

Faced with this situation, we need to take urgent, effective action to prevent decades of progress from being rolled back. Now, more than ever, feminist activism offers a path for resistance and transformation, and its collective dimension is vital.

Equipop's work on Women, Peace and Security serves as a good example of this complementary approach. While drawing on this institutional concept adopted by the UN in 2000, we advocate for its expansion to encompass a feminist approach to international security and peacebuilding, and for greater convergence with the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda. This work takes place at different geographical levels: by supporting organisations involved in national processes in several Sahel countries as well as in France; with the evaluation of the implementation of the National Action Plan that Equipop co-led through the French High Council for Equality (HCE) at the end of 2024; and also by contributing to UN-level events, for example in March 2025 in New York: Advancing Young Women's Leadership: Pathways to Peace & Security in Africa.





At the global, regional, national and local levels, Equipop and its partners promote feminist approaches, and more broadly human rights, justice and democracy. This work is built around five entry points: funding feminist movements and gender equality within public policy; protecting existing rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); combating sexual and gender-based violence; ensuring participation in decision-making bodies; and securing access to public and digital spaces.

### At global level

At global level, Equipop helps to raise the voices of feminists, especially those from West Africa and the Middle East North Africa region, within four multilateral spaces.

For the Summit of the Future 2024, Equipop helped draw up a joint position paper, presented in New York by a delegation of activists, and organised a side event entitled *Our Feminist Futures*. A second high point, marking the launch of the Francophone Feminist Alliance (see box), was the 69<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), alongside the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD).



The UN process on financing for development acted as a common thread throughout, culminating in our participation in the Seville conference. We worked to mobilise stakeholders to prevent rollbacks in gender equality and to champion sustainable funding for feminist organisations. This included coordinating a joint letter, signed by over 250 organisations across 60 countries, and taking action on several occasions to safeguard France's Feminist Organisations Support Fund from severe budget cuts.

### At regional level

In West Africa, Equipop is a member of the Rights and Health Alliance, which is active on many fronts, and notably rallied strong support ahead of the adoption of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Equipop is also engaged in advancing access to safe abortion, through its work with ODAS (Organisation for Dialogue on Safe Abortion) to develop a feminist approach to the issue.

Across the European Union, Equipop started to implement its work in a more structured and sustained manner, focusing on two key issues:

- Firstly, safeguarding existing rights, at a time of increasing attacks on civic space and civil society organisations, the absence of a dedicated Commissioner for Gender Equality, and the impending expiry of the Equality Action Plan;
- Secondly, securing the resources needed to advance gender equality under the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Equipop co-hosted an event at the European Parliament alongside MEP Melissa Camara to present the report entitled *How to build a feminist Europe? The challenges posed by the far right*. Written in cooperation with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Paris, it is one in a series of publications by Equipop on anti-rights movements. It establishes the state of play in the wake of the European elections, by analysing the rise of far-right parties, the strategies they use, and the repercussions on women's rights and LGBTQIA+ people. The event was attended by a wide range of participants, media, civil society organisations, students, and MEPs.

### At national level

Across several West African countries, the partnerships we have forged with numerous organisations (see page 6) include on-demand advocacy support on specific issues, as well as more in-depth work, for example on topics such as menstrual dignity and Women, Peace, and Security. Equipop's partners assess public policies on gender equality (e.g. ROAJELF in Senegal), advocate for SRHR funding at the local level (JeD), work to enforce laws against GBV, and to secure recognition of femicide (the Ivorian League).

In France, beyond supporting reflection on feminist approaches within regional international solidarity networks, Equipop also helps embed France's feminist foreign policy, through a dual approach of co-designing and monitoring public policies, that has guided Equipop's action since it was founded in 1993. Equipop speaks out on this issue through multiple channels - the media, institutional spaces, and engagement with parliamentarians - and raises awareness within public institutions about backlash. Through its seat on France's High Council for Gender Equality, Equipop participated in the steering committee, led by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and helped raise the level of ambition guiding the development of the strategy.

Despite the underlying political instability in France, the first international strategy for feminist foreign policy 2025-2030 was officially launched. Although work to monitor implementation has clearly begun, this marks the culmination of several years of advocacy. Against the backdrop of current geopolitical balances, or imbalances, even though France's actions remain far from perfect, the launch of this strategy sends a significant signal internationally. There is a pressing need for political leadership on gender equality, which should be bolstered by the Fourth Conference on Feminist Foreign Policy hosted by France in autumn 2025.





# The Francophone Feminist Alliance, a crucial new dynamic

**F**ounded in early 2025 and run by a consortium led by Equipop, composed of the Mediterranean Women's Fund (FFMed) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the Francophone Feminist Alliance (AFF) is an initiative aimed at strengthening the participation of Francophone feminists in multilateral spaces. Many obstacles currently prevent their voices from being heard there, including low levels of funding, a lack of coordination and training spaces, and the language barrier.

By bringing together feminist movements and activists, and developing their understanding of institutional spaces, AFF helps to strengthen and raise the profile of collective advocacy for gender equality internationally. This approach is all the more vital given the vast financial resources and effective organisation underpinning anti-rights movements.

Drawing on activists' diverse experiences, expertise, and legitimacy, collective advocacy engages governments, public institutions and donors. It unfolds across a wide variety of multilateral forums.

AFF was launched through two events: one held in Paris at the Quai d'Orsay on 7 March 2025, as part of the presentation of France's feminist foreign policy strategy; another held a few days later in New York and attended by 150 people including activists, diplomats, representatives from governments, UN agencies, and philanthropic organisations.

The AFF's first delegation to a multilateral forum took part in the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30). AFF then engaged in two other key forums: the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville.



# Responding to backlash: the need for collective action by media and civil society



**O**n 25 February 2025, Equipop, Prenons la Une ! and La Fronde co-hosted, alongside CESE - France's Economic, Social and Environmental Council - Women and Media day. The event featured in-depth discussions on the challenges and the role of the media in the face of rising conservatism and anti-gender backlash.

Women's rights are a good indicator of the state of our democracies; today, the indicator is flashing red. Reactionary networks worldwide are waging anti-feminist, racist and authoritarian attacks. From the United States to Europe, far-right figures are spreading misogynistic, masculinist ideology, undermining fundamental rights, independent media, and international solidarity. In France, this strategy is reflected in cuts to ODA, attempted acquisitions of journalism schools and publishing houses, and the creation of training institutions for future far-right media. These forces impose their narratives through disinformation and the reversal of values.

Over 200 people took part in this event, reflecting a shared commitment to engaging with these issues. The participants reasserted the need for a collective response, uniting feminist organisations and journalists. Checks and balances do exist. The work of independent media outlets like StreetPress, the commitment of collectives like Prenons La Une !, local initiatives such as Ouest-France's Equality Network, and the Belgian media cordon sanitaire, all show that another path is possible. Mobilisation also involves editorial vigilance in journalistic practices: refusing to normalise the far right, pushing back against outrage-driven media dynamics, and documenting underlying authoritarian strategies. These initiatives are now essential and must not be confined to the margins. The economic balance of power is unfavourable, and attacks are mounting. In response, we must create larger spaces for resistance - like this event - and assert a presence across the entire media landscape. As journalist Salomé Saqué summarised: "We need to move from outrage to resistance".



# REVITALISING

**Revitalising activists and organisations by providing financial and technical support, by raising their voices, and by strengthening transnational collective action.**





# TRAINING, AS 'SPACES OF OUR OWN'

To share ideas together  
and build change



Against the backdrop of challenges to fundamental freedoms and growing anti-rights narratives and policies, training offers a form of resistance and emancipation. It is within this dynamic that Equipop has rolled out its range of training this year, using teaching and learning as a catalyst for action. Grounded in participants' lived experience, our courses allow participants to delve deeply into questions about themselves, their practices, and their organisation.

**B**y engaging a wide range of stakeholders across different geographical contexts, several drivers are mobilised simultaneously. Feminist approaches are seen as tools to create new ideas, organise checks and balances, and fuel social change within the international solidarity sector. Training is a means of creating spaces to revitalise, inject meaning back into action, and forge alliances.

These spaces foster an exchange of opinions and the emergence of collective intelligence. They also enable the development of a common language and tools for critical analysis, and turn training into a tool for emancipation, driven by the conviction that collective thinking is an inherently political force. Training also means supporting checks and balances: Equipop equips those who seek to raise alternative voices, challenge existing power structures, and imagine alternative futures within their own organisations.

## Spaces to revitalise and take a breath

The courses offered by Equipop are designed as 'spaces of our own': places to take a breath, where the contexts we encounter can be named and transformed together. Spaces that care for people as much as ideas (by giving them time and space to be challenged and reinvented together), and that help take a step back to restore meaning to our practices.

Taking inspiration from popular education principles and feminist approaches, our teaching is based on co-building knowledge, sharing experiences, experimentation, and reflective practice (see box p24 on our teaching and learning practices). It paves the way for unscripted change, from each person's respective starting point.

## Spaces to challenge power relations and set collective action in motion

From July 2024 to June 2025, Equipop organised thirty training sessions, supporting 40 different organisations and over 1,000 people worldwide. Participants ranged from journalists, students and activists to local authorities, technical and financial partners, research institutions and international agencies. This diversity is important as it makes it possible to break down barriers and share experiences.

We therefore strengthened the structure of our training support, both within existing projects and through new partnerships, in response to growing demand around social justice issues. Our activities were grounded in a wide range of contexts, thereby affirming that feminist principles can - and must - permeate all spaces where power relations are at play. Promoting these principles, including within the most institutional settings, means reaffirming their political relevance, enabling a redistribution of power to advance greater equality.

This work resulted in training sessions at the AFD Campus, the French Development Agency's training centre, on the strategic and operational integration of feminist approaches. This training is fully in line with France's feminist foreign policy, and the Campus' aim to make gender equality a cross-cutting element of its work. By training the whole team, we sought to forge a shared culture grounded in reflection and critical thinking, focused on power relations, structural inequalities, and an understanding of the feminist struggle. This work was also embodied in several flagship Campus projects (e.g. PLAY, the collective intelligence programme, Mediterranean Talents Academy, Social and Inclusive Business Camp) that incorporated feminist popular education tools, intersectional analysis tools, as well as modules on inclusive and advocacy-orientated communications. These experiences show how feminist approaches offer both resources to approach development issues from a different angle, and tangible drivers to transform training

practices. They have helped make the Campus a collective learning space, open to multiple forms of knowledge, aware of situated experience, and a driving force behind transformation.

Our work with regional multi-stakeholder networks, such as RESACOOOP, Occitanie Coopération, Yvelines Coopération, fully illustrate the potential of feminist approaches at the regional level. In such spaces that are often characterised by a technical approach and prescriptive requirement to 'do gender', these training sessions made it possible to repoliticise the issues by reconnecting them to on-the-ground realities and power relations. They offered local authorities and organisations the opportunity to question their practices, their room for manoeuvre, the way they forge partnerships, and their roles in the international solidarity sector. This approach helped build the capacity of smaller organisations and generated renewed demand for training.

In a context where the media landscape shapes social representations, training journalists in feminist approaches has also become a strategic issue. Equipop has made this a cornerstone of its action, working both in journalism schools and with professionals. Our tailored modules help them analyse their own practice, spot gender-based bias, and build fairer, more inclusive narratives. These courses aim to improve media coverage of gender issues, sexual and gender-based violence, and to create spaces for peer support, especially for journalists who feel



isolated or face hostile working environments. The workshop organised in Burkina Faso, as part of the *Se Défendre* project, provides a clear illustration of this: by working on narrative biases, feminist ethics of storytelling, and survivor-centred coverage of violence, it helped lay the groundwork for a network of informed journalists trained on these issues. Training journalists today means equipping them with the tools to provide feminist news coverage, offer a platform for alternative voices, and play a full part in the fight for gender justice.

However, this process of restructuring is not solely about professionalising our training activities; it also helps to highlight the transformative impact of training, including for those involved in delivering it. Designing and delivering these courses is, in itself, a means of empowerment, a source of renewed reflections, of strategic alignment and perspective, which feeds into our own practices and commitments. We need to learn to better observe, document, and highlight these internal effects, often rendered invisible, yet fundamental to the vitality of our work and our own empowerment.

## Spaces for alliance-building

Sharing our approaches, spreading feminist knowledge, and drawing on participants' experiences represent a key challenge and raise important questions for our future forms of collaboration: how can we rethink the dissemination of this knowledge in a more inclusive way? Foster dialogue with those less engaged in the matter? Create spaces for connection and strategy alignment among those who rarely cross paths, yet share the same aspiration for transformation and equality? Reach out to new audiences? Enhance the quality of our range and broaden access to our training? With this in mind, Equipop will pursue QUALIOPI certification in 2025, in order to further structure its range of training, enable eligibility for funding through France's vocational training bodies (OPCOs), and facilitate access to training, particularly for smaller organisations.

These 'spaces of our own' for training reflect our commitment to rooting democracy in the active and critical participation of all, by fostering expression, debate, and collective analysis of the issues currently shaping our societies. We firmly believe that democracies cannot exist without true individual and collective capacity to take ownership of political issues and engage in shaping the course of events. The alliances made possible by our training courses open up new spaces to think about and engage in political action collectively and differently.



# Teaching which echoes our feminist principles

**E**quipop's approach to teaching and learning is rooted in core feminist principles that are political, situated, and designed to drive forward collective transformation, while caring for people.

- **Guiding rather than directing:** our training is grounded in participants' practices and questions. It is not about providing solutions, rather nurturing the conditions for a collective journey, while supporting empowerment, i.e. awareness of one's own power to act.

“I've realised that small actions are possible right now, even without wider change (...) I'm leaving feeling energised and hoping everyone gets the chance to take this training (...) The trainer listens with empathy, steps into other people's shoes, and never judges.”  
(Training on fair partnerships, IRD, France)

- **Fostering collective analysis:** our courses encourage participants to co-construct meaning and share their experiences. They encourage knowledge production grounded in field experience.

- **A horizontal approach - working with, not for:** participants are recognised as full stakeholders. This stance reflects our commitment to challenging power dynamics and avoiding any form of domination in teaching and learning, as in our partnerships.

- **Drawing on participatory methods:** popular education-based tools (such as the use of *arpentage* - a collective, critical reading practice - photo-language, selected single-sex groups) encourage people to speak up, take a step back and think outside the box; broaden their perspectives; and strengthen their autonomy in analysis and action. They enable an intersectional approach to be used, by creating spaces for multiple identities to be heard.

“These sessions enabled me to acquire valuable skills I can use to assess progress in projects (...). The training methodology made it easier to understand the various aspects covered, including the concept of collective intelligence, with techniques and practical role plays. I also enjoyed sharing experiences from our own contexts.”

(Training on empowerment, Sansas project, Senegal)

- **Drawing on participants' own practices:** by bringing together experiences in the field, experiential knowledge and theory, we can build situated analyses. This helps to institutionalise feminist values, even where the context is not always conducive.

- **Building collective action:** we connect committed individuals who, together, can make their voices heard. This reflects our determination to support equality movements and forge alliances across our various areas of work.

“This training really helped improve our teamwork. (...) Regardless of your starting point, everyone leaves equipped with tools to challenge, understand and take action.”

(Training on feminist approaches, AFD Campus, France)

- **Continuously reflecting on our practice:** we continually challenge our own practices, to ensure our feminist values are embodied in our teaching, as across all our work.

# Resource Brief: rethinking international solidarity

**I**n the brief *Rethinking international solidarity and global inequality policies through feminist approaches*, Equipop offers a critical analysis of the role feminist approaches should play in international solidarity

Caught up in the urgency of taking action in response to the scale of inequalities that span the patriarchal, post-colonial, capitalist world we live in, our organisations rarely have time available to analyse their own practices. While recognising the pitfalls our sector can fall into, and remaining aware of both the progress made and the long road ahead for an organisation such as Equipop, we seek to contribute collectively to its transformation. In the current context, one of the major challenges lies in formulating strong, transformative alternatives, while continuing to ensure our voices reach out and mobilise the general public. This brief weaves together feminist reflections from both activism and research with practices in the international solidarity sector. It invites us to reflect critically on ourselves, to recognise the internalised biases that

shape us, and to shine a light on tools and thinking drawn from feminist, decolonial approaches. It does not claim to be exhaustive; rather it opens up avenues, offers tools, and invites us to continue working to strengthen international solidarity

For further information, visit [Equipop's Resource Centre](#). It sits alongside the many existing spaces that are home to resources on feminist thinking and action in foreign policy and international solidarity. In a strained political context, marked by significant rollbacks in official development assistance, and direct attacks by anti-rights movements on the very foundations of these sectors, there is a growing need for spaces for critical, collective reflection and solidarity, to reflect on the alliances to be built, the narratives to transform, and the practices to be collectively renewed. It offers support to those within civil society organisations, institutions and the media who are seeking to challenge their commitments.



# REVITALISING FEMINIST CAMPAIGNERS AND ORGANISATIONS

For women's rights  
and social justice



Equipop continues its work to support development stakeholders, especially feminist campaigners and organisations working on women's rights and health worldwide.



**T**his support includes both technical assistance addressing any specific requirements, and funding, provided to 111 projects and 70 partners across 12 countries, amounting to €8.5 million. As part of this support, Equipop committed to working on two new topics with its partners in 2024: health and menstrual dignity; women, peace, and security.

2024 was marked by the launch of the *Sang pour Sang: United for Dignity* project led by Fos Feminista, with the support of PSI-Europe, Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation, and Equipop, with the support of AFD. Drawing on a rights-based approach, this project aims to fight stigmatisation around menstruation, to bring alternative narratives on this topic to the fore, and above all, to foster dignified menstruation for all. As a feminist fund, Equipop supports feminist organisations in three countries (Benin, Ivory Coast, and Guinea Conakry) by providing flexible funding, tools, and networking spaces. With the aim of raising marginalised voices, priority will be given to organisations led by or working with marginalised groups - young girls, LGBTQIA+ people, women in detention, people with disabilities or living with HIV - so that their views can shape public policy and development programmes.

The launch of the Feminist Agendas for Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel project, led by Equipop alongside a consortium comprising Diakonia, Women, Action and Development, and Gorée Institute, marks the first time that we have fully integrated peace and security issues into our feminist action, thereby asserting that the participation of women and young people is essential for sustainable peace. Indeed, although young women have established their vital role in conflict mediation and prevention, they still struggle to obtain recognition and resources commensurate with their commitments. Funded by AFD, this project, implemented in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Niger, Chad and Togo, supports local organisations through a flexible, long-term grant mechanism, from community-based action to regional advocacy, in their efforts to combat violence, advance gender justice, and transform patriarchal norms. Amid escalating security crises, supporting feminist initiatives and ensuring they are firmly on the agenda is both a political priority and a social justice imperative.



# Guinea



## WAFRICA Guinea Breaking the silence on GBV

**E**stablished in 2008, WAFRICA Guinea is a feminist NGO that strives to improve living conditions for women, girls, and vulnerable groups, through a human rights-based approach, empowerment, and advocacy. Its work focuses primarily on two areas: combating gender-based violence (GBV), and the socio-economic empowerment of women and young people. Based on a participatory governance model, WAFRICA Guinea currently includes 17 active members, selected according to their skills and engagement. Working across the whole of Guinea, it also partners with many national and international organisations, to bolster the scope and impact of its programmes.

### Guinean Women's #MeToo

The silence is gradually being broken around violence against women in Guinea. The turning point came in 2021, with the death of a patient after she was raped by doctors. WAFRICA responds to each new case of GBV, as in April 2025 following the lynching of a sex worker, footage of which was shared on social media. However, perpetrators are still rarely convicted, discouraging victims from reporting incidents to the police. In 2024-2025, WAFRICA led advocacy efforts to ensure that the Civil Code provides for the continuation of civil proceedings - either through representation by an NGO or by the public prosecutor - even in cases where the complainant withdraws. Prior to this, if a complaint was withdrawn, the case was dropped and no proceedings were brought.

## “The biggest problem in our country is normalisation and impunity.”

Fatou Souare Hann, Executive Director of WAFRICA

### New Constitution: incorporating equality

In September 2024, WAFRICA's Executive Director and member of the Women's Influence and Reflection Group (GRIF) attended a workshop in Conakry alongside other women leaders to review Guinea's draft Constitution. The aim was to ensure the principles of equality, equity and parity were included, in line with international legal instruments. According to the UN's Gender Inequality Index (GII), Guinea ranked 182<sup>nd</sup> out of 191 countries in 2021.

### SPOTLIGHT ON... THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

In April 2025, Guinea underwent its fourth Universal Periodic Review, assessing its progress in human rights since 2020. This offered an opportunity for WAFRICA to conduct advocacy on the various forms of violence against women and to call on

public authorities to help break the silence on these issues. The UN also urged Guinea 'to strengthen the fight against corruption in the judicial system, decriminalise peaceful demonstrations, and lift the ban on private media'.

### Sisterhood support from Equipop

WAFRICA benefited from valuable support in developing its three-year strategy, which is now finalised, structured, and operational. This support also extended to an audit of its accounts, a crucial step towards strengthening financial transparency, and facilitating resource mobilisation. 'Finally, we worked on drawing up a communications plan, which had so far been one of our weak points,' explains Fatou Souare Hann.

### Watch this space

With human rights activists kidnapped, censorship of the media, and internet shutdowns, the context in Guinea has been deteriorating since the military junta came into power. Colonel Doumbouya, Guinea's transitional leader, stated that presidential elections would be held by the end of 2025. In the meantime, WAFRICA remains mobilised around activist safety, and is considering building connections across various organisations to improve care for survivors of GBV. United we stand.





# Togo



## Network for Women and Development in the Savanes region (REFED) Paving the way for women

**F**ounded in 2004 by women leaders of 26 organisations across Togo's Savanes region, the Network for Women and Development of the Savanes region (REFED/S) aims to become a platform for dialogue and training to empower women and raise their voices. Its General Assembly is composed of delegates from member associations, the Board of Trustees, and an Executive Committee led by a Coordinator.

REFED currently brings together over 400 organisations, cooperatives and women's groups, whose work ranges from combating GBV to advocating for socio-economic rights, girls' access to education, and environmental protection.

### 20 years of action

On 3 April 2024, REFED celebrated 20 years of mobilisation for women's and girls' rights in Togo. This experience has made it a leading voice in public debate, shedding light on societal issues that are often rendered invisible. Its flagship cause in 2024:

the fight against the early and forced marriage of young girls, a prevailing scourge in the Savanes region. Through awareness-raising campaigns, training workshops with community leaders, and advocacy efforts with local authorities, REFED has mobilised the community to safeguard the rights of girls, keep them in school, and guard against female genital mutilation.

### Women in politics

Togo is one of the West African countries to have seen progress in women's political participation, with women's representation in parliament increasing from 1.2% in 1997 to 18.7% in 2020. Yet, there is still a long way to go to achieve parity. In advance of the municipal elections in July 2025, REFED hosted a national workshop in Lomé to boost women's political engagement. The participants and potential candidates produced a declaration containing concrete proposals: boost political training for women; encourage political parties to support women candidates; and set up mentoring schemes.

“Let's take action, together!”

Mrs Kabissa-Lamboni Issoyotou Confort,  
REFED Coordinator, appointed Senator  
of the Republic in March 2025

### SPOTLIGHT ON... WOMEN FROM THE SAVANES REGION

In March 2025, REFED published its annual report on the status of women in the Savanes region. Produced with its member organisations, this document clearly sets out the progress made and the challenges faced. For the last three years, this region in the far north of Togo has been plagued by terrorist attacks that are rarely reported by the authorities. Families are moving away, schools are closing, and resources are lacking. This document paved the way for constructive dialogue with public authorities to help shape policies benefiting women in the region.

### Sisterhood support from Equipop

Thanks to Equipop's financial and technical support, REFED identified 16 new cooperatives of vulnerable women. The latter will benefit from training on income-generating activities. REFED also conducted outreach with prefectural authorities on sexual and reproductive rights, urging mayors to earmark a dedicated budget line in Local Development Plans to address violence and early pregnancy.

### Watch this space

For 2025-2026, REFED plans to expand its activities nationwide, across all regions of Togo. It also hopes to promote positive masculinity, set up a shelter for rural women survivors of GBV, launch a digital information and training platform, and implement an inter-generational mentoring programme.





# Burkina Faso



## Gaoua Association for the promotion of women (APFG) Helping FGM practitioners become anti GBV campaigners

**T**he Gaoua Association for the promotion of women (APFG) was founded in 1992 by mothers of pupils at Bafuji high school in Gaoua. Today it has over 1,500 members, across ten self-governing organisations. All the decision-making bodies (AGM, board of trustees, supervisory board) are run by women. Working in four regions across Burkina Faso, as well as around the border area with Ghana and Ivory Coast, it strives to involve women in economic, social and

cultural development, in order to improve their living conditions. Finally, APFG initiated a network of active women in the south-west of the country, in 2014, as well as the West-African Network of Organisations Fighting Gender-Based Violence (ROAO-LVBG), in 2021.

### Making a stand, together

Since 2015, jihadist violence has been escalating in Burkina Faso, and throughout the Sahel region, resulting in two million displaced people and thousands of deaths. Women are particularly affected, and subject to rape, kidnapping, and more. Despite the situation, human rights organisations remain active. In 2024 and 2025, APFG hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Sub-regional Forums on Women, attended by over 500 participants from Burkina and four other countries. The event was designed as a space for discussions, advocacy, and recognition of women peace builders through awards and distinctions.

“In Africa, disease takes lives – but ignorance takes even more.”

Ini Inkouraba Damien/Youl, Director of APFG

### Ending female genital mutilation

2024 was marked by major progress in the fight against female genital mutilation. By mobilising its network, APFG helped 45 FGM practitioners become anti GBV campaigners. Customary and traditional leaders also took a stand, by solemnly laying down their knives at Gaoua Museum. A symbolic and historic gesture.

### SPOTLIGHT ON... KITCHEN GARDENS

Terrorism has devastating impacts on women. In response to security and humanitarian challenges, APFG has supported 350 women from vulnerable communities and IDPs by providing kitchen gardens and processing equipment (shea butter, soumbala, soybeans, attiéké, etc.). This initiative has given them greater food security and economic empowerment.

### Sisterhood support from Equipop

APFG had not previously received direct funding from Equipop. The partnership began as part of a consortium with the NGO Diakonía and other organisations, working on the Feminist Agendas for Peace and Security project. This funding has enabled the organisation to work across three towns in the south-west of the country to reduce gender-based violence and involve more women and young people in the Peace and Security agenda.

### Watch this space

By mobilising other sources of funding, APFG now hopes to foster the socio-professional inclusion of ex-FGM practitioners, while continuing its communications initiatives to anchor progress made. Finally, it plans to continue encouraging West African women and girls to participate in decision-making bodies, a cornerstone of peace processes and social cohesion.





# Benin



## The Young Amazonas Development Foundation (FJAD) Advocating for safe abortion

This is where it all began, where it all makes sense, at a university, says Bénédicte K. M-T Aloakinnou, legal advisor and president of the Young Amazonas Development Foundation. Openly feminist and proud to be so since its creation, the Young Amazonas Development Foundation (FJAD) was founded in 2016 by three students, in response to violence faced by young women in universities and in the north of Benin. Based in Parakou, with a branch in Cotonou, it currently has some forty active members, known as Amazonas, aged 7 to 17, who work together on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the fight against

GBV, and access to rights. Activities include organising an Amazone Oscars ceremony, a Leadership Class, community film screening and discussion sessions on female genital mutilation (FGM), as well as feminist discussion cafés.

### From menstrual hygiene to menstrual dignity

In Benin, many women and girls do not have access to safe menstrual hygiene products. They also face discrimination, as periods are still considered to be a private, taboo subject. This situation not only affects their physical and mental health, but also their edu-

cation, their social and professional lives, beyond the issue of sanitation facilities alone. In order to shift the narrative, and break the taboos around menstruation, the NGO FJAD has been taking action since May 2025 through MENSTRUES' ACTIONS 4DIGNITY. This project, funded by Equipop and AFD, aims to promote menstrual dignity and inclusion by breaking taboos and facilitating access to suitable menstrual hygiene products both in the south and north of the country.

“Menstruation should no longer be a hygiene issue, it’s a matter of: Dignity, Health, Equality.”

Bénédicte K. M-T Aloakinnou, President of FJAD

### Talking about safe abortion

FJAD is proud to have helped break the silence around safe abortion, through the Voice for Choice project, launched in 2024. In Alibori, a woman gave a public account of her experience of illegal abortion, saying that if she had to do it again, she would opt for a safe abortion, which sparked a wave of support and solidarity despite the taboos around this topic. Personal stories collected online and in the field were also transformed into advocacy tools, fuelling inter-generational and inter-faith discussions on the issue. A victory over silence.

### SPOTLIGHT ON ... THE JUNIOR AMAZONE ACADEMY

You're never too young to take action! After two successful cohorts, FJAD launched a call in April 2025 to recruit its future Amazonas for the third round of the Junior Amazone Academy. The participants, aged 6 to 17, will be given 6 months' training (one to two days per week from July to November, followed by a three-day bootcamp in December). Activities include: creative workshops, sisterhood and leadership, building self-confidence, implementing community projects... to empower the Amazone within!

### Sisterhood support from Equipop

In 2025, FJAD strengthened its feminist commitment through two major projects supported by Equipop: Menstrues' Actions 4DIGNITY and EllesPourELLES, focused on peace, security, and combating GBV. This outreach work on bodily autonomy involved thousands of women and girls. The partnership also helped structure the organisation, build capacity, and professionalise communications and advocacy work.

### Watch this space

FJAD hopes to expand its work on menstrual dignity nationwide. It also plans to set up a production unit for biodegradable packaging, related to climate justice and the circular economy, which would provide eco-friendly menstrual hygiene products as well as jobs for young women. Finally, its documentary entitled Voice for Choice, showcasing positive accounts around safe abortion, will be widely disseminated to convey a strong message on bodily autonomy and the right to choose.





# Ivory Coast



## Actuelles Fighting for menstrual dignity and against period poverty

**T**he feminist NGO Actuelles, originated in 2020 in Ivory Coast, based on young activists' firm belief that social transformation starts with empowering girls and women. It was founded by young feminists engaged in sexual and reproductive rights, social justice and the fight against inequality. Today, the organisation has some twenty members and volunteers, based in Abidjan. Recruitment is conducted through online calls for engagement and community-based activities. Actuelles works mainly in Ivory Coast, with teenagers, young women, and marginalised groups (girls with hearing impairments, young girls in education

or not, women in detention), and takes an inclusive, intersectional, community-based approach.

### Menstrual dignity: sisterhood in action

Actuelles works on several fronts, "however our flagship cause this year has been menstrual justice and access to menstrual hygiene products for all women and girls," says Salematou Balde, its president. Its campaign, Menstrual Health and Dignity has engaged over 20,000 people since 2020, and raises awareness that menstrual dignity is a right. The idea is to collect large-scale donations of menstrual hygiene products and offer them to local authori-

ties, that distribute them to people who menstruate. Another flagship initiative: the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Mes Menstrues Libres* festival held in May 2025 on Menstrual dignity: sisterhood in action. An event which has now spread to Togo and Guinea.

**"Our mission is to uphold the rights of women and young girls, without any social, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination."**

Salematou Balde, President of the NGO Actuelles

### Menstrual dignity for all women and girls

Actuelles also strives for the inclusion of women and girls with hearing impairments, by facilitating access to menstrual hygiene products. The organisation has mobilised funding to build the capacity of girls with hearing impairments in Yopougon, Abobo and Adjamé. For the first time in Ivory Coast, menstrual awareness sessions have been conducted in sign language, in association with specialist organisations. This pioneering work helps to break taboos and promote menstrual dignity for all women and girls.

### SPOTLIGHT ON ... THE EXAMPLE OF GHANA

According to a survey published in May 2025 entitled *Period Poverty in Ivory Coast: the reality in Abidjan district*, 44.48% of women and girls with no monthly income (or pocket money) are the most affected. In March 2025, Ghana made menstrual hygiene products free for girls in primary and lower secondary schools. Feminist organisations see this as a step forward that could prompt other countries in the region to follow suit.

### Sisterhood support from Equipop

Thanks to Equipop's support, Actuelles has built internal capacity, notably in terms of its organisation, strategic advocacy, and documenting its work. This support also enabled it to find premises, and offer a safe space for girls, where it runs modules on inclusive menstrual dignity, and feminism for future community leaders.

### Watch this space

For 2025-2026, Actuelles is hoping to open a safe feminist space in Abidjan, including a space for psychological support services, a feminist library, and a project incubator run by young women with hearing impairments. It is also planning to develop advocacy initiatives with public institutions to include menstrual health in education policies.





# Guinea



## MALAFF Guinea Training the new generation of feminists

**T**he Leadership and Support Centre for Girls and Women (Malaff) was founded on 17 August 2024 by the feminist campaigner and former president of the Guinea Young Women Leaders Club, Kadiatou Konaté, alongside four co-founders (three women and one man). Structured around a board of trustees and an executive team, Malaff does not yet have any staff members, but can rely on a community of over 150 volunteers. Together, they conduct advocacy work, as well as training and awareness raising sessions on female leadership and sexual and reproductive health. Malaff strives above all to help build strong, structured feminism in Guinea. Its ambition: to promote equality, autonomy, and dignity for women.

### Training on feminism

“In Guinea, feminism is often represented by the same faces. At Malaff, we seek to broaden this horizon by bringing on board less well-known young girls and boys from a wide variety of backgrounds, outside activist circles,” explains Oumou Hawa Diallo, the organisation’s executive director. Her aim is to train a new generation of activists, aged 13 to 27, and pass on the values of feminism in a context where the term is still widely misunderstood and stigmatised.

Training sessions are organised prior to any field activities. The aim is to clarify what feminism entails, debunk common preconceptions, and leave participants free to form their own views. “It is about equipping them with the tools to engage in a fully-informed and independent manner.”

“The power of women lies in standing together and speaking with one voice.”

Kadiatou Konaté, founder of the NGO Malaff Guinée

### Mes Menstrus Libres festival

The initiative began around three years ago in Ivory Coast, and has since spread to other parts of West Africa. In Conakry, the first *Mes Menstrus Libres* festival took place on 13 and 14 June 2025, organised by MALAFF Guinea. Over two days, activists, institutions, pupils, healthcare professionals, and citizens came together to talk freely about menstruation, leaving any shame and above all taboos, at the door. The national director of family health attended as a representative of the Ministry of Health, and welcomed the initiative, inviting all stakeholders to strive for a Guinea where girls no longer miss school because of their periods.

### SPOTLIGHT ON... EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSION SESSIONS

On 5 May 2024, Malaff Guinea hosted an unusual Educational Discussion Session. Over the course of a free 90-minute, in-person session, 20 participants voiced their concerns, shared their advice, and asked questions to a gynaecologist to help them better navigate their pregnancy with peace of mind. A way of forging connections and creating a safe space where words can heal.

### Sisterhood support from Equipop

As the main sponsor of the first *Menstrues Libres* festival in Guinea, “Equipop put their faith in us when few partners would trust a budding organisation like ours,” recalls Oumou Hawa Diallo. It provided strategic, as well as financial, support: “Equipop advised us, reviewed our strategic documents, and helped us develop skills, especially around feminist and intersectional issues.”

### Watch this space

In order to continue raising awareness beyond the festival, Malaff Guinea plans to distribute hygiene kits across several rural areas, with the support of teams trained on endometriosis. A subject related to menstruation which is still largely unknown and seldom discussed in Guinean society.





# Niger



## Wangarey Kagalo Women's association Bringing women into decision-making bodies

**W**angarey Kagalo was founded in 2021 by women leaders from the Tillabéri region, in the south-west of Niger, following a project by the NGO Women, Action and Development (FAD). In the context of national elections, the project aimed to boost women's participation in the democratic process. The success of this dynamic spurred them into founding their own organisation. Formally recognised since 2023, Wangarey Kagalo has over 156 members working to advance gender equality, to combat violence against women, and to

build socio-economic capacity. Based on a structured governance system comprising a General Assembly, an Executive Committee, and an Oversight Committee, the organisation operates in six municipalities in the Tillabéri region to drive sustainable change at local and regional levels.

### More women in politics

Since the coup d'état on 26 July 2023, Niger has been governed by a military regime. It is also rare for women to work in politics. In 2024, Wangarey Kagalo therefore decided to focus on ensuring more women in decision-making spaces, such as the Advisory Commission, the National Consultations, and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. One high-point was the advocacy efforts led by its members to increase women's involvement in local committees. Monitoring the results has shown clear progress, especially within the Local Development Committee, the Departmental Food Supply Committee, and the Regional Mediation Committee. The organisation is also very proud to have strengthened cohesion among its members, fostering inter-generational dialogue between women and young girls.

“Our flagship cause is bringing women and girls into decision-making arenas.”

Mrs Soumana Safiatou, president of Wangarey Kagalo

### Accessibility and Impact

This year, the association marked a major step forward by translating UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250 into local languages (Zarma, Fulfulde, and Tamacheq). Dissemination through six community radio stations significantly contributed to their wider understanding and local ownership, sparking meaningful debate and strengthening the impact of these resolutions at community level.

### SPOTLIGHT ON... RESOLUTIONS 1325 AND 2250

Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) emphasizes women's participation in peace processes, the protection of their rights, the prevention of sexual violence, and their role in post-conflict reconstruction; while Resolution 2250 (2015) underscores the importance of youth engagement and promotes education and employment as key means of preventing radicalisation. Although not legally binding, these resolutions provide guidance to States in shaping their policies. Their implementation therefore depends on political will, national capacities, and the engagement of relevant stakeholders.

### Sisterhood support from Equipop

Equipop's support has enabled the organisation to develop its internal governance and entrepreneurship skills, while extending its activities to cover two new municipalities. This partnership has also helped build trust and forge strong ties with the local government authorities, traditional leaders, and technical government services.

### Watch this space

For 2025-2026 Wangarey Kagalo plans to broaden its scope to cover new municipalities, and build the skills of its members in leadership, self-esteem, and oral communications. It also aims to create a small-scale tomato processing company, given the development of income generating activities (IGA) is also one of its priorities.

# Chad



## Salama Peace Initiative Raising awareness about peace

**S**alama Peace Initiative (SPI) is a Chadian organisation founded in 2019, and the result of an encounter between two young peace activists, Josiane Djikouloum Darwatoye from Chad and Hend Kheiralla from Sudan. It works to build an inclusive, safe, and prosperous society by centering its work around young people and women. Its approach, focused on human security, is based around training, an innovation hub, as well as outreach work, mediation and advocacy activities. Operating across several regions in Chad, SPI also conducts research on violent extremism, conflict, and forced displacement. Formally recognised in 2024, the organisation is led by a team of eight members.

Every year it recruits and trains new volunteers to strengthen its work in the field and promote a lasting culture of peace.

### International Peace Week

Organised annually around the International Day of Peace on 21<sup>st</sup> September, International Peace Week is a highpoint of the year for Salama Peace Initiative. In 2024, it was dedicated to promoting wider understanding of resolutions 1325 and 2250, with the objective of strengthening the meaningful participation of young people and women in peace and security policies. Workshops, multimedia campaigns, and conferences took place throughout the week which was characterised by dialogue and learning.

These activities helped raise awareness among the community on the issues around peace and social cohesion. In March 2025, the president of SPI even carried this momentum onto the international stage by participating in a panel on women's leadership in Africa at CSW69 in New York.

“Peace can only last if it is collective.”

Josiane Darwatoye, president of Salama Peace Initiative

### Supporting refugees

“In 2024–2025, our most significant advocacy focused on ensuring that the situation of indigenous women and Sudanese refugee women in eastern Chad was taken into account. Their social and security conditions need particular attention and support,” stresses Désiré Oubadjimdehba, project office at SPI. One of the poorest countries in the world, Chad is home to 1.3 million refugees who have fled civil war in Sudan, most of whom are women and children.

### SPOTLIGHT ON... THE FIGHT AGAINST DISINFORMATION

In March 2025, the organisation signed a memorandum of understanding with Media for Development (MEDEV) and Tchadinfos.com. The aim: to take action against disinformation and promote peace in Chad. The aim of this partnership is to produce educational content, and to train journalists, bloggers, and influencers to cover sensitive issues in an ethical and responsible manner. “Together, we are turning the media and digital technology into drivers of social cohesion and resilience,” says Salama Peace Initiative.

### Sisterhood support from Equipop

Chad has seen a resurgence in violence, especially against women. In 2024 alone, almost 250 cases of rape, harassment, and femicide were reported. The cause: the heavy burden of tradition, the lack of understanding of laws that protect women, and the impunity of perpetrators. Thanks to technical and financial support from Equipop, SPI can focus fully on these issues, which are often marginalised.

### Watch this space

For 2025, SPI plans to produce a quarterly review on the latest news and work of humanitarian organisations across Chad. This review will enable activists in Chad to share recommendations and put forward solutions to help ensure a climate of peace. Finally, the association hopes to build its digital capacity by launching a platform for women's organisations working on resolution 1325.





# SPARKING CHANGE

Sparking social change at different regional levels, in association with stakeholders in the field, and helping to produce and disseminate knowledge by building bridges between activism, research and advocacy.





# BUILDING COLLECTIVE MOMENTUM TO SPARK TRANSFORMATION

Around sexual and  
gender-based violence (SGBV)



The violence continuum marks a major conceptual turning point in how survivors' experiences are named, analysed, and addressed.

**A**s an interpretative framework, it provides a way of understanding the diverse forms of violence, not as isolated events, but as inter-related manifestations of a system of control over women's bodies and sexuality, while also restricting their spaces, voices and freedoms. This system, built on stereotypes and gender inequality, fuels SGBV by contributing significantly to its social acceptance and invisibilisation in both private and public spheres.

Against the backdrop of multiple global crises, the rise of anti-rights movements and the rollback of hard-won gains in women's rights, the fight against SGBV has mobilised a diverse range of stakeholders. Their work at various levels (laws and policies; public and private programmes; community and individual mobilisation, etc.) reflects the wide array of positions, approaches, and outcomes. For Equipop, the key issue is to drive transformative change around SGBV by focusing attention on the voices of those most affected.

Grounding action in women's lived experiences involves developing innovative strategies to empower and enable expression, and ensuring its dissemination and uptake by professionals, whose involvement is strategic in dismantling gender-based stereotypes (healthcare professionals, legal practitioners, researchers, journalists, etc.). It is also vital for this social transformation to be embedded in policies and programmes at local, regional and international levels.

In 2024-2025, this perspective continued to inform the implementation of two major projects developed by Equipop in West Africa. On the one hand, a project on obstetric and gynecological violence (OGV) in Senegal, and on the other hand, the *Se défendre* project in Burkina Faso.

**The OGV project: multisectoral synergies around a feminist approach to obstetric and gynecological care.**

Our Body, Our Health is a pioneering project which aims to secure political, legal, and social recognition for OGV, and situate it within the continuum of violence against women and girls. Its immediate goal is to address OGV by securing conditions in which women of all ages can exercise their right to bodily autonomy, including in medical settings.

The project is implemented across five core areas: representations of women's bodies; empowering and enabling expression; respectful care and human rights; advocacy and communications at national level; research, evaluation and capitalisation. Each area encompasses several activities, all of which strive to give resonance to women's own, freely-expressed accounts of their experiences, feelings, and aspirations regarding their own bodies, their sexuality, and reproduction.

One of the flagship activities is women-only discussion circles, designed to create the ethical and practical conditions needed for participants to share their experiences of obstetric and gynecological care.

In Diamniadio, the discussion circles brought together women and girls aged 10 to 70, reflecting a range of intersecting vulnerabilities related to age, social status, health, occupation, etc.



The discussions helped broach a wide range of subjects in a safe and trusting environment, including barriers to accessing care, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), child marriage and early pregnancy, sexual harassment, intra-family violence, abortion, etc. Interactive and empowering in nature, these discussion circles enabled participants to share their experiences, feelings and lessons learned in a safe, secure setting. They also further highlighted how certain factors such as gender, age, outward signs of social status, and disability can exacerbate negative experiences within the continuum of sexual and gender-based violence.

The experience of sharing personal accounts (including childbirth, sexuality and sensuality at different stages throughout women's lives, including menopause, and trauma experienced in healthcare settings) proved to be a powerful driver for personal and collective empowerment, and for the emergence of a shared, feminist voice on patriarchal violence and self-care practices within communities and healthcare institutions.

The range of discussions highlighted the importance of addressing structural challenges such as stigma and discrimination related to restrictive sociocultural norms, taboos around sexuality, as well as violence embedded in family and societal dynamics. These issues were also explored through discussion cycles held among men, among mixed-gender groups of service providers, as well as through initiatives designed to foster dialogue between patients and healthcare providers.

Another flagship activity was the reissue of *Our Body, Our Health*. The book, whose full title is *Our Body, Our Health: Sub-Saharan African Women's Sexuality*, was inspired by *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, and originally published in February 2004. It was the first book for sub-Saharan women to address issues related to their bodies and their sexuality.

Twenty years on, the original editorial committee - recreated around Fatou Sow and Codou Bop - has brought in a new generation of feminists and a diverse range of experts to reissue the publication. By drawing on a wide range of voices and experience, this revised edition aims to advance knowledge and practices in the field of women's sexual and reproductive health. It involved rewriting the book based on the lived experiences of the authors and personal accounts collected in order to make reliable, respectful information available to women at every stage of their lives.

## "Se défendre": a project helping women and organisations in Burkina Faso combat sexual and gender-based violence

The *Se défendre* project is Phase 2 of the Women's Rights and Health in Burkina Faso project. It was launched as part of an emergency response during the COVID-19 crisis, with the aim of empowering the most vulnerable women and girls by enhancing their leadership and improving the holistic response to gender-based violence.

The results of this first phase showed that beyond emergency situations, a stronger feminist approach was needed in the fight against SGBV in Burkina Faso. They also demonstrated 'the power of recovery', as documented in a capitalisation report of the same name published at the end of the project by Equipop and its partners: Panandetiguir Initiative for Women's Wellbeing, Association of Burkina women legal practitioners, and Voix de Femmes (Women's Voices).

As a logical follow-up to phase 1, the aim of *Se défendre* is to help women and their organisations fight sexual and gender-based violence. It supports social change initiatives led by local women, drawing on approaches centred on the rights, dignity and autonomy of women and girls. Special attention is given to women and girls in marginalised situations. The project is grounded in an approach based on equality, social justice, and the recognition of the power dynamics that underlie violence against women and girls.

It draws inspiration from the principles of feminist approaches, by placing women and girls at the centre of the transformation process, valuing their knowledge, their lived experiences, and their agency. The project seeks to strengthen individual and collective solutions to sexual and gender-based violence, while fostering local change dynamics, led by the communities themselves.

The project is structured around three interlinked objectives:

- To help develop approaches that empower women and girls, as well as CSOs that champion their rights in the fight against SGBV;
- To support women survivors of SGBV as they navigate legal, judicial and psychological processes;
- To strengthen the implementation and evolution of the legal framework through strategic impact litigation and training on the mobilisation strategies to be deployed around these cases.

On the empowerment side, training was delivered on feminist approaches to SGBV, feminist communications, and masculinities. These sessions benefited key stakeholders in the fight against SGBV in Burkina Faso (civil society organisations, feminist journalists, project teams from consortium partners, and so on) and built their capacity to address SGBV from a feminist perspective.

Empowerment also involves supporting women's and girls' individual and collective agency. As part of this approach, leadership clubs were set up, and safe spaces made accessible. As a result, young girls were more engaged, able to voice their opinions, and develop innovative solutions in response to SGBV. Setting up a drama group also provided a creative platform for outreach work, raising awareness and informing teenagers and young girls about sexual and gender-based violence, as well as their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

On a wider level, radio shows broadcast across several regions in Burkina Faso reached out to a broader audience, helping to spread prevention messages regarding SGBV.

Significant progress was also made in supporting women survivors of SGBV as they navigate legal, judicial and psychological processes.

Training on safeguarding, and on feminist approaches to SGBV, enabled engagement with stakeholders from the protection system, and members of the association of Burkina women legal practitioners. This helped secure the commitment of frontline service providers, and offered ways to improve their professional practices. The approach developed as a continuation of this work involved associating training and outreach sessions with legal consultation services through mobile clinics. The outreach work helped engage women and girls from vulnerable groups (internally displaced people, people with disabilities, etc.). Conducted in the local language (Mooré), these sessions provided participants with an opportunity to share their own

experiences and accounts. The provision of mobile legal clinics at the end of these activities was welcomed by users, as well as by women and girl survivors of SGBV, who were able to benefit from legal, judicial and psychological support services.

One particularly forward-looking and innovative component involved supporting change through the use of strategic impact litigation. Workshops were arranged to foster dialogue around SGBV and strategic impact litigation. Organised in three separate sessions, these workshops specifically targeted groups of women (market leaders, leaders of community environmental brigades, widows, etc.). Each session helped raise awareness among participants on the issues underlying SGBV and strategic impact litigation, while providing a space for dialogue where they could share their own experiences as well as the challenges encountered in their respective contexts. Following these workshops, outreach sessions organised by the project leaders in pre-identified markets helped highlight any potential cases of strategic impact litigation. Women's rights CSOs have been taking action at various levels to change legislation and practices in the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, and to demand that States act with due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish, and grant reparations for acts of violence. Recourse to strategic litigation plays a central role in advancing the enforcement of rights and securing survivors' access to justice. Many organisations (ISLA, Centre for Reproductive Rights, IHRDA, etc.) have recognised the transformative power of this approach, especially when combined with political mobilisation, and apply it across Africa by bringing cases to the regional and national levels (see success stories below). Indeed, bringing cases before the courts - inviting judges to rule on shortcomings or to encourage legal developments - is a way of generating new case law and, consequently, of driving changes in existing policies or legislation, or ensuring their proper implementation. In practice, this means supporting, and most often publicising, the trial of an individual whose case is considered to be in the public interest, as its judicial impact is expected to extend beyond the specific interests of the parties involved.



# Towards a feminist, activist approach to research



approaches to SRHR (March 2024), and the regional campaign #CompterPourToutes (every woman counts) around data collection on SGBV, highlighted converging observations: the need to produce and disseminate more feminist knowledge. To address this, Equipop launched the CollectivAct Research Fund, as part of the MAAG project.

This offers an initial response to feminist movements' calls for greater dedicated resources to support the production of feminist knowledge.

Through this fund, Equipop has made its approaches, methodologies and support mechanisms for transformative change available to young feminist movements. The CollectivAct Research Fund thereby offers a unique opportunity to organise and strengthen ties between academia and activism, thanks to an innovative blend of feminist participatory research and incubation labs.

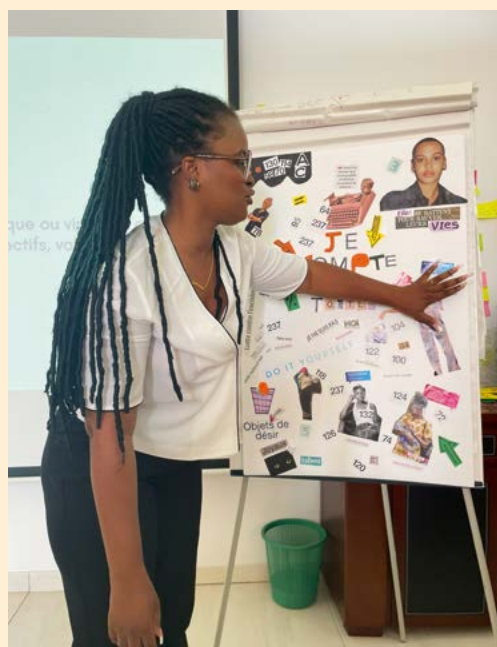
Finally, the fund is based on a flexible funding mechanism that enables feminist partners with diverse backgrounds, working in consortium, to independently lead knowledge-production processes.

Equipop places growing importance on research in the design and implementation of transformative projects that advance gender equality. Over the years, this focus has been reflected in a variety of ways. During an exploratory phase, research conducted in 2020 on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the context of the COVID-19 crisis in West Africa informed the design of the Women's Rights and Health in Burkina Faso project, whose second phase, entitled *Se défendre*, is currently being implemented by Equipop and its partners. Research was also a key, strategic component of the Sansas project. Studies carried out on the sexual and reproductive health of teenagers and young people have not only helped refine the work of the consortium, but also identify priorities for future policies and initiatives on adolescent and youth SRHR in Senegal.

Similarly, situational analysis of obstetric and gynecological violence in Senegal is a flagship activity of the OGV project. Conducted across four different regions (Matam, Sédhiou, Dakar, Diourbel), this study drew on a social innovation approach based on feminist values of participation, inclusion, and empowerment of girls, adolescents and women.

## The rise of feminist participatory research

A central strand of Equipop's work is the development of feminist participatory research, which fosters synergies among feminist activists and researchers from a range of geographical contexts. The lessons learnt from the Young West African Feminists symposium in Cotonou on feminist



# Engaging a feminist generation aware of international solidarity challenges: lessons from an exchange visit

On the occasion of the *Brisons le Silence* festival organised by our partner Filactions in November 2024, Equipop arranged a feminist exchange trip. This activity was part of the Feminist Generations: Advancing Equality in Lyon and its Metropolitan Area project.

Three young feminists, key figures in West African movements and from diverse activist backgrounds, made the journey to France: Amandine Yao (Gouttes Rouges), Kadiatou Konaté (CJFLG) and Chanceline Mevowanou (JFAD). Alongside many activists from across West Africa, they strive to advance the fight for gender equality. During their trip, they met their Lyon counterparts - some twenty local stakeholders - and took part in collective initiatives across the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

A one-day workshop with popular education and international solidarity stakeholders helped foster dialogue on social, political, and legal challenges, while highlighting the importance of tailoring financing and preventing any instrumentalisation of feminist struggles. During an informal discussion with feminist student associations - including CLIT (Lyon Faculty of Medicine) and Eh Mademoiselle (Sciences Po) - the discussion turned to how to build a common movement while maintaining distinct areas of action, and to the importance of pooling efforts to address systemic challenges across different levels.

This exchange week helped foster transnational feminist solidarity, by highlighting intersecting oppressions - class, race, and gender - and by consolidating global feminist action in pursuit of genuine equality.





# Find out more about Equipop

## Vision & values

**T**oday, Equipop has around 60 employees and 60 members, with an annual budget of €6.1 million. The organisation has two centres in West Africa, in Dakar and Ouagadougou, and a European office in Paris.

This vision and these values are embodied in Equipop's work:

- Revitalising activists and organisations by providing financial and technical support, by raising their voices, and by bolstering transnational collective action.
- Sparking social change at different regional levels, in association with local stakeholders, and helping to produce and disseminate knowledge by building bridges between activism, research and advocacy.
- Mobilising policy makers and citizens to uphold women's rights and more broadly, to ensure feminist approaches inform how our societies are built.



Equipop is driven by feminist values, and the vision of 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.

Our priorities lie in contributing to trans-local collective action and providing flexible, long-term support to campaigners and organisations. Social creativity, supporting partners and collective learning dynamics are therefore central to the organisation's overall strategy and projects.





# Equipop's lifeblood

Equipop relies on a board of 16 trustees and a multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary team comprising some sixty staff members to define and implement its mission. Once per year, some sixty members gather for the General Meeting.



## Aline Samaké

President of Equipop

Becoming President of Equipop felt like a dual necessity. The first was personal - almost selfish: the need to turn my research, my field observations, and the stories I collect, analyse, and unpack as an early-career researcher into concrete action. It was also driven by a desire to move beyond academic theoretical conceptualisation and to inform the design of projects that are meaningful, grounded in justice, and that advance emancipation and dignity. A desire to move away from a form of 'armchair solidarity' and to embody a more active solidarity, rooted in broad alliances across social struggles that approach equity through the intersection of class, gender, sexual orientation, and geography. The second necessity was civic in nature: in a global context marked by the rise of anti-rights and anti-gender offensives, it has become essential, to me, to help cultivate spaces of resistance, arenas for dialogue, and effective communities of practice. My decision to stand for the presidency was therefore driven by a dual commitment - both political and personal - to serve an alternative, internationalist, feminist and decolonial agenda in which I believe deeply, and which Equipop has been advancing for many years. Equipop is distinctive in that it

consistently places the principle of subsidiarity at the heart of its approach. Rather than 'doing on behalf of', it seeks to bring together, support, strengthen and raise the voices of those who are actively shaping dynamics that promote social justice and the respect of rights, in particular sexual and reproductive health and rights. Equipop does not treat the knowledge and lived experiences of marginalised communities as peripheral contributions to be cautiously incorporated, but as genuine drivers of change. It builds, sustains and energises networks of creative, grounded and transformative struggles. This stance - marked by humility and humanity - has inspired me since I first joined Equipop in 2018, and is what now drives me to make an even deeper commitment.

My vision for the next phase is one of critical continuity: sustaining a strong culture of self-reflection, responding to geopolitical and structural challenges, while at the same time consolidating our civic momentum. At a time when we are being urged to slow down, I believe instead that we must go further, by supporting, funding and connecting the diverse range of feminist and LGBTQIA+ movements. This means building transnational networks of allies from activism, academia, policymaking, and development capable of coordinating collective action and acting as a counterweight to conservative policies and institutions. This is not simply about 'raising voices' or 'making space', but about reshaping the terms of the debate itself. It means seeing international solidarity as a practice which is situated, relational and political. Rejecting compartmentalised solutions to interlocking systems of oppression, and instead advancing multilateral policies grounded in intersectional principles, critical research, and the lived experiences of those most directly affected. I believe in a form of radical solidarity, one that can rebalance power relations and harness

momentum for meaningful emancipation. A solidarity that is unapologetically assertive, capable of meeting the demands of a political, economic and environmental transition that is genuinely inclusive. In short, a solidarity that knows no borders; that does not dissipate in fleeting moments of outrage, but is rooted deeply in struggles, institutions, and ideas that enable us to move together towards a sustainable and desirable world for all.



## Claire Tessier

Member of Equipop

My journey with Equipop goes back almost 20 years, when, after graduating from the Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies, I completed a 6-month internship there. I have nurtured close ties with this organisation ever since, both through my political engagement in its efforts to advance women's rights, as a member of a youth political movement, and later through my professional involvement. Between 2010 and 2011, I worked for Equipop in Ouagadougou, where I was responsible for representing the organisation's work in West Africa. Above all, my journey with Equipop has been about the people I have met and learnt from along the way, some of whom still work for the organisation in both Paris and Ouagadougou. These encounters have shaped my understanding of the issues underlying development and women's rights, in France as well as in partnership contexts. Equally important to me are the ambitions that Equipop pursues in support of women's emancipation. I am also deeply aligned with Equipop's methodological stance not to act on behalf of others, but rather to support movements and organisations working in sub-Saharan Africa, who are best placed to drive social change and to challenge inequalities. All these factors, together with the energy and commitment of those who work for and with Equipop, have led me to maintain strong ties with the organisation and, more recently, to seek to become involved in its governance. I hope to make a modest

contribution to shaping the organisation's strategy and priorities, in the firm belief that a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds provides the fertile ground to nurture the most informed decisions and the most promising ambitions for change. Through its actions, the messages it conveys, and its support for feminist organisations, Equipop now operates at a critical juncture in efforts to advance rights - or, indeed, should I say to prevent their erosion, given the scale and seriousness of attacks on women's rights, in both the North and the South. The challenge may seem daunting, but I firmly believe that organisations such as Equipop are essential to upholding these struggles. Through its work in the field with partners in both the North and the South - associations, grassroots movements and researchers - Equipop grounds its advocacy in practice, embodies the principles it promotes, and thereby strengthens its credibility and its ability to be heard by decision-makers, ensuring that the protection and advancement of women's rights are taken into account and actively pursued.

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*The board meets on average once per quarter.*

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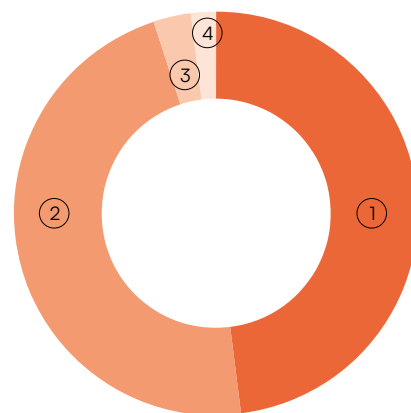


# Budget

In 2024, 91% of Equipop's expenditure was allocated to its social missions. Equipop's budget increased by 5% from the previous year, and ended the year with a surplus.

## SOURCE OF FUNDS

- Equipop's 2024 resources amounted to €6.1 million, up 5.15% from 2023 (€5.8 million).
- 50.5% of this year's budget came from private funds, including international foundations and organisations.
- Institutional funding amounted to 49.5% this year, 46.9% from French bilateral cooperation institutions (mainly the Agence Française de Développement) and 2.6% from multi-lateral cooperation institutions (United Nations agencies).
- Equipop continues to strengthen existing technical and financial partnerships, develop new ones, and foster collaboration, which is vital to the momentum of its projects.
- Alongside this, we have increased our support to civil society organisations by working hard to mobilise resources for the latter as well as targeting new donors.



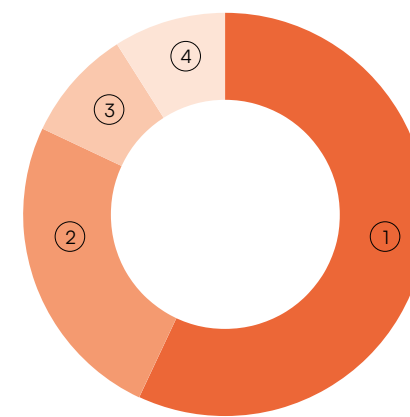
**€6.1 MILLION**

- ① **48.8%**  
French and international private funds
- ② **46.9%**  
Bilateral cooperation
- ③ **2.6%**  
Multilateral cooperation
- ④ **2.1%**  
Financial and operating income

## USE OF FUNDS

- Spending reached €6 million, up 5.8% from the previous year. 91% of Equipop's expenditure was allocated to the organisation's social missions through 33 projects.
- In line with the sector's criteria, overhead costs are low.
- In 2024 Equipop continued, indeed stepped up, its implementation of activities pertaining to projects from previous years, including, Consolidating Young Feminist Movements in West Africa, Youth on Alert, Feminists in Action Fund, DEMSAN, Women's Health and Rights in Burkina Faso, Countdown 2030, and SANSAS.
- Six multi-year projects began in 2024, including: From the Margins to the Forefront: Empowering Young Feminists for Just and Sustainable Societies, United for Dignity: Promoting Menstrual Health MediAOS: Media Capacity Building in West Africa and the Sahel, Equality Matters, Girls in Action.
- After a 92% increase between 2022 and 2023, aid granted to partner civil society organisations remained stable in 2024 at the high figure of €2.3 million, through support funds: EllesActent, CollectivAct, Organisational Development Fund, Strategic Fund.
- We have continued to support African civil society organisation by working hard to mobilise resources for the latter.
- The year-end result shows a surplus of €100k.
- This surplus has increased the organisation's own reserves and enabled it to provide working capital, build capacity to implement innovative activities, increase its capacity to invest in organisational development, respond to co-financing requirements and address any fluctuations in project funding.

*Equipop draws up annual accounts which are audited by Forvis Mazars statutory auditors. The 2024 annual accounts, as well as the auditor's report are available in full on [equipop.org](http://equipop.org).*



**€6 MILLION**

- ① **57%**  
Supporting civil society stakeholders
- ② **25%**  
Sparking change through pilot projects
- ③ **9%**  
Overhead costs
- ④ **9%**  
Mobilising policy makers and citizens



# Communications

In 2024-2025, Equipop continued to use communications as a driving force to support its partners, and extend the reach of activist voices. The organisation also helped forge connections among feminist movements, research, the media, institutions and civil society, within a context marked by the rise in reactionary narratives.

Working closely with this community of stakeholders, the organisation trained professionals in communications that do not reinforce inequalities; promoted feminist research and struggles; fuelled public debate through research and events; and raised awareness among new audiences on gender and social justice issues.

# 4

## Publications produced by Equipop with its partners

- *How to build a feminist Europe? The challenges posed by the far right in the wake of the European elections*
- *Empowering feminist organisations: pointers for transformative support*
- *Feminist struggles: key concepts in action. Deconstructing, speaking out, and sisterhood*
- Report on the symposium - *Finding a space of our own between campaigning and research to talk about a feminist approach to SRHR!*

# 51,000

## Followers on social media (53,000 in 2023-2024)

In January 2025, Equipop decided to stop using X, in line with a number of organisations and collectives working for equality, against far-right ideology and reactionary narratives.

# 55

## Media appearances in France and internationally between July 2024 and July 2025 (included).

- 41 media appearances in 2023-2024.
- Further information: [equipop.org/espace-medias](https://equipop.org/espace-medias)

# 8

## Episodes of the podcast Francophone Sisterhood, launched in 2024, are available across various platforms!

# 4

## Training sessions delivered to journalists and entrepreneurs

- One session with a dozen journalists in West Africa on feminist news coverage
- One Inclusive Communications session with the 44 participants of Campus AFD's Social & Inclusive Business Camp; entrepreneurs driving high social impact across the African continent.

# 6

## Events organised as part of the Feminism & Health and Francophone Sisterhood series.

- Promoting feminist care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in hospitals. — 8 July 2024
- Abortion rights: feminist and intersectional approaches - 11 July 2024
- Sexual and Gender-based Violence: promoting feminist education for children and young people. — Francophone Sisterhood x Break the Silence, 21 November 2024
- Breaking down the wall of silence: standing together against obstetric and gynecological violence - 25 November 2024
- Fighting HIV/AIDS: a feminist response! - 15 April 2025
- Women, HIV and feminist struggles: stepping out of the shadows, reclaiming power - 17 June 2025

## Forging connections between feminists and the media.

- Connecting feminists and journalists to strengthen advocacy and action.
- Organisation of Women and Media day alongside Prenons la Une! and La Fronde, in partnership with France's Economic, Social and Environmental Council fostering discussions between journalists, editorial teams, French and international feminist experts and organisations.



# Acknowledgements

In order to carry out its mission, Equipop relies on the engagement of many individuals and organisations that share its convictions and support its work. Members and volunteers who are involved in governance, partners who provide financial support, without whom projects could not be implemented, NGOs and local organisations with which we have

forged strong, sustainable partnerships, experts and civil servants with whom we have co-developed policies and programmes, as well as journalists and online communities who disseminate our news and messages... We would like to extend our gratitude to each and every one of you for the trust you place in us.

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 Bluesky**

@equipop.bsky.social

To follow our news and our sector's news in real time.



**Via our newsletter**

To receive a regular summary of our news highlights.



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equi.org

To discover exclusive content and share more with our community.



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



**On TikTok**

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To watch videos from behind-the-scenes at Equipop.



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



**On YouTube**  
Equipop

To watch videos of Equipop's and our sector's news.



**On Threads**

@equipop\_ong

To follow our news in real time.

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

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Equipop is a feminist, international aid organisation striving for a fair, sustainable world where the rights of all human beings, including sexual and reproductive rights, are respected without any sexual or gender-based discrimination.

Drawing on a team of 50 people across West Africa, North Africa and Europe, Equipop mobilises citizens and politicians, supports front-line organisations, implements action-research projects, publishes research, and organises training.

Support Partnership Mobilisation  
Strengthening feminist solidarity Sisterhood support Partnership Mobilisation



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