



RÉPUBLIQUE  
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



# Support Fund for Feminist Organizations

ACTIVITY REPORT

2024

#WorldInCommon

5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



**I**n 2024, one year before the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, no country had achieved gender equality (Focus 2030). A third of countries had made no progress in this area since 2015, and the situation for women has even deteriorated in a quarter of countries (UN Women), including Afghanistan, the United States and Venezuela.

This regression is largely due to the rise of conservative forces targeting gender equality as well as women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Despite this context and thanks to the mobilization of feminist movements, some progress has been achieved. France, for example, enshrined the right to abortion in its Constitution, while Namibia's High Court decriminalized same-sex relations.

**To support the work of feminist movements under increasing pressure, France is mobilizing its instruments in support of its feminist foreign policy on the international stage.** Since 2020, the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF) has been a flagship initiative of French feminist foreign policy. This fund, managed by Agence Française de Développement and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, provides ongoing support to feminist civil society organizations (CSOs) in France's partner countries. In 2024, 40 new projects were approved under the FSOF.

# The FSOF: a financing tool for feminist organizations

## An ambitious goal



**Reduce gender inequalities** by strengthening the technical, financial and administrative capacities of feminist civil society organizations in France's partner countries



**Support organizations** with limited access to financing



**Co-construct** through inclusive dialogue based on mutual trust



**Broaden networks**, collaborations and synergies between feminist groups

## Financing channels adapted to needs



**Channel 1:** thematic projects and calls for projects for feminist CSOs



**Channel 2:** initiatives by local or French feminist civil society organizations through the CSO Initiatives Facility



**Channel 3:** financing for local feminist CSOs in partner countries, especially through the *Equipe France* Fund and the projects of France's Crisis and Support Center



## Priority themes

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights, and comprehensive sexuality education
- Fighting discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence
- Women's economic empowerment and their participation in economic development
- Women's social and political leadership
- Access to primary, secondary and higher education for girls
- The Women, Peace and Security agenda and the role of women in crises
- Gender and climate

## Inclusive governance



- A strategic and accountability framework drawn up with feminist civil society
- A steering committee comprising the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, AFD, and qualified members of civil society
- Regular consultations with civil society

# Our commitments to feminist organizations



**€60 M**

approved through the FSOF in 2024

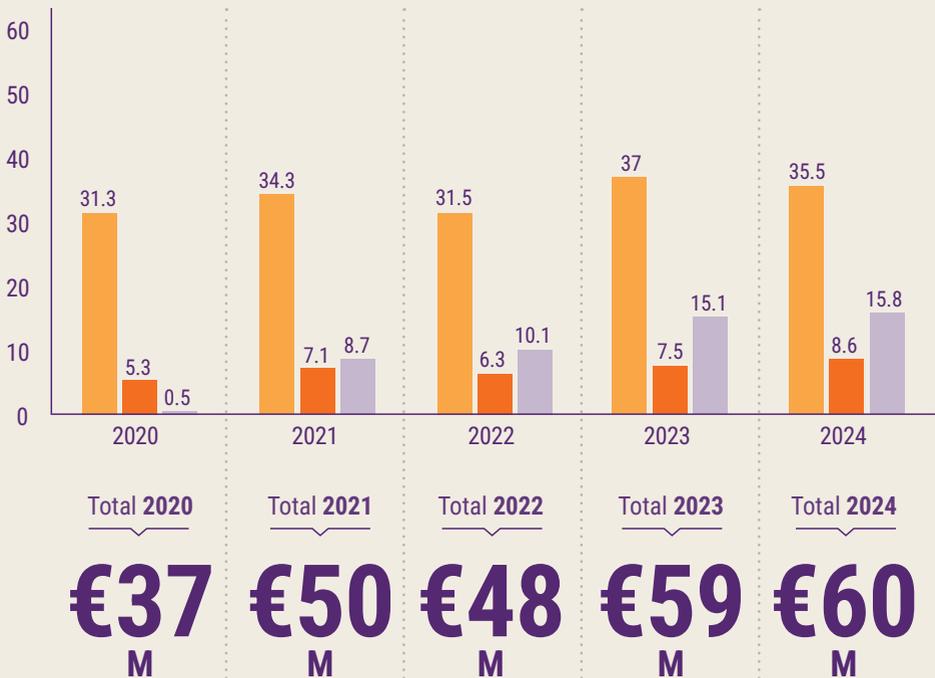
**€56 M**

disbursed through the FSOF in 2024

## Breakdown of approvals by financing channel

IN € MILLIONS

- Channel 1
- Channel 2
- Channel 3



# Evaluation of Feminists in Action: a first structuring intermediated fund and a collective success

AFRICA, ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, MIDDLE EAST

€15 M grant

Care France, Equipop, Oxfam, Mediterranean Women's Fund, XOESE - The Francophone Women's Fund, Pananetugri Initiative for the Well-being of Women.

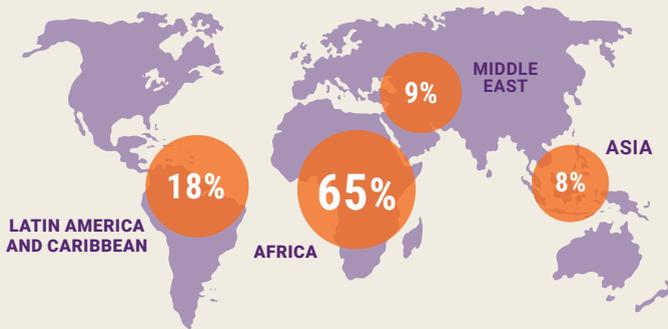


Feminists in Action, the first project financed through the FSOF in 2020, ended in December 2024.

This project aimed to support feminist organizations working to advance women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, strengthen their economic empowerment, and combat gender-based violence.

## Feminists in Action in figures:

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS ALLOCATED TO BENEFICIARY CSOs BY REGION



270

grants allocated to 199 recipient feminist CSOs



19

collective initiatives by feminist CSOs supported



192

CSOs benefited from technical assistance



“Feminists in Action has achieved something that very few networks manage to do: to keep us united for a common goal [...] by drawing on our sisterhood.”

Recipient network of the Feminists in Action project

“The Feminists in Action project strengthened us on every level – personal, institutional, and administrative. It enabled us to build new alliances, reinforce existing ones, and coordinate our efforts.”

Recipient CSO of the Feminists in Action project

# Channel I flagship projects approved in 2024

Every year, AFD finances projects and launches thematic calls for projects to support feminist civil society organizations. **In 2024, two new calls for projects were approved.**

## Gender-based Violence and Justice

ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, GUINEA, KENYA, TANZANIA

€8 M grant

**Justice for Survivors:** International Planned Parenthood Federation, Association of Women Lawyers of Côte d'Ivoire, Center for Reproductive Rights

**Feminisms for Life:** Fondo de Mujeres del Sur, Fondo de Mujeres Bolivia Apthapi Jopueti, Fondo para el Desarrollo de la Mujer Colombiana, Fundo Angela Borba de Recursos para Mulheres



These projects support feminist organizations in tackling and preventing gender-based violence and assisting victims, in particular on legal and judicial matters.

 150 organizations will be supported in eight African and Latin American countries. A mutual learning exercise is planned between the two regions to promote inter-regional feminist collaboration.

## Movements for Reproductive Autonomy, Equality and Solidarity

AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA

€6 M grant

IPAS, Médecins du Monde, Latin American Consortium Against Unsafe Abortion (CLACAI), Reprod'Action Santé



This project aims to improve women's effective control over their own bodies in terms of sexual and reproductive health. In the focus countries, it is helping to strengthen the technical and financial capacities of feminist organizations working for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

 100 local feminist CSOs and professional associations (midwives, medical students and women lawyers' associations) will be supported by the project.



# Fighting against gender-based violence, a crucial issue for the FSOF:

Channel 1 flagship projects

According to the World Health Organization, **one in three women is a victim of physical or sexual violence during their lives.** This has devastating and lasting consequences on the lives of survivors and is a major obstacle to gender equality. The FSOF supports feminist CSOs in the fight against gender-based violence.

## Feminist Opportunities Now (2021)

BANGLADESH, COLOMBIA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, ETHIOPIA, GUINEA, KENYA, MEXICO, SRI LANKA

€14 M grant

International Planned Parenthood Federation, Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action, Empow'Her, International Federation for Human Rights, Médecins du Monde

This project supports local feminist organizations that raise awareness and advocate on gender-based violence, as well as those providing care, shelter services, and legal and socio-economic support to women victims of violence.

✓ In Ethiopia, the feminist organization Rise & Shine has benefited from a €15,000 grant. In 2024, it organized awareness-raising sessions on sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, women's rights, and the prevention of gender-based violence in four schools in the Tigray region. One hundred students and teachers benefited from these sessions.

## Inspiring Girls and Grassroots Networks for Inclusive and Transformative Education (2022)

CAMEROON, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, ETHIOPIA, JORDAN, LEBANON, NIGERIA

€10 M grant

International Rescue Committee, René Moawad Foundation, Urgent Action Fund – Africa, Partnership for African Social and Governance Research



This project aims to strengthen local feminist organizations that work to advance girls' and adolescent girls' education, particularly by combating gender-based violence to which they are subjected.

✓ In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the feminist organization Charité des Jeunes Filles et Femmes en Afrique (CJFF Afrique) has benefited from a €46,000 grant. It has provided psychosocial support to 50 girl survivors of gender-based violence.

💬 "Thanks to CJFF Afrique, which referred me to psychologists, I found the support I needed to overcome my trauma. I learned to rebuild myself and believe in a better future. I dream of becoming a teacher so that I can offer my child a decent life."

An adolescent beneficiary of the project (Democratic Republic of the Congo)



# Channel 2 flagship projects approved in 2024

Through its CSO Initiatives Facility, AFD supports projects led by feminist civil society organizations in France and in partner countries to strengthen their capacity for action and improve their structuring.

## She Grows the Future – Women Leaders for Adaptation to Climate Change

ECUADOR, LAOS, PERU, VIET NAM

€2.5 M grant

CARE France, CARE Ecuador, CARE Peru, CARE Laos, CARE Viet Nam



The project aims to support women (including the most vulnerable) in rural areas by providing technical resources and strengthening their skills. The objective is to empower them to implement climate change adaptation solutions.

🎯 2,035 women producers will benefit from activities to strengthen their climate change adaptation capacities.

## Support for the Maferinya Center for Survivors of Sexual Violence

GUINEA

€500,000 grant

The Guinean Organization for the Defense of Human Rights and Citizens (OGDH)



This project provides comprehensive support (psychological, medical, legal and socio-economic) to women survivors of sexual violence. It supports the operation, implementation of activities and sustainability of the Maferinya Center for Survivors of Sexual Violence, which provides them with care.

🎯 50 officers (medical and legal) trained in assistance to victims of sexual and gender-based violence, 6,500 women supported.



## Care is a feminist issue:

A look back at the Women, Dignity, Work project

“Care” is defined by the United Nations as “direct and indirect care for people”, **whether paid or unpaid. Care also has an ethical and political dimension, with its social model based on attention, interdependence and living together.** Women account for 67% of care workers globally (International Labor Organization). Yet an estimated eight out of ten domestic workers in Latin America are victims of violence in their workplace. In response to this situation, domestic workers’ associations and unions work on a daily basis to improve working conditions in this sector.

### Women, Dignity, Work (2022–2024)

BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR

€1 M grant

CARE France



The Women, Dignity, Work project, whose phase II ended in December 2024, aims to transform the working conditions and social perception of domestic work to ensure that it is valued, decently paid and protective. The project is helping to strengthen domestic workers’ associations and unions, improve domestic workers’ knowledge of their rights, and promote social enterprises managed by the workers themselves.

 “We launched the project in 2019 and, thanks to it, secured the ratification of Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the workplace. We won that battle! We also succeeded in getting the National Assembly to declare 30 March as National Domestic Workers’ Day in Ecuador.”

Lenny Quiroz, project beneficiary (Ecuador)

 “Thanks to the training, we have transformed our relationships: professional, family, and social. We now know that we are part of this country’s economy. We will keep fighting for our rights.”

Leandra Lacerda, project beneficiary (Brazil)

### Ghazret'ha, cross-perspectives from civil society on feminism in Tunis



In 2024, to mark International Women’s Day, AFD, the French Embassy in Tunisia, Batik International, BEITY, the Tawhida Ben Cheikh Group, the Victory Association for Rural Women, and the Mediterranean Women’s Fund organized a day of reflection and learning on feminist struggles, their achievements for women’s rights, and the persistent challenges in Algeria and Tunisia and, more broadly, on both sides of the Mediterranean. Several capacity building workshops were organized between experienced feminist associations and less experienced organizations.

# Channel 3 flagship projects approved in 2024

The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs supports local feminist organizations through its funding mechanisms, such as the *Équipe France* Fund, which is managed by its embassies. Since 2023, projects to support feminist organizations funded by the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs have been integrated into the FSOF.

## Strengthening Gender Equality Through Women's Leadership and Empowerment (2024–2025)

LAOS

€500,000 grant



This project is supporting 12 feminist organizations working for economic justice, women's access to education, and decent employment. It also supports their work in the health sector and in the fight against gender-based violence, notably forced marriage.

## Women's Voices Without Borders (2024–2025)

IRAQ, YEMEN

€670,000 grant



Financed by the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and implemented by the association Aide Humanitaire et Journalisme, this project is helping to train and empower women journalists, activists and media professionals, and create and distribute independent and free media productions prepared by women.

## “No to Backlash”: Supporting the Collective Resistance of Feminine and Feminist Movements in Africa (2024–2025)

BENIN, CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, GHANA, MADAGASCAR, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, TOGO

€1 M grant

African Women's Development Fund, Urgent Action Fund - Africa, Fund for Congolese Women



This project is the result of a partnership between the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and feminist funds active at the local, national, and regional levels in 12 countries in West and Central Africa. By creating a network of local organizations working to counter the spread of anti-rights and anti-gender narratives, the project helps to build a Francophone resistance to the ongoing backlash to women's and girls' rights.



## Fighting for the eradication of harmful practices:

Review of the Support for Egyptian Feminist Organizations project

According to the United Nations Population Fund, **more than 12,000 girls worldwide are at risk of female genital mutilation every day**. The feminist CSOs supported by the FSOF are carrying out important work to support victims and advocate for the eradication of these mutilations, as well as all harmful practices against women and girls.

### Support for Egyptian feminist organizations (2023-2024)

EGYPT

**€460,000 grant**

Implemented by the French Embassy in Egypt, this project has supported 15 civil society organizations working to combat gender-based violence, early marriage and genital mutilation.



#### THIS MOBILIZATION HAS:

- 🎯 Raised awareness of gender-based violence among 230 women and men
- 🎯 Provided legal, social and psychological support to 447 women
- 🎯 Trained 40 young people as ambassadors in the fight against violence
- 🎯 Trained 77 healthcare workers by creating two specialized training programs
- 🎯 Trained 41 women to work in counseling centers

### Francophone Feminist Alliance: Amplifying feminist voices on the international stage



**€5 M grant**

#### Who?

Equipop, International Federation for Human Rights and Mediterranean Women's Fund

#### The objective?

Over the next four years, strengthen the role of Francophone feminists in multilateral spaces and their capacity to influence decision-making

#### How?

By facilitating the participation of feminist activists in multilateral summits, strengthening the capacities of CSOs to carry out collective advocacy in these forums, and supporting their networking with donors and institutional actors

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## Toward a world in common

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AFD Group finances and drives the transition to a fairer, safer and more resilient world, working with its partners to support communities all over the world. Drawing on the complementary strengths of its entities – Agence Française de Développement for public financing, Proparco for responsible private investment, and Expertise France for technical expertise – the Group is ideally positioned to meet all sustainable development challenges.

Working in over 160 countries, including France's Overseas Territories and Departments, the Group adapts its operations to the realities on the ground, actively supporting local initiatives. With over 4,000 projects, whose objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AFD Group works on behalf of the French people, together with all stakeholders committed to economic development and the preservation of common goods: climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality and global health. Working by your side, toward a world in common.



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