



**A study on mobilizations and needs
of feminist organizations in Southern
countries**

SYNTHETIC PRESENTATION

The project

The "Feminists in Action" project, launched in 2021, aims to finance organisations in 31 countries in the South on four priority themes: sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), the fight against gender-based violence (GBV), women's economic empowerment and access to rights. This program is planned to **last 4 years** and has a **total budget of 15 million euros**.

The consortium

CARE France, Equipop, Oxfam France, the Mediterranean Women's Fund (FFMed), XOESE (the Francophone Women's Fund) and the Pan-African Women's Welfare Initiative (PWA).



Groupe Egaé

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The study

- A mapping of 1422 CSOs in 68 countries and **1184** CSOs in the **31** countries covered by the study.
- **31 country profiles** and **4 regional profiles** to identify the dynamics and the needs of civil society organizations.
- **66 interviews** with experts or civil society organizations in the **31** countries.

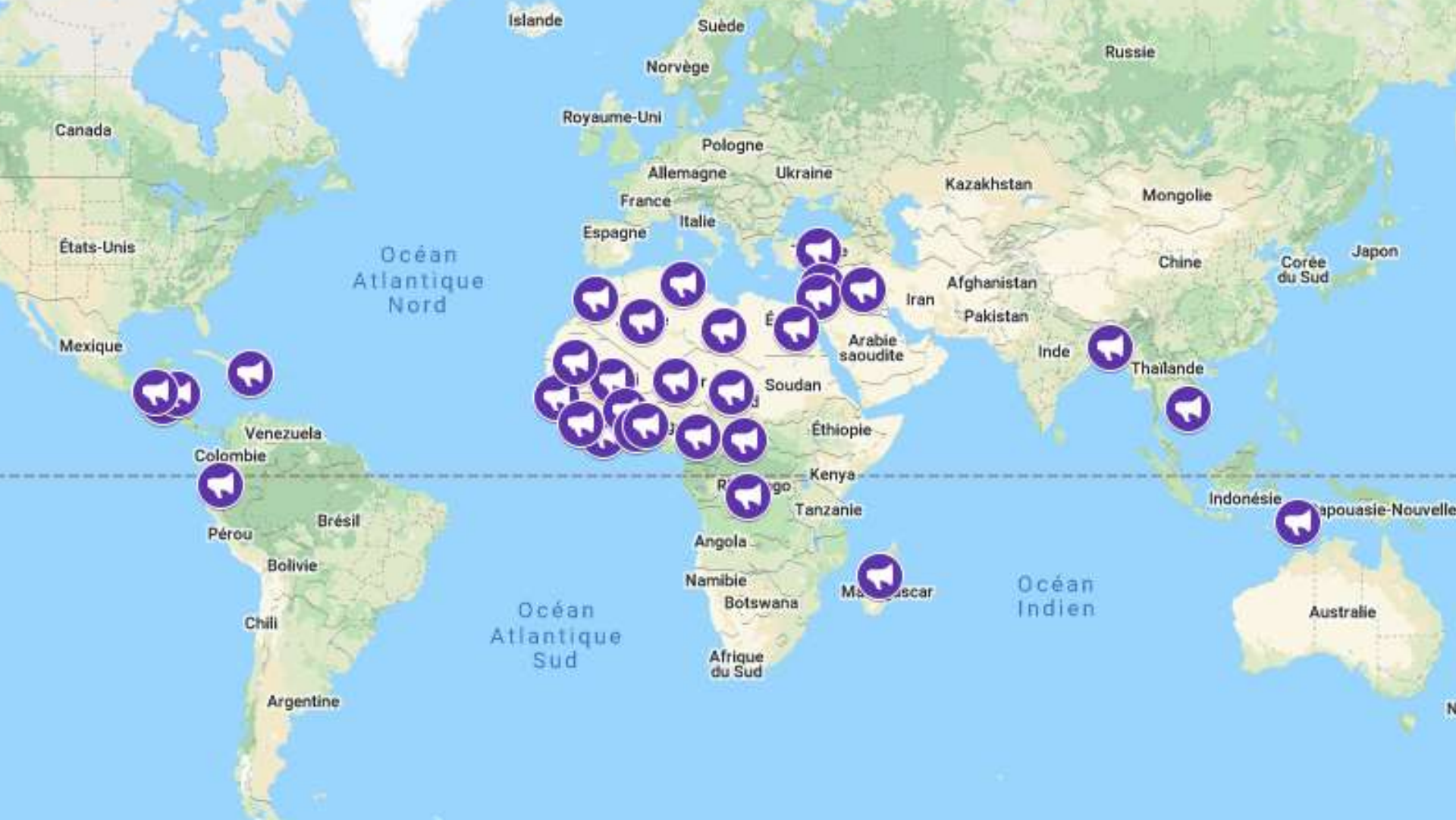
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Methodology

- **Mapping:** design of an **online questionnaire** in French, English and Spanish, to be filled out directly by CSOs. Disseminated via several databases between August and November 2021.
- **Interviews:** contact via a second questionnaire sent to responding CSOs, several databases + by email and via social networks. **Semi-structured interviews** via Zoom in French, English and Spanish.





Highlights

The study shows that there are:

- Many **feminist mobilizations**,
- **CSO alliance dynamics**,
- Frequent criticism of **government action (or inaction)** by CSOs
- Internal debates and **intergenerational tensions**.

The study shows both a **heterogeneity of** situations according to national contexts and **common trends**



Highlights

Impact of the Covid Health Crisis:

- **Economic crises: precariousness** of the populations and in particular of women
- **Deprioritization** of women's rights issues
- Increase in **gender-based violence**



Themes

- The **reinforcement of women's economic power**, which is essential in a context of precariousness of the populations and particularly of women.
- **Gender-based violence**, which has increased during the crisis, and which has also been more difficult for associations to deal with.
- **Sexual and reproductive health and rights**, which respondents said had been set back in almost all the countries surveyed, with access to care hampered.
- **Security and corruption issues**, which are major challenges in contexts of instability or political crisis for some countries.

40% of CSOs are involved in **2 or 3 of the fund's themes.**

84% of CSOs operate at **the local or national level.**

The needs

From the CSOs' perspective, the main need remains the **need for funding**:

- **Flexible:** to better adapt to their unstable and constantly changing situations
- **Sustainable:** to allow organizations to structure themselves, to stabilize their existence, to project themselves in the long term and to build mobilizations and actions in the long run.

76%

of CSOs express **project** or **operational funding** as their primary need.

64,4%

of CSOs have budgets of **less than €50,000 per year**.

The needs

Issue 1 - Matching budgets to CSOs needs

The CSOs express a **discrepancy between existing funding and their needs** (size of the envelopes, impossibility of modifying projects if the contexts change, unsuitability to local realities)

57%

of CSOs do not receive **any institutional funding** (national or international).

The needs

Issue 2 - Sustaining funding

CSOs explain that short-term or project-specific funding does not allow them to develop. In order to structure themselves, they need **sustainable operating funding** and **longer-term project funding**.

Almost all of the experts and CSOs interviewed emphasized the need to ensure the sustainability of funding.

The needs

Issue 3 - Flexibility in administrative procedures

CSOs report problems with **access to funding**, which requires a lot of administrative work (responding to calls for proposals and reporting) for the structures.

10%

of CSOs are not legally registered.

62%

of CSOs have less than 3 employees.

They rely mainly or exclusively on their volunteers.

The needs

The study also identified **capacity building needs** in two areas:

- **Project management, monitoring and evaluation:** the CSOs interviewed mention a need for training and support in structuring and monitoring their actions.
- **Communication and advocacy:** CSOs mention a need for support in mastering communication tools that are seen as essential to making their actions visible, influencing political decision-making and changing mentalities.

