

Final evaluation of the project

FÉMINISTES EN ACTION

After four years of implementation (2021-2024), the Feminists in Action project, which aims to amplify feminist voices in countries in the Global South, was evaluated with a view to learning from this experience and informing the future direction of French feminist diplomacy.



€15 million - First intermediary fund allocated by AFD via Channel 1 of the Feminist Organizations Support Fund (FSOF), including €7.5 million dedicated to grants for feminist CSOs

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- To **report on the quality** of the work accomplished and the achievement of the project's objectives, as well as its contribution in terms of transformational effects.
- To **identify the added value** of "intermediated fund" for the consortium's actors, for the recipient feminist civil society organizations (CSOs), and for the beneficiaries of these CSOs.
- To **provide a source of information** for all stakeholders and serve as a decision-making tool.



30 countries of implementation of the project



270 grants awarded to **199 feminist CSOs**

A project carried out by a consortium of:



A RELEVANT AND INNOVATIVE APPROACH CLOSE TO THE REALITIES OF CSOS

An experimental laboratory

The project played a **key role in better understanding the expectations and needs** of feminist CSOs, but also in facilitating the implementation of future funds. It made it possible to test, adjust, and consolidate the foundations of a system tailored to the needs of CSOs.

A truly feminist stance

The project stands out as an **accessible gateway aligned with a strategically feminist approach** due to its ambition, inclusive scope, flexibility, and adaptability. It aims to be structuring, supporting both the actions and the strengthening of CSOs.

A response tailored to the needs of feminist CSOs

Its thematic flexibility has enabled feminist CSOs to **propose actions consistent with their vision, priorities, and skills**, without constraining them to rigid programmatic frameworks.

Support approaches rooted in the realities on the ground

Each member of the consortium has been able to **mobilize its own support approaches, adapted** to the contexts of intervention, to support CSOs while following a common guideline:

- No competition
- Local support
- Respect and trust
- Comprehensive and continuous support

THE EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

Empowerment of feminist CSOs



CSOs have gained recognition. They have affirmed their vision and strengthened their position within the local and national ecosystem. Capacitybuilding actions have helped to develop the confidence and autonomy of teams. The project has enabled organizations to increase the effectiveness and scope of their actions.

CSOs have been supported in their desire to influence debates and public policy, despite often closed and hostile contexts. The project has contributed to them being more sought after and listened to in the public sphere. It has highlighted the experience and expertise of feminist CSOs.



Strengthening the visibility of CSOs and increased influence

Strengthening CSO alliances and highlighting the collective's strength



The transformations that have been initiated remain fragile and unevenly anchored. Despite uncertainties related to financial sustainability, activities in the field continue thanks to the determination and involvement of committed actors. However, this resilience still relies heavily on volunteer commitments, exposing collectives to the risk of activist burnout.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EVALUATION

For the CONSORTIUM

1. Extend the duration of funded projects to allow for real anchoring and enhanced support over time.
2. Continue to make the feminist framework a common foundation for the project, incorporating clear political objectives from the outset in the design and contractualization of actions carried out by CSOs.
3. Continue to recognize and promote the diversity of activist profiles by encouraging pluralistic representation in spaces for public discourse.
4. Continue to strengthen multi-level feminist alliances by positioning recipient CSOs as legitimate interlocutors in spaces for negotiation with institutions, donors, and public authorities.
5. Strengthen inter-CSO networks and alliances at the regional level to ensure the continuity of mobilization on shared issues beyond the project.

For PARTNERS

1. Maintain and expand direct funding to local CSOs, including informal or loosely structured ones, despite their low compliance with conventional standards.
2. Continue to fund projects based on themes defined by the CSOs themselves, even if they do not exactly match donor priorities.
3. Ensure the continuity of interventions.
4. Continue to recognize the diversity of forms of feminist organization without imposing a normative model.
5. Strengthen ties with French embassies and local AFD agencies.
6. Make feminist diplomacy a concrete lever for supporting feminist activists, collectives, and networks, beyond the political or communication agenda alone.