FEMINIST OPPORTUNITIES NOW

AFRICA

1. **GUINEA** 18 organizations
2. **IVOIRE COAST** 15 organizations
3. **BURKINA FASO** 8 organizations
4. **NIGER** 7 organizations
5. **ETHIOPIA** 16 organizations
6. **KENYA** 16 organizations

ASIA

7. **SRI LANKA** 23 organizations
8. **BANGLADESH** 20 organizations

SOUTH AMERICA

9. **MEXICO** 23 organizations
10. **COLOMBIA** 20 organizations

POLICY BRIEF: SUPPORTING GRASSROOTS FEMINIST ORGANISATIONS FROM A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE: LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE GLOBAL CAPITALISATION OF THE 'FON' MODEL

At a time when feminist movements are facing shrinking civic space, increasing anti-rights backlash, and declining access to flexible funding, the **FON** model demonstrates that another form of international cooperation is possible: one grounded in trust, autonomy, flexibility, and movement-building.

The **FON** (Feminist Opportunities Now) programme represents a concrete example of the operationalisation of a feminist approach to support the strengthening of feminist ecosystems.

The **"FON model"** is characterised by its alignment with feminist values — trust, horizontality, respect for autonomy, inclusivity, care — and by its ability to adapt to diverse contexts and organisations. Its impact is not limited to strengthening the supported organisations: the programme has also brought about a significant transformation in the practices, stances and intervention methods of the consortium's organisations.

Against a backdrop of questioning traditional models of support and aid, the comprehensive evaluation of the **FON** project carried out in 2026 highlights key lessons for rethinking support mechanisms for feminist civil society, particularly grassroots organisations, and moving towards forms of cooperation more consistent with the values of feminist diplomacy.

FEMINIST OPPORTUNITIES NOW (FON) PROGRAMME

FON is a programme funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) and implemented between 2022 and 2026 by a consortium of five international organisations — Médecins du Monde, IPPF, CREA, Empow'Her and the FIDH — with the aim of strengthening the capacity of feminist movements to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

The programme is being rolled out in ten countries across Africa, Latin America and Asia (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Colombia, Mexico, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) and combines direct funding for feminist organisations, capacity-building, strategic guidance, advocacy support and movement-building.

The intervention model is based on a combination of complementary tools: grants to feminist organisations — including small groups or informal collectives — tailored technical support, project development, support for feminist networks and movements, and advocacy work at various levels.

KEY RESULTS AT ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL

210 Grassroots feminist organisations, networks and groups supported across 10 countries.

188 Organisations have strengthenet their capacity prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

223 Organisations took part in collective learning and capacity-building processes.

83 Organisations received specific support for their advocacy initiatives.

52 organisations secured new sources of funding outside the **FON** programme, thereby strengthening their long-term sustainability and resilience.

__FON__ aims to strengthen the resilience, sustainability and influence of organisations, particularly smaller ones, to enable them to operate in complex contexts and to enhance their capacity to exert influence at local, national and international levels.

FON TOWARDS A MODEL OF FEMINIST SUPPORT

International cooperation continues to operate under rules that limit the potential of feminist movements: inflexible, short-term funding and unequal relationships.

In contexts of democratic crisis and shrinking civic space, these models are not only inadequate — they are part of the problem.

In response to these limitations, the **FON** programme has sought to experiment with a different form of support, aligned with the principles and practices of feminist movements.

This is a model based on trust, autonomy and care, which recognises feminist organisations as political actors in their own right. It moves away from asymmetrical power dynamics in which organisations are often regarded merely as executors rather than as central actors in the production of knowledge and collective action.

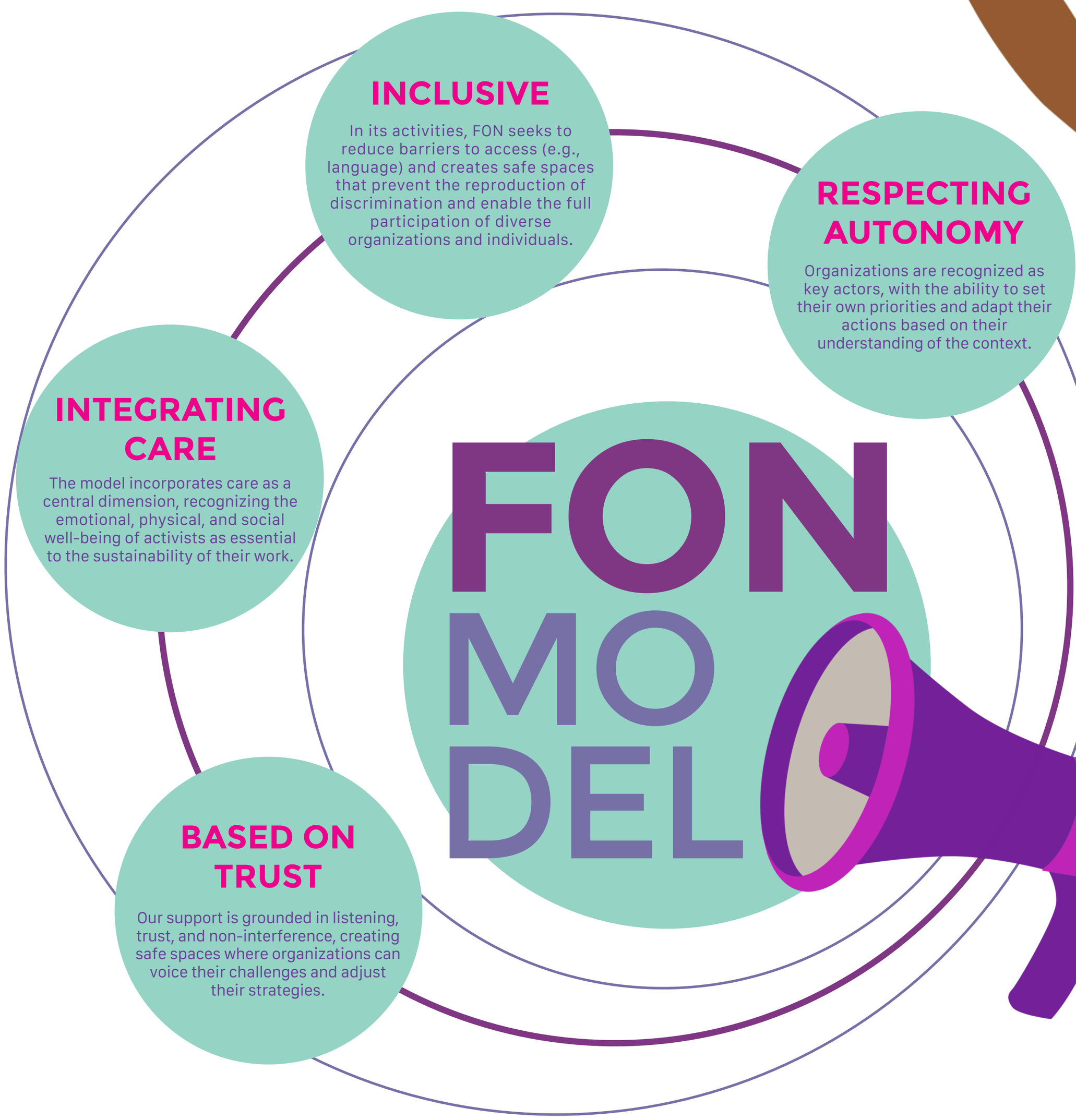
Furthermore, the programme places particular emphasis on support mechanisms, conceived as a central element of the model. Beyond funding, **FON** promotes relationships based on trust, active listening and non-interference, with a capacity for adaptation and responsiveness to the needs of organisations. This closeness allows support to be adjusted over time, to respond to unforeseen situations and to create an environment in which organisations can express their challenges without jeopardising the support they receive.

A transformation of practice

The implementation of the **FON** model has resulted in observable developments at two interrelated levels.

The programme has contributed to strengthening the supported feminist organisations, not only in terms of technical capacity, but also in terms of their strategic positioning, autonomy and coordination with other stakeholders.

Beyond strengthening individual organisations, **FON** has helped to consolidate feminist ecosystems by promoting collaboration, peer learning and collective advocacy. Flexible funding and tailored support have enabled organisations to strengthen their strategic positioning, participate in political processes and respond to changing political contexts. Across the programme, 138 organisations have built their capacity, 83 have received support for their advocacy initiatives and 223 have participated in collective learning processes.



STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR COOPERATION

FON's experience shows that there are other opportunities for cooperation between donors, funds, and philanthrop organizations and feminist movements and organizations.

FON's experience offers several strategic lessons for donors and cooperation actors seeking to support feminist movements and organisations more effectively:

1 FUND ORGANIZATIONS, NOT JUST PROJECTS

Shift the focus from project funding to organisational support. This involves moving from an approach centred on the implementation of predetermined activities to one that prioritises strengthening organisations' capacities, autonomy and sustainability over time. In practice, this requires designing funding mechanisms that cover structural costs, support strategic processes and adapt to changing contexts, rather than merely funding specific activities with predefined outcomes.

2 ADOPT AN ECOSYSTEMIC APPROACH

Move away from a logic of individual support for certain organisations, and prioritize a strategy combining different types of support and activities to strengthen feminist ecosystems, particularly the least represented segments (young feminist movements, organisations defending the rights of LGBTQI+ people, feminist organisations working on disability, sex workers, people living with HIV, feminist organisations in conflict-affected /politically restricted contexts, etc.).

3 ENSURE TRUE FEXIBILITY

Introduce genuine flexibility into funding mechanisms, allowing for adaptations based on context and recognising the diversity of organisational trajectories. This involves offering various channels of support — for organisations, collectives and coalitions alike — and different operational modalities (amount, duration, etc.), whilst allowing organisations to define their own budgets and priorities according to their specific contexts.

4 TRANSFORM SUPPORT RELATIONSHIPS

Basing them on trust, active listening and respect for the autonomy of organisations, rather than reproducing hierarchical dynamics that lead to a donor–beneficiary dynamic rather than a partnership-based approach. This involves having a feminist support team that shares common values, is responsive and dedicated, and has adequate resources.

5 FUNDING CARE AND SAFETY

Incorporating aspects that are often overlooked in international cooperation, such as care (including self-care), the safety and digital security of activists, safe and accessible digital spaces, and the linguistic and political barriers that limit the participation of certain actors — all of which require sustained funding and long-term commitment.

FON should not be understood as an isolated pilot, but as a transferable framework for feminist cooperation capable of informing future funding mechanisms and partnership models.

MOVEMENTS THAT TRANSFORM

FROM DOCUMENTATION TO INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

Following a workshop on the ethical documentation of gender-based violence organized by FIDH, EMAF and IDHEAS documented the disappearances of women and girls linked to human trafficking in Mexico. Their report, *Who Is Looking for Us?* Who Cares About Us?, received significant national media coverage and, thanks to strategic support from **FON**'s partners, was subsequently presented at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

This example illustrates how the combination of capacity-building, guidance, and advocacy support has enabled grassroots feminist organizations to highlight their evidence and influence international policy-making forums.

52 ORGANIZATIONS STRENGTHEN THEIR FINANCIAL AUTONOMY THANKS TO THE FON MODEL

Thanks to **FON**'s personalized support, 52 feminist organizations have secured new sources of funding, strengthening their sustainability, strategic capabilities, and ability to develop collaborations within feminist ecosystems.

These results illustrate the importance of investing in the organizations themselves — and not just in their projects — to support their autonomy, capacity for innovation, and long-term impact.

• LATIN AMERICA •

// **COLOMBIA** // Aquelarre // Alianza Joven // Sororidad Sureña // Con-Vivamos // Corporación El Cuarto Mosquetero // Corporación Putamente Poderosas // Corporación Violeta en Movimiento // Fundación Empodérame // Fundación Arte con Amor // Fundación Casa de la Mujer // Fundación Luciérnagas de Colombia // Fundación MOIRAS // Fundación Movimiento Feminista de Niñas y Mujeres Wayuu // Fundación Movimiento de Mujeres Unidas Diversas y Empoderadas (MUDE) // Ítaca laboratorio – Red de organizaciones feministas y diverses del Eje Cafetero // Machis entrelazadas // Montañeras Enruanadas-Colectiva abortera Cundiboyacense // Fundación Mujer y Futuro // Red Departamental de Mujeres Chocoanas // Útera Casa Feminista // Corporación Vamos Mujer // **MÉXICO** // ACASAC //Afrocaracolas // Brújula Intersexual // CDMCH (Centro de Derechos de las Mujeres de Chiapas) // Colectiva Arte, Comunidad y Equidad // Colectivo Algaraza // Colibríes // Programa Compañeros, Creciendo en diversidad humana Yumana // El taller // Equipo Mexicano de Antropología Forense (EMAF) // Familia Desaparecidos de Orizaba // Las Calafias // Luminas // Mujeres de la Tierra // Nos Queremos Vivas // Observatorio de Violencia contra las Mujeres en Guerrero // Pueblos y Comunidades Indígenas Transfronterizos (PUCOMIT) // Red Feminista para el acceso a la Justicia // Red de organizaciones para la defensa de los derechos humanos de las mujeres indígenas y la equidad de género en nuestras comunidades (RODMI) // Red Jacarandas // Red por una política fiscal feminista // Tlali **• ASIA •** // **BANGLADESH** // Disability Pride Bangladesh // Shongshoptok // Ashar Prodeep (AP) // Bangladesh Disabled Development Trust - BDDT // Bolipara Nar Kalyan Somity (BNKS) // Association for Social Development of Bangladesh (ASDB) // Justicia Feminist Network // SPARC // Pathchola Foundation // Oboyob Diversity Circle // Prerona // Nice Foundation // Welfare Association for Development Alternative (WADA) // Youth for Change Bangladesh Foundation // Dalit Women Forum // Jago Nari Unnayon Sangstha (JNUS) // Sex Workers Network // Rape Law Reform Coalition (RLRC) / and Cyber Support for Women and Children (CSWC) Lead - Bangladesh // Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) // Showhardo Alliance // Bangladesh Land Rights Network // Lead- Badabon Sangho // **SRI LANKA** // Venasa Transgender Network // The Grassrooted Trust // Heart to Heart Lanka // Delete Nothing // Sankranthi Foundation (formerly National Transgender Network) // Social Welfare Mandram // Stand Up Movement // Equite // Care Consortium - Red Umbrella Network (DAST) // Sri Lanka Women's NGO (SLWNGOF) - Lead: WERC // The Mannar Women's Development Federation (MWDF) // E- Wing-Independent Centre for Empowering Women and Children // Association of Women with Disabilities // Uva Human Resource Development Foundation // Positive Hopes Alliance // Revolutionary Existence for Human Development (RED) // Circle Wing of Young Feminist Team // Islamic Women's Association for Research and Empowerment - IWAR // Center for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation- cpbr // Community Brotherhood Organisation // Sisterhood Initiative // THOLAMAI // Community Encouragement Foundation (CEF)**• AFRICA•** **ETHIOPIA** // Need for Nutrition (N4ED) // Ethiopian Women with Disability National Association (EWDNA) // The Family Guidance Associaton of Ethiopia(FGAE) // Araya Women and Children Charitable Organization (AWCCO) // Joy Development Organization (JDO) // Extending Access and Systems Enhancement // Help Generation // The Ethiopia Network of Women Shelters (ENWS) // Network of Ethiopian Women´s Associations (NEWA) // YMP// Underground Digital Rights and Queer Media from Ethiopia // The Good Samaritan Association // Rise and Shine // Tesfa Hiwot HIV Positive Women Association of Tigray (THHPWAT) // Eurika, Éthiopie // Ethiopian Women's Rights Advocates (EWRA) // Conseil éthiopien des droits de l'homme (EHRCO) // **KENYA** // Société pour l'autonomisation des personnes sourdes du Kenya//Alliance africaine des travailleurs du sexe (ASWA) // FIK Feminist in Kenya // Youth Changers Kenya (YCK)// Entashata Loita Community Based Organization // Kiambu Sex Workers Alliance// MaryFaith Children Center (MFCC)// Jinsiangu// Smart Ladies Youth Initiativa (SLYI)// Survivors of Sexual Violence in Kenya (SSVKenya)// RHNK // Azadi Kenya // The Poor Philantropist // Entrepreneur Empowerment Advocacy-Health// Trust for Indigenous Culture& Health (TICAH) // **BURKINA-FASO** // Association des jeunes femmes entrepreneurs (AJFEB) du Burkina Faso // Centre d´Etude et de Prospection en Développement solidaire (C.EPRO.DE.S) // Action Communautaire pour le Bien-être de l'Enfant et de la Femme au Burkina (ABEFAB) // Association Soeurs pour Soeurs/Tond Laa Taaba // Coalition Agir Contre les Violences basées sur le Genre au Burkina Faso - Faso CAC_VBG // Consortium des organisations des femmes rurales leaders du Burkina Faso (COFRL-B) // ssociation Bonne Gouvernance et Developpement Local de la Tapoa (ABGDL/tapoa) // Initiative Pananetugri pour le Bien-Etre de la Femme // **GUINEA** // Rassem-blement des Jeunes Leaders de Guinée // Initiatives des jeunes pour le bienêtre de la femme et l'enfant // Organisation des secours aux handicapés de Guinée // Organisation Force de femmes // Solidarite Suisse-Guinee (SSG) // Réseau Ouest Africain des femmes handicapées (ROFAH) // Women of Africa // Femmes Développement et DroitsHumains Guinée (F2DHG) // Amazonnes de la Presse Guinée // Mon Enfant Ma Vie (MEMAV // Femmes et Filles pour le Développement Durable (FFDD) // Cellule Feminine pour la Protection de l´Enfant et de la Jeune Fille (CFPEJF) // Association Guinéenne des Femmes Actives // Alliance des Jeunes pour la Cause des Femmes AJCF // Afrique ARC-EN-CIEL Guinée // E-Education Citoyenne Guinea // You Fondation GN // **NIGER** // Reseau Feminist Nigerienne // Association Nigérienne pour la Bien-Etre dela Famille (ANBEF) // Femmes Action Développement // Ligue Nigérienne des Droit des Femmes // Jeunesse Active pour le Développement Communautaire Niger (JADCN)) // Ecole Parrainage, Action et Dévelop-pement (EPAD) // Women in Nexus (WIN) // **IVORY COAST** // Association invoirienne pour le bien-être familial (AIBEF) // Coalition des Organisations Féministes de Côte d'Ivoire (COFEMCI) // Women in Law and Development in Africa/ côte d´Ivoire (WILDAF-CI) //Espace Confiance // Associaotion des Femmes Juristes de CI // Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits des Femmes // Akwaba Mousso // Réseau Ivoirien des Femmes LBQ-RIF // Action et Humanisme // Save Rural Women and Children (SRWOCH) // Femmes Veuves d´Afrique (FVA) // Digu Tugu // SOS Forêts // Fondation Digui pour la Grande Esperance // Initiative Tile