

Call for Proposals (summary)

May 2023

## **SUPPORT FUND FOR FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS (FSOF)**

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **MULTI-COUNTRY**

"FEMINISMS, WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC  
PARTICIPATION  
- CZZ3256 -

**2023**

Summary of the key information of the Call for Proposal in [ENGLISH](#).

Please note that the original version, or in other words the French version, is the complete and authentic text and shall prevail in case of inconsistencies.

The [Agence Française de Développement](#) (AFD) proposes to subsidize civil society organizations (CSOs) for the implementation of a financing, strengthening and structuring mechanism for feminist organizations in partner countries of the French development and solidarity policy, whose main objective is equality between women and men (rated 2 according to the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) "gender" marker).

The call for projects is aimed at all developing [countries in which AFD has a mandate to operate](#) (excluding "major emerging countries"<sup>1</sup>), whether in Africa, South Asia or Latin America and the Caribbean, with however a concentration of funding on CSOs on the African continent (including North Africa, excluding Sahel) up to 65%, according to a defined framework (see the terms of reference - Section XII).

AFD has a 9.9 million euro grant envelope for this purpose. The call for projects aims to select a consortium of French and/or international and/or national CSOs from partner countries from all over the world, that will manage funding (the entire 9.9 MEUR envelope) for feminist local CSOs in the developing countries that are partners of French development and solidarity policy and AFD's countries of intervention, with exception of "major emerging countries"<sup>2</sup>.

The overall duration of the project will be between 3 and 4 years, with the possibility of financing feminist CSOs over variable durations, depending on the project, within this overall framework.

The selection of the consortium is made on the basis of a project note (see model - Section III) accompanied by a financial outline, a logical framework, a chronogram, a table of financial distribution within the consortium, an administrative file and information sheets (Section IV to XI) **to be submitted no later than Monday, June 26, 2023 at 8:00 a.m Paris time**, via the online submission form on the page dedicated to the call for proposals on the AFD website<sup>3</sup>.

The selected CSO consortium will be invited to continue the appraisal, in close contact with the AFD Project Team Leader, and will submit a final project note. The final and complete proposal should include any elements resulting from a dialogue with the designated AFD Project Team Leader and will allow her to submit the project to AFD's grant approval bodies.

**Complete information on the call for projects "Feminism, women's empowerment and economic participation" is available on the dedicated page of AFD's website:**

<https://www.afd.fr/fr/appel-projets-fsof-feminismes-autonomisation-economique>

**The call for proposals can be downloaded from the DGMarket website:**

<https://afd.dgmarket.com/> as of Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

The call for projects is also relayed on the AFD website for calls for projects (<https://www.afd.fr/fr/appels-projets>) and the AFD FSOF website (<https://www.afd.fr/fr/fonds-de-soutien-aux-organisations-feministes-fsof>).

**For any additional information, applicants must send their questions by Monday 15 May 2023 - 08h00, Paris time, by contact form only on the page dedicated to the call for projects on the AFD website** ("CONTACT" tab). All the answers to the questions sent will be published on the "FAQ" tab (Frequently Asked Questions), at the latest within the next 5 working days.

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<sup>1</sup> Local feminist CSO that are located in countries considered as "major emerging countries" will not be eligible for grants under this funding: Brazil, Mexico, China, South Africa, India, Indonesia, and Turkey.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Proposals will be written in French, English or Spanish. However, if the initial proposal is written in English or Spanish, the Consortium will have to agree to continue the appraisal and contracting of the project in French only.

## Reminder of key definitions (according to the FSOF strategic framework)

**Support Fund For Feminist Organizations (FSOF):** Complementing other international initiatives or bilateral projects financed by France on equality issues, the FSOF has mobilized more than 120 million euros over three years (2020, 2021, 2022) to finance the activities and operations of feminist civil society organizations in countries that are partners of France's development and international solidarity policy. It is co-sponsored by the AFD and French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. The Agence Française de Développement is the funder for this project.

**Intermediated fund mechanism :** This call for proposals aims to select a consortium that have the capacity to manage and implement large-scale projects, that will create and implement an administrative, financial and logistical funding mechanism (intermediated fund) for local feminist CSOs in several countries

Level 1: Consortium of CSOs
Level 2: Local Feminist CSO (recipients of funds)
Level 3: People final beneficiaries of local feminist CSOs' activities

**Feminist civil society organization (CSOs)** ("Level 2 or 1") : According to the FSOF's strategic framework, the FSOF is aimed at *"feminist civil society organizations (CSOs) in all their diversity, both formally constituted and informal, that aim to work for gender equality and sustainable transformation of gender-based social relations, and particularly those whose primary mission is the defense and promotion of the effective rights and empowerment of women and girls."*

► They can be recipients of funds or member of the consortium.

**Consortium (Members of the)** ("Level 1"): One or more non-profit organizations, French and/or international and/or national CSOs from all countries of the world, including countries that are partners of France's development and international solidarity policy, structured as a consortium that respond together to the call for proposals, carry out the project (implementation of the three components) and work in partnership with local structures, particularly local ones such as the local feminist CSOs.

**Lead partner of the Consortium** ("Level 1") : AFD will sign an agreement only with the lead CSO, duly authorized (legal power) to represent the other members of the consortium (in the name and on behalf of the consortium). The consortium lead organization may be any French and/or international and/or national CSO from any country in the world, with the required capacities and meeting the selection criteria detailed in the call for proposals. It will be AFD's main interlocutor.

► The main contact has to speak French for contractualization with the AFD (all legal documents will be in French).

**Recipients of funds** ("Level 2"): Also known as "local feminist CSOs", these are feminist civil society organizations from French development and solidarity policy partner countries, which will be funded by grant under the project (component 1) and will benefit in particular from capacity building and networking activities deployed by the consortium (components 2 and 3).

**Final beneficiaries** ("Level 3"): Individuals/physical persons supported and targeted by the proposed field activities, including local feminist CSOs funded as recipients of funds.

**Implementing Partners:** Structures (service providers, etc.), other than consortium members, to which the implementation of certain project activities could be delegated/outsourced by the consortium in accordance with [AFD's Procurement Guidelines in Foreign States](#).

## Reminder of the call for proposal's key information

- **Goal:** financing an intermediated fund carried by a consortium of associative structures, in order to strengthen local feminist CSOs to promote gender equality in and through economic empowerment and participation of women and LGBTQIA+ people.
- **Amount:** 9,9 million euros
- **Duration:** 3 to 4 years.
- **Call for proposal open to:**
  - o French and/or international and/or national non-profit organizations from all countries of the world, including partner countries of France's development and international solidarity policy, structured as a **consortium** (hereafter called "the Consortium"), and working in partnership with structures, notably local ones meeting the definition specified in the FSOF's 2020-2022 Strategic and Accountability Framework, namely: *"feminist civil society organizations in all their diversity, whether formally constituted or not, that aim to work for gender equality and sustainable transformation of gender-based social relations, and particularly those whose primary mission is the defense and promotion of the effective rights and empowerment of women and girls."*
  - o With expertise in women's economic empowerment and gender equality, based on a multidimensional approach to inequalities: particularly on (i) issues of women's and LGBTQIA+ people's access to basic prerequisites, beyond the strictly economic sphere, as well as to productive resources (and their control over them), to be able to empower themselves economically (ii) improving decent work, employment, rights, and equality for women and LGBTQIA+ people active in the formal and informal economies, and (iii) promoting gender-transformative policies and practices, particularly in the care economy.
  - o With experience in facilitating transformational mechanisms on gender, in terms of a rights-based approach, particularly in the area of employment and economic empowerment of women, according to an inclusive approach that takes into account the factors of multidimensional inequalities;
  - o Having previous experience of partnership with feminist civil society organizations, networking and funding of their activities;
  - o Having the capacity to deploy communication channels with local and community CSOs in various contexts;
  - o With expertise in building community and civil society organization capacity and identifying good practices;
  - o Previous experience in action research / capitalization (intellectual production, South-South knowledge sharing) / advocacy, influence and political action;
  - o Having a detailed knowledge of the ecosystems of the proposed countries of intervention;
  - o With proven administrative and financial management capabilities in multiple and varied geographical areas;
  - o Having operational capacities / management of multi-stakeholder projects, including in remote areas of intervention.
  - o Represented by a lead CSO who must demonstrate a presence in at least one of the countries in the targeted geographic area. The entire consortium providing geographic coverage for the project.  
The annual budget of the proposed project should not represent more than 70% of the annual resources over the last 3 certified financial years of the lead CSO.

The members of the selected consortium could be, for example : global or regional feminist networks or associations (operational, activist, research and expertise activities); global or regional funds to support women's movements; International trade union federations ; CSO networks acting on inequalities ; global and regional NGOs...

- **Call for proposal for the benefit of** formally and informally constituted local feminist CSOs, that work for gender equality and the sustainable transformation of gender-based social relations, particularly those whose primary mission is the defense and promotion of the effective rights and empowerment of women and girls.  
The consortium will issue its own calls for projects to select the local feminist CSOs that will be funded by grant under the project (component 1) and will benefit from capacity building and networking activities deployed by the consortium (components 2 and 3).
- **Geographies:** The project must be carried out in the partner countries of France's development and international solidarity policy in which AFD has a mandate to operate<sup>4</sup> - but not in the so-called "major emerging countries"<sup>5</sup> - with the following distribution:
  - o Between a minimum of 50% and a maximum of 65% of funding to local feminist CSOs recipients on the **African continent** (including North Africa, excluding Sahel)
    - ▶ Prioritized countries: Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Togo, Guinea
  - o 35% minimum cumulative towards local feminist CSOs located in **South Asian** and **Latin American** and **Caribbean countries**.
    - ▶ Prioritized countries: Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ecuador, Dominican Republic

The project should cover at least two geographies (Africa + South Asia and/or Latin America and Caribbean), and 6 of the 11 prioritized countries above, in order to complement the initiatives identified by the AFD<sup>6</sup>, exchange experiences and practices, network and build alliances between feminist CSOs at the regional and international levels, and guarantee a demonstrative effect. The consortium will have to justify the choice of these countries (similarities / disparities; experience of the consortium; possible links between the actors... etc).

It is expected that proposals will focus on these countries, but proposals can include countries that are not on the list above<sup>7</sup>. If other countries are chosen, this choice must be explained and justified, and will constitute an evaluation criterion. The effect of regional drive and dynamics will be sought.

- **Components:**  
Component 1: Provision of flexible funding at the level of local feminist CSOs (At least 50% of the total budget of 9.9M€ = 4.95M€)
  - o Activities to support gender equality in and through the economic empowerment of women and LGBTQIA+ people

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<sup>4</sup> The list of AFD's countries of intervention is provided in the annex but can also be find on the website <https://www.afd.fr/en/le-reseau-des-agences>

<sup>5</sup> Local feminist CSO that are located in countries considered as "major emerging countries" will not be eligible for grants under this funding: Brazil, Mexico, China, South Africa, India, Indonesia, and Turkey.

<sup>6</sup> The AFD carried out a feasibility study in the preparatory phase of this Call for Proposals, which is available in the annex of the Call for Proposals

<sup>7</sup> As long as they are part of AFD's intervention countries, with the exception of the "major emerging countries"

- o Activities to support the functioning/development of local formal or informal feminist CSOs in the field

Component 2: Technical capacity building of local feminist CSOs

- o Development of a range of technical and financial management training courses
- o Support for the development of a strategic plan and viable business model
- o Support for the definition of advocacy messages, establishment of synergies with other ongoing actions, capitalization of good practices, development of content and communication materials

Component 3: Capitalization, sharing of practices and networking

- o Communication, visibility
- o Facilitation of a community of practice (capitalization of CSO expertise, knowledge and experience transfer mechanisms between them)

## Extracts of the call of proposal's terms of reference

- **State of play**

Despite steady progress, women generally have less access to the labor market than men. When this is the case, they are more exposed to low quality jobs, accentuating economic and social dependence, restricting their access to social protection and making them particularly vulnerable to poverty and precariousness.

Gender equality issues identified:

- o Increase access to and control over the economic sphere and productive resources for women and LGBTQIA+ people,
- o improve decent work, employment, rights and equality in the formal and informal economies,
- o promoting gender-transformative policies and practices, particularly in the area of the economics of care

- **Objectives of the project:**

- 1) support capacity building for feminists movements in countries that are partners of France's development and international solidarity policy,
- 2) Support local feminist organizations to improve the rights, empowerment and economic participation of women, especially the most vulnerable, using a rights-based approach and taking into account multidimensional inequality factors,
- 3) Broaden the scope of action and expertise of local feminist associations on these issues.

► Aims to demonstrate and support sustainable approaches to developing actions promoting gender equality in and through the economic empowerment of women and LGBTQIA+ people.

- **Desired leverage effects (non-exhaustive)**

- o The removal of barriers to women's and LGBTQIA+ people's access to and control over basic requirements beyond the strictly economic sphere, as well as to productive resources, in order to empower themselves economically and claim their rights;
- o The improvement of decent work, employment, rights and equality of women and LGBTQIA+ people in the formal and informal economies;

- Promoting gender-transformative policies and practices, particularly in the care economy; advocating for laws, standards and policies that promote women's rights and empowerment;
- Strengthening the capacity for action and the individual and collective foundations ("life skills", soft skills and empowerment of women) supporting their economic emancipation;
- Strengthening and sustaining alliances between feminist CSOs working on the issue;
- Involvement and change of perception of actors for the economic empowerment of women and LGBTQIA+ people;
- Increasing the voice and representation of women and LGBTQIA+ people in their societies and in power structures on issues related to their education and empowerment;
- The production and valorisation of local knowledge to guide feminist action.