



2nd XOESE FRANCOPHONE FORUM

XOESE
The Francophone Women's Fund
Le Fonds pour les Femmes Francophones

FINAL REPORT

XOESE INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE FORUM 2023

+250

Participants
in person

+400

Participants
online

23

Countries

04

Pre-events

04

Plenary
Sessions

47

Parallel
Sessions

01

Gala evening

Rebroadcast in **9 countries** for more than **1159 participants**



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I/ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The [Francophone Forums](#) that the XOESE Fund has been organizing since 2021 create important spaces for meetings and exchanges between women's rights activists and with the partners who support them. These spaces constitute important frameworks that allow them to meet and initiate all kinds of conversations and actions that will ultimately strengthen their capacities, collaboration within the movement and create better synergy in their actions. Such a space does not exist and this partly explains a certain number of challenges facing the Francophone women's

and young women's movement, in particular, conflicts, aggression, rivalries, mistrust, meanness, the virtual absence of collaboration, the lack of sharing, the opportunity to show sisterhood, etc.

Certainly, some of the activists and leaders of women's and young women's organizations have various opportunities to participate in different events at the local, national, regional and international levels. But it is not the same when they manage to have a space exclusively dedicated to building their movement. A space where the language barrier, to a certain extent, is no longer a problem for exchanging - although French is not the mother tongue of a large majority of them. This is natural, since it is the language of the colonizer, which has now become the administrative language of our countries and the main vehicular language of our linguistic zone.

The space of the Francophone Forum, as we conceive it at XOESE, is a space that is, of course, created by XOESE, but has always been and must continue to be co-constructed with the activists. It is their space, it is our common space and they must claim it. I hope that they will continue to co-construct it with us for the strengthening of our common movement, our personal well-being as defenders and for the good of our organizations. The Francophone Forum is a space where we focus solely on strengthening the movement and where we exclusively strategize on how to improve our processes, our practices, our approach, our strategies, in short, on our work as defenders.

In the Francophone Forums space, we do more than just discuss; we initiate actions to take care of our mental, psychological, spiritual, emotional and physical well-being. We dare to go further and lift the veil on taboo subjects, the silent and unacknowledged needs of defenders without obliterating the challenges we face on a daily basis within our organizations.



I think that such a space must be maintained regardless of the challenges to create it, because as Francophone activists for rights, we deserve to be considered as human beings who also have rights and needs, which must be taken care of. Because our performance on the grounds of our daily struggles depends on it.

From the [first Forum of 2021](#), we were able to transform challenges into opportunities and show inventiveness and audacity to create a 100% virtual forum when activists were barely used to holding two-hour online meetings. Despite the poor quality of internet connections in our countries, we succeeded even if everything was not perfect.

I hope that we will never stop showing imagination in our lives, in our daily activism and during the next Francophone Forums.

I hope that we will continue to find innovative ideas to constantly renew and improve ourselves in order to succeed in surpassing ourselves to change the perception that other linguistic women's movements have of us: because we have capacity and skills within us. We are able to overcome our differences and work together. We are professionals who know how to put aside our personal points of view when the common good is at stake.

I believe in us and in the future of XOESE.

By announcing the **next Francophone Forum** to be held from **September 23 to 26, 2025 in Togo**, we are taking an act of faith and I invite all our partners to follow suit to continue supporting the movement of Francophone women and young women.

The Founder and President of the XOESE Fund

Massan d'ALMEIDA



II/ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to warmly thank all our technical partners who supported us in organizing the [2023 Francophone Forum](#) and enabled us to carry out this important event and achieve the announced results.

Despite our goodwill and ingenuity, this edition of the Forum could not have been possible without the financial support of our partners:

[Equality Fund](#)

[OAK Foundation](#)

[Fondation Chanel](#)

[African Women Development Fund \(AWDF\)](#)

[Urgent Action Fund Africa \(UAF\)](#)

[Black Feminist Fund](#)

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[Mize Family Foundation](#)

Individual and anonymous donors

We extend our sincere thanks to all the resource persons who were with us in person and remotely despite their busy schedules:

- * les membres du Conseil d'Administration de XOESE,
 - Massan d'ALMEIDA, President and Founder
 - Wilhelmine (Willy) NTAKEBUKA WENE Mwafizi,
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- * Dr Jeanne Joséphine Marie Catherine Diaw, Sexologist
- * Dr Akpédjé Olivia GAMATHO, Psychologist
- * Honorable Maître Molga KADJAKA-ABOUGNIMA
- * Colonel Belei Bediani B.
- * Prof. Justine Diffo, and
- * all the Session initiators

We cannot ignore:

- * all the service providers coordinated by NICA, the Event Agency who went above and beyond to provide us with a high-level setting and services;
- * The managers and staff of the two hotels that hosted the event, Petit Brussels and El Doria, who provided us with all possible assistance.

Thanks also go to all the staff and consultants at XOESE who have spent sleepless nights since the announcement of the dates of the Forum to offer the entire feminist movement and French-speaking women a breathtaking and memorable event.



III/ INTRODUCTION

The [XOESE International Francophone Forum](#) are events dedicated exclusively to strengthening the Francophone women's rights movement. They bring together key leaders of the movement, women's rights and social justice advocates from different social movements, as well as development practitioners, donors and decision-makers. Just like the [first edition of the Francophone Forum](#) in November 2021, this edition was also marked by four days of meetings, discussions and work between key actors of the movement of all ages, backgrounds and experiences. Participants had the opportunity to interact with each other and with the partners who support them. They spent enriching moments together discussing issues that they do not usually address, at least not in a formal space, and developing strategies to work more together to strengthen their organizations, their movement and the links between them.

Building on the success of the [2021 Francophone Forum](#), we decided to organize its [second edition](#) two years later this year 2023. This was a highly anticipated and very important decision taken at a very strategic moment in the growth of XOESE. This is the first event of this importance that we have convened in hybrid: in person in Lomé and virtually and rebroadcast in several countries. To make it a success, we used all the lessons learned from the first Forum of 2021 which was 100% virtual and rebroadcast in person in 5 countries. We also used all our experiences from the coordination of our [JE M'ENGAGE](#), [WARIKOW](#) campaigns and our [Training activities](#).

The [2023 Forum](#) was a great success despite its imperfections. We will improve by learning all the lessons from what worked and what didn't work so well.

IV/ PRE-EVENTS

Four pre-events were organized during the days preceding the Forum, namely:

1. The [FEA Camp](#)
2. The [Forum of Young Francophone Feminists](#)
3. [WARIKOW](#) and
4. JE M'ENGAGE

They encouraged discussions on various themes related to the Francophone women's and young women's movement: the mobilization of resources, intergenerationality, our relationship with money, the commitment of Francophone women's organizations in the Generation Equality process and the achievement of the objectives of the six action coalitions in 2026.



The participants of the 2023 Forum who took part in these pre-events highly appreciated them. The links built between the participants who attended these pre-forum days had a real impact on their commitment during the Forum and the sessions that some of them led there.

4.1. The FEA Camp: Organizational and institutional strengthening of feminist CSOs, Lomé, Togo, November 25-26, 2023

The FEA LOMÉ CAMP - Inter-Regional Institute on Institutional Leadership of Women and Young Women: Institutional Sisterhood - Consortium/Networking, was an inter-regional meeting that brought together in person, feminist CSOs funded under FEA and other participants from several French-speaking countries including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Togo, Senegal and online Haiti.

Organized as a pre-event to the 2023 XOESE International Francophone Forum, the « CAMP FEA » in Lomé promoted collaboration and institutional sisterhood, in order to improve the effectiveness of feminist projects, influence policies in favor of women and create sustainable networks of leading Civil Society Organizations within their community. Several modules furnished the discussions, including « the definition of consortium and networking with case presentations »; « the stages of consortium/network formation »; « theoretical training on the basic elements of a consortium (memorandum of understanding)»; « practical cases »; a « capitalization session on the Feminists in Action project »; «management and strengthening of consortia and networks – practical exercises »; « theoretical training on the basic elements of a consortium (contract / termination) ».....



The two days of discussions were very rich. The participants confirmed that they now have a thorough understanding of the concept of institutional sisterhood.

Ms. Falola DJOGBENOU, one of the representatives of Benin, said : « Our impressions

are very good. First, we thank our partner. This is my second participation in Camp FEA. It must be said that this camp allows us to strengthen our capacities. Regarding this second camp, the theme addressed, institutional sisterhood is very relevant. As the first person in charge, we need it in our various organizations. Apart from these capacity building exercises, we also had the chance to talk with a team of psychologists who came to boost our morale and de-stress us. This session will also allow us to better orient ourselves in everything that is emotional and human relations ».

4.2. The Forum of Young Francophone Feminists, Lomé, November 25, 2023

Initiated by the XOESE Fund to create a bridge and especially to facilitate intergenerational interactions within the Francophone feminist movement, [the Forum of Young Francophone Feminists \(FYFF\)](#) was held on Saturday, November 25, 2023 in Lomé, as a prelude to the Francophone Forum 2023. This meeting aimed to prepare young feminists to actively contribute to the forum's activities, encourage networking between young feminists from different countries and facilitate open and participatory discussions on the issues and challenges they face in the Francophone women's movement.



Several activities filled this day with fruitful exchanges including debates in plenary and subsections. They focused on the generational divide, strategies for establishing and maintaining contact with older generations and reversing the current evidence of the difficult collaboration between old and young activists, the need to maintain and nurture regular exchange frameworks to evolve towards proven strategies and solutions for an efficient fight for the noble feminine cause that we are all passionate about. « *It is not just about having women in decision-making bodies to corroborate decisions but convinced feminists to influence and weigh in decision-making by truly taking into account the interests of women* » insisted Jaly BADIANE, Senegalese feminist activist

This first forum of young French-speaking feminists was a great success and the participants gained useful information from it. This is evidenced by the words of

activist Lydie Tinyuno, from Guinea Conakry, who states: «in Guinea, we want to create a movement to have a real feminist commitment and it is a pleasure to meet many feminists today, especially committed ones. I learned a lot about the challenges they face, the strategies adopted to get around them... what touched me was the panel on beliefs and feminism... in our country the population is predominantly Muslim and many do not dare to address certain subjects... I just wish that more of us would be invited from Guinea soon.»



4.3. Chieftom of WARIKOW, Lomé, November 25, 2023

The "[WARIKOW... My relationship with money](#)" campaign is an initiative of the XOESE Fund that aims to :

- Have the movement's actors understand where the money they receive in the form of grants for their initiatives comes from ;
- Reexamine their relationship with this money received as a donation ;
- Reflect on how to make the best possible use of it.

Started in June 2023, it covers 15 countries including Togo, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, the DRC, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, etc. It should be noted that WARIKOW means «money business» in Bambara.





Started in June 2023, it covers 15 countries including Togo, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, the DRC, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, etc. It should be noted that WARIKOW means "money business" in Bambara. On Saturday, November 25, 2023 in Lomé, the XOESE Team organized an event called «[Chefferie de WARIKOW](#)» as a pre-event to the [Francophone Forum 2023](#). The activity brought together the leaders of the «WARIKOW...My relationship with money» campaign, initiated by XOESE. The participants, who came from several countries, had the opportunity to share their experiences and talk about the activities carried out in their countries as part of this campaign. They also benefited from a mini training on financial education led by Mr. Wilfried SEMEDO, PhD student in integral coaching, writer, accountant certified by the courts and tribunals of the Togolese Republic, coach in financial and entrepreneurial intelligence.

In his communication, the expert explained to the participants the dimensions that must be taken into account when talking about money. «When we talk about money, there is a spiritual or metaphysical dimension and a physical dimension to take into account. In relation to the metaphysical dimension, I worked with the participants to correct the disturbances that control the possession or not of money. I helped them understand how this spiritual or metaphysical dimension is composed and established. I gave them tools to be able to correct the disturbances. In relation to the physical dimension, we talked about entrepreneurship, how to manage your finances and especially what elements to rely on to identify areas for improvement» summarized the coach.

The latter also urged each of them to make good use of the money they earn. «We must know that the money we spend is our vital energy because we worked to be able to earn money and therefore we must know how to spend this money. And when spending it, we must make an assessment to see if we are satisfied with the expenditure made, if it contributed to a reward or if this expenditure corresponds to our personal values», stressed the coach who gave the participants a tool that allows them to track their expenses permanently wherever they are. This is the OneMoney application, downloadable on Play Store in free and paid versions





For the specialist, « between the funds that these women receive for their organizations and their own money, the common element is themselves. So if they cannot manage their money well, they will not be able to manage the organizations' money ».

The training was very clear and edifying for the participants. According to Ms. Sidi AMINETOU, leader of WARIKOW Mauritania, this communication is of capital use. «We are going to apply everything the coach said in order to be able to better manage our own money and the money of our organizations», she assured.

The WARIKOW campaign was very dense and furnished with several activities, including monthly sharing sessions, monthly sessions by country group with specific questions for each country group so that organizations could express themselves on the difficulties they encounter in terms of money in their organizations, sessions with guests who had to make communications on financial management within organizations, on how to mobilize resources, how to manage them, the WARIKOW journal which is a monthly journal. The communications allowed women and young women beneficiaries to learn for example how to make a budget, How to manage the money received? How to empower as an organization and then meet their challenges? How to deal with financial difficulties in organizations ?

Speaking about the achievements of the WARIKOW campaign, Ms. Sidi AMINETOU, one of the participants in the campaign, said: «since the beginning of the campaign, we have received a lot of training and coaching on our relationship with money, on how to mobilize funds in the associative field, how to manage them and how to be accountable to these funds. This has been very beneficial to us in our organizations and even in our families.».

It should be noted that the campaign ended on November 28, 2023 with a closing session, held during the XOESE 2023 International Francophone Forum. This session brought together the leaders of the different participating countries, as well as the participants in the campaign.



It was an opportunity for the participants to share their experiences, present a detailed report of the activities carried out in their country and formulate recommendations for the future. The idea is to bring together all members of the community who participated in the campaign, including the leaders of the participating countries, volunteers, staff members and participants, to celebrate the successes, discuss the lessons learned and plan the next steps

4.4. The JE M'ENGAGE Session, Lomé, November 26, 2023



JE M'ENGAGE! is a 50-day campaign initiated by XOESE in 2021 as part of the Generation Equality process. It has enabled the establishment of 12 national coalitions in twelve French-speaking countries in Africa and Haiti..

The JE M'ENGAGE! a pre-event held on November 26, 2023 in Lomé on the eve of the 2023 Francophone Forum aimed to bring together key leaders of the Campaign to take stock of the activities of the national coalitions and strategize on their revitalization.

It took place from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., in the cinema room of the El Doria Hotel, one of the two sites of the Francophone Forum. It provided an opportunity to examine in detail the results obtained, the challenges encountered, and to propose innovative initiatives to strengthen the campaign.

The session began with a presentation of the results of the «Je m'engage» campaign over a 50-day period in 2021, highlighting successes and lessons learned. Each participating coalition, representing the 12 countries and the coordinators of Benin, Togo, Mauritania, Niger, Haiti, Burundi, DRC, Cameroon and Burkina Faso, then presented their results for the year 2023. These presentations highlighted the stagnation observed in certain areas and highlighted persistent challenges.

The participants unanimously called for the creation of a dedicated funding fund to support the activities of the «Je m'engage» campaign, namely: the organization of an annual rotating meeting in the 12 French-speaking countries, the facilitation of collaborative activities between the coalitions. These actions will help counter the lack

of interest in the Campaign observed in countries where the campaign is inactive and less dynamic. They further noted :

- the need to gather stronger participation of the Ministry of Gender in specific regions (e.g. North Kivu, DRC);
- encouraging more determined involvement of traditional, religious, and community leaders.
- encouraging the creation of partnerships to increase visibility with the media and ministries involved in initiatives to reduce gender inequalities.
- Importance of increased solidarity with rural communities to address the specific challenges encountered in these regions

The pre-event served as a constructive platform to discuss these ideas and challenges, encouraging open dialogue and the search for collaborative solutions for a stronger and more impactful «I'm Committed» campaign in 2024.

In conclusion, while the enthusiasm of coalition members during the brainstorming was palpable, the current financial reality of the «I'm Committed» campaign is a challenge to overcome.

V/ THE 2023 FRANCOPHONE FORUM

The [2023 Forum](#) was held in a hybrid format: in person in Lomé (Togo) and simultaneously online on November 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2023 on the theme: «Building the Francophone Feminist Movement: Where to Start?»

5.1. Goal and Objectives

The goals of the 2023 Francophone Forum were to :

- * Increase the feminist commitment of the actors of the Francophone women's movement;
- * Increase the commitment of donors and other stakeholders to strategically and sustainably support the Francophone women's movement.

More specifically, it aimed to :

- Create a safe space for frank and constructive exchanges and discussions on the fundamentals of the women's movement and the feminist movement;
- Demystify feminism and facilitate its appropriation and the integration of its principles into the daily lives of the movement's actors;
- Give the movement's actors the opportunity to reinvent their solutions to the problems



of their communities by conducting in-depth reflections on the effectiveness and efficiency of their intervention strategies;

- Create opportunities for interaction between the movement's actors and their donors in order to strengthen their ties, increase their mutual understanding of their challenges and expectations, and streamline the transfer of resources to the movement.

5.2. The Forum space

Despite the costs and many challenges, we managed to create a pleasant, friendly space that reinforces the feeling of belonging to a movement larger than oneself for the participants in person in Lomé and to a certain extent for those who followed the Forum remotely.

Of course, the various visual creations (giant posters, stage backdrops, kakemonos, posters, etc.) have a somewhat high cost for this first XOESE event in person since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. But we decided to maintain them well so that they can be reused later, which will reduce the budget for future editions of this event.

We only managed to make the space 50% inclusive in order to facilitate the participation of minorities. With the patience, understanding and constructive contributions of their representatives in the event, we will work to improve how we create spaces for future Forums and other XOESE events.

Although we were not able to achieve all of our ambitions, we appreciated the positive and very encouraging feedback from participants and resource persons on how they used the space and the opportunity to be in person to strengthen connections, exchange, discuss, laugh together, listen to each other, advise each other, reflect together and explore opportunities to work together, inspire each other and others and learn from each other.

Some formal and informal exchanges in or out of the classroom, in classes, during breaks or during meals, or during practical sessions have encouraged discussions on the well-being of defenders, the need to pay attention to oneself and to our colleagues, to our physical, mental and psychological well-being and to introduce solutions and activities in these directions in the programming of our organizations and especially to exchange with and encourage all the partners of the movement to invest in the health, well-being and personal and collective care of defenders - their efficiency depends on it!

The presence of the XOESE artists' collective coupled with the spontaneity of several talents among the participants made the spaces and sessions in both hotels - both the plenary sessions and the parallel sessions - friendly, feministically lively and very conducive to reflection. This greatly promoted the quality of the discussions and the great interest and enthusiasm of the participants, who all remained engaged until the closing of the Forum on the 4th day.

5.3. Participants of the 2023 Forum

The 2023 Forum was attended by more than 1,809 participants from more than 23



countries, including:

- + 250 participants in person
- + 400 400 participants virtually
- + 1,159 participants via replays in 9 countries

Participants were mainly key leaders of feminist organizations, networks, platforms and coalitions, of Francophone women and young women and marginalized groups. Representatives of funding organizations, women's funds, and other technical and financial partner organizations of the Francophone women's movement also took part in the work. Resource persons, a significant number of elders, allies and sympathizers of the feminist cause and issues relating to gender equality, decision-makers and planners within state structures and key actors from the private sector also participated in all or some sessions of the Forum.

5.4. The Agenda of the 2023 Forum

Co-constructed with several defenders and their organizations, the Agenda of the 2023 Forum was very ambitious, rich and dense. The activities that filled the 4-day Agenda were structured around four sub-themes:

- Day 1: BUILDING THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
- Day 2: FINANCING THE FRANCOPHONE FEMINIST AND WOMEN'S MOVEMENT
- Day 3: FEMINIST TABOOS AND SILENT AND HIDDEN NEEDS
- Day 4: ASSUME OUR FEMINISM: Revisiting and Improving our practices

The days began with plenary sessions (4) and continued with parallel sessions (47) organized by XOESE or the partner organizations participating in the Forum. These activities encouraged exchanges, discussions and reflections that allowed participants and resource persons to increase their understanding of the sources of funding they receive and the reasons for the conditions that are sometimes imposed on them, to explore together the avenues of solutions to overcome the challenges of access to resources, improve the donor-recipient relationship. They also made it possible to address difficult questions, to discuss taboo subjects or those simply not included in the Women's Rights Agenda such as the fundamental question of holistic health and the physical and mental well-being of women defenders.

XOESE organized the plenary sessions, but most of the parallel sessions were initiated and organized from start to finish by the leaders of the organizations present or represented or resource persons who are specialists in their fields such as the sessions with the sexologist, the psychologist or the writers.

Both the formats and the content were so well thought out that they impressed.

The Gala evening was impressive: the setting, the decorations, the artists, the atmosphere was celebratory and was the apotheosis of the Forum. This relaxed atmosphere allowed everyone in attendance to celebrate our feminists, the successes of our struggles,



individual achievements (via the Equality Awards), to laugh together, to dance, to strengthen friendships, in short to have fun in the middle of a very busy program until very late that night.

5.5. The WHOVA application

XOESE has chosen to invest in the WHOVA event management application in order to successfully implement the hybrid nature of the Forum and to promote the fluidity of interaction between participants in person and those online or remotely and to allow everyone to make the most of their participation.

This application used for the first time by a large majority of participants allowed :

- 207 active users of the application
- 1385 interactions between participants
- 1525 exchanges of private messages
- 30 exchanges of private messages in groups
- 30 business cards scanned and exchanged between participant
- 802 views of participants' profiles
- 156 photos shared
- The Agenda on Whova was consulted 2786 times
- 111 participants created their personal Agenda
- 52 sessions in live broadcast or videos
- 65 viewings of sessions
- 24 announcements shared with participants
- Interaction of hybrid participants on Whova
 - » Audience
 - * Participants in person: 78%
 - * Participants in virtual mode: 22%
 - » Viewing of sessions broadcast live
 - * Participants in person: 51%
 - * Participants in virtual mode: 49%
 - » Exchanges of private messages
 - * Participants in person: 91%
 - * Virtual participants: 9%



- » Group message exchanges
 - * Face-to-face participants: 71%
 - * Virtual participants: 29%

5.6. Rebroadcastings

We repeated the experience of rebroadcasting the Forum in 9 countries, thanks to the support of our partner organizations, building on the success experienced with this method during the 2021 Forum.

The rebroadcast of the Forum at the national level allows activists and a wider audience of actors who were unable to travel to Lomé (Togo) for various reasons (financial, etc.) to also participate in the Forum. This was done by creating a physical local setting where participants are brought together, or by rebroadcasting via WhatsApp discussion groups, or on social networks. This increases the engagement of members of the organizations represented at the Forum. The Whova and Zoom application as well as publications on social networks facilitated these rebroadcast activities, which were very successful.

The rebroadcasts took place in 9 countries by 10 organizations, namely:

1. Benin (by AFeDDA Coordinator of the Je M'Engage Benin Group in the universities of Abomey-Calavi in southern Benin, Lokossa in southwest Benin, Dassa-Zoumè in central Benin and Parakou in northern Benin)
2. Burkina Faso (by Association pour la Promotion des Droits des Jeunes (APDJ) in Ouagadougou)
3. Cameroon (by African women In Tech Startups in Douala),
4. Haiti (by the Movement for the Integration and Emancipation of Women with Disabilities (MIEFH) in Cap-Haitien, Bande-du-Nord, Plaine-du-Nord)
5. Madagascar (by FIKRIZAMA YWCA Madagascar in Fokontany Ambatomaro, Antananarivo)
6. Niger (by CGEPT, Consortium Genre Et Éducation Pour All)
7. Democratic Republic of Congo (by Focus Rights and Access (FDA) in Goma and Actions for the Conservation of Nature and Community Development, ACNDC in South Kivu and North Kivu),
8. Senegal (by Youth Network for the Promotion of the Abandonment of Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage (RJPA-MGF/ME) on social networks),
9. Togo (by JE M'ENGAGE Togo (JME-Togo) in the 06 economic regions, 39 prefectures of Togo)



5.7. The Innovation Fund of the 2023 Forum

The Innovation Fund is a fund with a small budget aimed at providing the financial means for the materialization of ideas for change born at the 2023 Forum. Not having sufficient funds of our own, we had to draw on our flexible resources to set it up, and we are happy to have done so. Because it has allowed the materialization of several project ideas born in the course of the discussions during the 4 days of the Forum or its pre-events.

We received 66 projects (a third of which are collaborative initiatives led by 2 or more organizations) for an amount of 269,375 Euros. Unfortunately, XOESE was only able to finance seven (7) of them for an amount of 27,775 Euros, or 10.31%.

One of them aims to: "Make women executives aware of the need to take care of their mental health, a guarantee of their socio-professional and family balance" through training and the organization of EducArts sessions and games in spaces of distractions for women in Benin.

Another initiative is led by a consortium of three organizations from Togo which, after discussions at the Forum, decided to work together, for the first time, on the implementation of psychological and para-psycho-social support activities.

Another initiative between two organizations in Central Africa (Cameroon and the DRC) aims to highlight innovation in the collaboration of women's organizations in the provision of expertise and acquired knowledge on technology at the service of other women's organizations with a focus on people with disabilities and organizations campaigning for the rights of people with disabilities.

Inspired by the presenter of a session on disability, a participant had the idea to push her network to harmonize its programs by taking into account marginalized women and/or women with disabilities.

We will certainly initiate this fund at the 2025 Forum and are counting on our partners to succeed in providing it with a substantial budget.

5.8. Re-watching Forum sessions

Several of the Forum sessions were recorded live (livestreaming) and are available on the XOESE Youtube channel. Watch or re-watch them here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@fondsxoesepourlesfemmesfra3777>

VI/ RESULTS OF THE 2023 FORUM

Despite the imperfections, the [2023 Forum](#) achieved the anticipated results which were:

- * A secure space for exchanges and frank and constructive discussions on the



fundamentals of the women's movement and the Francophone feminist movement was created

- * The feminist commitment of Francophone women's activists and organizations was increased

- * The actors of the movement had the opportunity to conduct in-depth reflections on the effectiveness and efficiency of the intervention strategies and solutions they propose to solve the problems within their communities and to refine them

- * Alliances and collaborative initiatives between different activists, organizations and movements have emerged and are flourishing

Indeed, as we have highlighted above in the subtitle "Forum Spaces", both the physical setting of the Forum created on the site of two hotels, the developments made in the rooms, halls, outdoor courtyards, gardens, and on the beach, and the various contents and formats of the activities included in the Forum Agenda have greatly facilitated the possibility for the defenders present and remotely to lead productive discussions on the future of the feminist movement and Francophone women, to better understand and appropriate the notion of feminism.

The impact of these four days of exchanges was such that many defenders present began to rethink their intervention strategies and working methods.

One participant stated that she now identifies as a feminist, whereas before she believed that feminism was a notion devoid of moral values.

A unique event of its kind within the Francophone Women's movement, the 2023 Forum was a real breeding ground for strengthening ties and creating new alliances. It fostered the growth of numerous collaborative initiatives and projects aimed at organizational and movement strengthening, the well-being of defenders and, more importantly, gave participants the audacity to try to address the problems of the movement and within their communities with new approaches to solutions.

VII/ EVALUATIONS OF THE 2023 FRANCOPHONE FORUM

The responses collected during the two evaluations of the Forum confirm several of our assertions stated above, both in terms of the general assessment of the success of the meeting and the challenges on which more efforts will have to be invested for improvement.

In terms of general impact, 97% of participants who responded to the evaluation survey



one month after the Forum said they had met at least one person at the Forum with whom they decided to continue the conversation or collaboration. And 76% of respondents said they had met at least one person at the Forum with whom they decided to develop a collaborative initiative / set up a joint project together.

7.1. Participants' feedbacks

7.1.1. Participants' feedbacks, one month after the 2023 Forum

One month after the Forum, the participants expressed their appreciation of the 2023 Francophone Forum in these words:

"A unique, innovative event of great interest to feminists through the plenary themes as well as the B2B meetings/exchange"

"The forum was truly magnificent, we had enriching capacity building."

"It's a wonderful first experience of co-construction for me"

"Very well organized with very strong networking."

"The 2023 Francophone Forum was an exemplary moment of sharing and receiving new ideas for the promotion of women's human rights."

"At the forum I met several partners, I spoke with several people, the gray areas I had were clarified."

"It is especially the sharing of experiences of my other sisters from other countries. I experienced through this forum that French-speaking women are stronger when they come together"

"A moment of exchange, sharing and feminist affirmation."

"A moment of sharing and learning that augurs great prospects for the French-speaking feminist movement"

"A very beautiful first experience of meeting and sharing experiences that we hope to renew in the years to come"

"The Francophone forum is a springboard for the Francophone feminist movement"

"This forum helped me see the feminist movement differently"

"A real moment of awakening for feminism in the Francophone zone"

"Women are a source of resources, skills, potential... which remain a bulwark for future generations, living and working in sisterhood is a strength."

"I was enriched and galvanized by the commitment of women to defend gender equality"

"This forum is of great importance to achieve gender equality. It was the highest level and I say again sincere thanks to XOESE and all the organizers."



"If I can say it in Kabyè " Forum XOESE kodjoka " that is to say Forum XOESE a beauty in all its sense, physical, intellectual, of giving and receiving, of sharing and opportunities"

"I found the forum very informative and I learned a lot. Thank you"

"Very enriching, I learned a lot"

"The International Francophone Forum XOESE was one of the most enriching in the world."

"A good experience of exchange with several communities all committed to WOMEN's rights."

"The Francophone Forum XOESE 2023 was a very enriching experience for me. It was my first time to take part in an international Francophone meeting. The call for projects to support was WOW"

"Delighted. It was an honor for me to be surrounded by several women who fight for the same cause and especially to share these moments with them. I hope for the third edition. Looking forward to 2025"

"I am satisfied with my participation in this forum. I learned a lot"

7.1.2. Feedbacks from participants: four months after the 2023 Forum

About four (4) months after the 2nd Francophone Forum, looking back on this important event within the feminist movement and French-speaking women and young women, here are the words/expressions with which the participants say they were impacted by the 2023 Francophone Forum :

"I am no longer ashamed to be a feminist. I am seasoned in going as far as possible for equality, my projects, my organization and the movement" Isiba Koba, AFEDDA Benin

"Participation in the forum, particularly in the pre-event (FEA Camp), allowed us to understand in depth the importance of forming a consortium of organizations, the arrangements to be made to form a consortium and the various contracts related to the formation of a consortium of organizations. Also, with the feedback given to members of our organization on the theme of digitization and digitalization of feminist organizations, the communication capabilities of our organization have been further improved and better structured. The forum was a perfect setting to raise awareness about issues related to feminism in the French-speaking context. It also helped create a connection between like-minded people and structures while promoting the creation of a space for sharing opportunities" BLE Fabianie Valzère (Ivory Coast)

" The forum awakened things in us such as working in synergy with other sister organizations, taking into account our own well-being as feminists. The forum was a real



place for exchange and knowledge between feminist organizations, and for opening up other horizons for our technical and financial partner portfolios. We were lucky enough to meet financial partners we didn't know existed. It was great! " Nadia ELHADJI BOUEYE, ONG OLA AFRICA, Benin.

"This forum created more impact because it reminded us to create an institutional sisterhood and engage in networking with others to advance women's rights on our continent" Rachel NGOY MUSANGI

" The bond of sisterhood was even more woven and the organizations were able to realize that they follow the same final objective and it is necessary to combine efforts instead. The notion of inclusion is more advanced both in routine activities and field visits. The consideration of all stakeholders of the association is more visible " Rita Tchoupa Megnitio (Cameroun)

"The exchanges and sharing of experiences between feminist organizations have made it possible to establish partnerships with other organizations, especially the opportunity to work in synergy.. " Ndeye Coumba Gueye

" My participation in the 2023 Francophone Forum has impacted my work and that of my organization in terms of good practice, networking, consortium creation, improvement of internal communication, creation of a good working climate, project writing, and also submission to the project. We had the opportunity, taking into account the workshops and themes discussed at the forum, to implement projects by going into consortium with other organizations. The 2023 Francophone Forum contributed to the efforts to strengthen the movement by already creating this space that is the forum which has networked several organizations, to make a self-assessment of the organizations, a dynamic to go further in personal commitment, a strengthening of the capacities of our members, transparency in the accounts. Organizations draw project themes from the forum, which organizations share on the Whoua platform of their activities, so that the good practices of each other are examples for all " SOGODOGO Aminata (Benin)

" It allowed a rapprochement of the members of je m'engage to project avenues of work" Fodi Halima, Niger

" This gathering of feminists from the French-speaking region was an opportunity for women to meet, exchange experiences and initiate new synergies. " Ntakebuka Wilhelmine (RDC)

" The French-speaking forum allowed us to get to know each other, to exchange and build personal relationships and to show others that feminism in French-speaking Africa is awakening the consciousness of thousands of women and young women to claim their rights. " Mariame Kane (Mali)

" Thanks to this forum, we were able to form a consortium with other organizations,



which allowed us to find funding for the psychological support of apprentices from the Aklala batik center in Togo. From then on, they began to gradually regain confidence in themselves for the sake of their training " DONVIDE Nongni Chantal

"My participation allowed us to establish serious links with other organizations elsewhere but also to revisit the feminist movement in our area of action with other associations. I discovered and liked several initiatives but I am not part of them because the opportunity was not given to me" OUADEBA P. Rosita (Burkina Faso)

"The forum allowed our organization to boost its activities and have the courage to continue the fight for the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" Wendbenedo Aline BONTOGHO, Burkina Faso

"It was a great idea that came to fruition and allowed feminist organizations to draw inspiration from actions to boost the world of DDHF" ZEWU Afiavi Akpene, Togo

"From the forum presentations, we reviewed our strategies and fields of action to further impact our organization and target population in the long term. The forum presentations were very constructive and realistic, each organization could easily benefit from it for a lasting impact" ATAKOUMA Akuyo Akpédzé

"Concerning the impact assessment of the forum last year in TOGO. Everything is going very well for me and our organization. We no longer see any stigma or discrimination. The authorities and even other organizations invite us to find out if there is training or some kind of animation in a celebration." MAROTIA Hanitra Jacquie (Madagascar)

"Yes, thanks to my participation in the French-speaking forum, it woke us up to join hands even more and together we are stronger. I developed new experiences in the feminist movement. Thanks to the forum we went to a level of sisterhood that allowed us to commit to the defense of women's rights in synergy of feminist action." Hawa TRAORE (Mali)

"My participation in the forum helped me a lot and also helped my team to build relationships with young French-speaking feminists"

"The French-speaking forum impacted my work life because I had another way of seeing things in the execution of my work but also following the French-speaking forum our organization and another from Cameroon we formed a consortium and with the latter we were able to benefit from funding from the Fund for French-speaking Women. Thanks to the French-speaking forum, we had the privilege of meeting women from different countries and we have further established relationships between us. But also following this great activity, our organizations had time to discuss with partners and fill our address books further» Kavira Bwiruka Anitha (DRC)

"This forum allowed me to acquire new professional and personal skills and abilities. It also allowed me to create opportunities between several women, to create a network for sharing ideas and experiences. It also allowed me to become more involved in the



women's cause. Once again, thank you to the organizers and all the partners for this high-level international forum." DASSI Dorcas Fifamè (Benin)

" The Forum has contributed greatly to the efforts to strengthen the movement and to the synergies of actions as well as other initiatives. It allowed us to get to know other associative structures, donors and their requirements, but also and above all promising initiatives that serve as benchmarks for our future actions. We followed it online but with the help of our President in person, we were able to have contacts that currently allow us to have exchanges with other organizations that participated " OUADEBA Roger (Burkina Faso)

" An initiative like that of the Francophone Forum made it possible to understand the journey of these feminists who initiated this movement, certainly after having learned from others. The different testimonies and the sharing of experiences made it possible to understand how to structure ourselves and collaborate ... to be stronger together. The innovation dimension and all the effects of the Forum reinforced by cutting-edge communication to boost female sisterhood around questions of feminism has fueled a need for more collaboration and commitments." MEGHUIOPE Lydie Biby (Cameroon)

"As part of strengthening the Francophone feminist movement, we have taken initiatives to share funding opportunities, to ask ourselves questions on certain themes and a lot of sharing of experience in our daily struggles which is the defense and strengthening of the feminist movement to ensure the defense of the rights of Francophone women. " Hawa TRAORE (Mali)

" The forum's sharing allowed me to become aware of the impact of the feminist movement on the direction of policies in favor of women's well-being. Since all things can be improved, we must continue our advocacy actions for the advent of an egalitarian world. " Mrs. ABOUGNIMA Molgah épouse KADJAKA (Togo)

" The 2023 Francophone Forum contributed to the efforts to strengthen the feminist movement and Francophone women and young women through networking: the synergy of actions is essential to be more visible and achieve the set objectives. I am in contact with other organizations with a view to developing joint feminist programs. " Sophie Dior Diack (Senegal)

" Participating in this forum had an impact on me because I met other feminists and there were exchanges of experiences on how we should improve our way of working, especially by integrating the mental health aspect into our activities. After my return to the country, we integrated the psychosocial service into the organization for the psychological care of staff and beneficiaries. We decided to work in a consortium with another women's organization on child protection and we set up an orphanage that provides holistic care for orphans who have lost their father and mother, victims of natural disasters, whereas

before my organization could not think of working in sisterhood. " Mireille MBUYI KABANGI (DRC)

" From a general point of view, participating in FIF2023 has propelled my understanding of partnership commodities ... It has allowed me to now identify growing ideas in decision-making within our organization and even in daily life ... by changing the way of seeing things in the world and communities ... it has allowed us to experience a mix of hyper interesting reflections between feminists from various backgrounds, to experience a thrilling mix of cultures and to discover fantastic people ... it has allowed us to discover to the great how difficult it is to be at the same time in an ambient, vibrant, magnificent energy and to remain focused on the success of the organization of a beautiful activity. ... participating in this wonderful forum has been of an astonishing fascination not only for us in the sense that it has grown us culturally, socially; but also because since then, the vision of our organization has radically improved: it has facilitated our collaborative relationships with other Organizations. I believe it has boosted the vision of so many people whether in person or online through so many activities. Those mentioned above and others like «Let's dare to be feminist without taboos, sex mats», etc." Nathalie MPECK (Cameroon)

" The 2023 Francophone Forum was a very participatory event. Each organization was able to identify shortcomings in its actions, weak and strong points, and thanks to the synergy that existed around the women's organizations that were there, connections were created with the aim of improving the actions carried out on a daily basis. Thanks to this forum, our organization was able to create a consortium with another organization from another country and together we rolled out training for a female minority." Ingrid MOUAFO (Cameroon)

" Following this forum, we learned a lot about the state of our strengths and weaknesses and now we can build on our strengths and easily resolve our weaknesses. (The 2023 Francophone Forum contributed to the efforts to strengthen the feminist movement and Francophone women and young women) by enabling mutual learning through the exchange of information and experiences for responsible, real and sustainable development " GAHIMBARE Angélique (Burundi)

" The forum allowed me to define myself as a feminist and also to focus the actions of my organization on activities related to strengthening a strong feminist movement in Mali and getting other young girls to join the movements; it made it possible to create networking in the Francophone zone, the sharing of funding opportunities, and sub-regional visibility of our actions " Ramata Diakite (Mali)

" This (the forum) contributed to the efforts to strengthen the movement through this diversity of themes, knowledge and categories of personalities through the orientations of each other. In the short term, we have built relationships and made acquaintances



of donors and organizations, in the medium term, we will be able to set up individual projects and in collaboration with other organizations. In the long term, we will be able to keep this collaborative consortium for other opportunities " PANAKINANOU PIYALOU (Togo)

" It is an event that has given importance to French speakers " Vanessa Kamuanya (DRC)

" It (the forum) has greatly edified us and changed our way of working. We have set up the coalition of women's organizations - a way for us to be more effective in dealing with GBV cases." Tolno Yomba (Guinea)

" After my participation in the Forum, my organization implemented the acquired knowledge of the forum and we applied for a call for projects that allowed us to form a consortium with other local organizations, which was not possible in the past. The discussions with financial partners gave confidence to the feminist movements. The discussions between women's and young women's organizations allowed us to form synergies and consortia." HESSI Pitalunani (Togo)

" On a personal level: the forum allowed me to increase my commitment to my organization by knowing where to put more energy according to the objective of our organization and the movement of girls and women in our work area, in addition to this, the forum helped me to build new relationships with other partners and donors, without forgetting the impact of the forum on relationships with other feminists in Africa. I learn a lot every day in sisterhood. At the organizational level: we have received more women who want to learn about rights and they want women's rights activists with an emphasis on working together and sharing knowledge. Several women currently in our area have become agents of change. Currently in terms of rights we have more requests for training and also advocacy. At the current stage, we have been able to strengthen the working synergy with sister organizations. Several commitments in the movement drew their actions from this forum meeting. During the forum I was able to see several women join movements such as Nos Voix Comptent, REJEFEMAC and at the local level during our rebroadcast several women's groups have linked up with us for concrete actions at the grassroots level." Crispine Ngena (DRC)

" This forum has taught us how much working in a movement is advantageous, and we are building alliances to make our efforts more visible. Thanks to this forum we have forged alliances with other women's organizations in the region and we are now members of AWID " Fa EYERE (DRC)

7.2. Word clouds of the 2023 Forum

7.2.1. Word cloud, one month of the 2023 Forum



Below is the word cloud that participants used to describe their experience at this 2nd edition of the XOESE 2023 Francophone Forum, one month after the event.



7.2.2. Word cloud four months after the 2023 Forum

Four (4) months after the 2nd Francophone Forum, looking back on this important event within the feminist movement and Francophone women and young women, participants used the following words to describe the impact of the Forum on their personal lives, on the work of their organization and on the future of your movement.



7.3. Forum 2023 in the media

7.3.1. Francophone Forum 2023 in the news

- L.Frii: [Togo : XOESE lance le deuxième Forum International Francophone pour renforcer le mouvement féministe francophone](https://yop.l-frii.com/togo-xoese-lance-le-deuxieme-forum-international-francophone-pour-renforcer-le-mouvement-feministe-francophone) : <https://yop.l-frii.com/togo-xoese-lance-le-deuxieme-forum-international-francophone-pour-renforcer-le-mouvement-feministe-francophone>
- NORD AGENCES PRESSE : <https://nordagencepresse.com/forum-international...>
- Afri-carrieres : https://afri-carrieres.com/2023/08/forum-francophone-de-xoese-2023.html#google_vignette
- 228Events : https://www.facebook.com/228events?__tn__=-%5dC
- StandardMania : XOESE International Francophone Forum 2023: Lomé at the Heart of the Global Debate, <https://www.standardmania.com/2023/11/forum-international-francophone-2023-de.html>
- AFRIKELLES : Archives of the XOESE 2023 International Francophone Forum : <https://www.afrikelles.tg/fif-xoese-2023-depassionner-les-debats-autour-du-feminisme/>
- Journal Nouvelle Opinion : Journal Nouvelle Opinion : 2nd edition of the XOESE International Francophone Forum: Pari gagné, <https://www.republicoftogo.com/content/download/112663/2906012/1>
- EKINAMAG: The leaders of the XOESE "WARIKOW...My relationship with money" campaign gathered in Lomé (Report) <https://ekinamag.com/2023/12/18/les-cheffes-de-file-de-la-campagne-warikowma-relation-avec-largent-de-xoese-reunies-a-lome-reportage/>
- MOUSSO NEWS : Claire Ouedraogo Rouamba, a development heroine awarded at the XOESE International Forum, <https://www.moussonews.com/claire-ouedraogo-rouamba-une-heroine-du-developpement-primee-au-forum-international-de-xoese/>
- Ocean's News : Togo: XOESE Fund encourages women to form consortia to strengthen their impact, <https://oceans-news.com/camp-fea-une-deuxieme-edition-tenue-avec-succes-a-lome/>

7.3.2. The 2023 Francophone Forum on the network (**#FIFXOESE2023**, **#FIFXOESE**, **#FIF2023**, **#XOESEFORUM**, **#FXOESE**)

- **Julienne Lusenge :**
" The XOESE Forum 2023 kicked off yesterday, November 27, in Lomé. We participated in the discussions during the launch. We emphasized the need for women to network and speak the same language in order to achieve common goals. " <https://x.com/LusengeJ/status/1729406797386010812>



- **Bruno Koffi Tellah**
Dive into the captivating moments of the plenary session of the first day of the XOESE Forum 2023! Exchanges, inspiring speeches and an atmosphere vibrant with feminist energy.
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/m4myDPs2RyqZLJvg/?mibextid=oFDknk>
- **Kpenassou Marie-Thérèse Benedicta Aloakinnou**
I participated in rich sessions on financing the movement, our relationship with money. I was particularly delighted to participate in the closing session of the WARIKOW campaign in which [FJAD, Fondation des Jeunes Amazones pour le Développement](#) took part with [XOESE : Le Fonds pour les Femmes Francophones](#). It was also a good time for interactions and exchanges on the AWID 2024 forum. As a new member of [AWID](#) I was delighted to meet the president and learn about the next steps of this feminist meeting.
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/Y6Z88xVRu5JMdtx2/?mibextid=oFDknk>
- **Adolphe Junior**
Looking back on a rich and essential day at the XOESE 2023 International Francophone Forum! After these inspiring panels, the day continued with various sessions, workshops and moments of sharing. Thank you to all participants for their commitment and contribution to these crucial discussions! Together, let's continue to break taboos and dare to discuss for a more equitable world..
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/E5VWEHFwqqbbPNu1/?mibextid=oFDknk>
- **Association des Femmes pour le Développement Durable Accélééré**
Dive into the captivating moments of the plenary session of the first day of the XOESE 2023 Forum! Exchanges, inspiring speeches and a vibrant atmosphere of feminist energy. Discover some snapshots that reflect the magic of this memorable day..
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/bGPNALu9ka7nWxd6/?mibextid=oFDknk>

7.3.3. The 2023 Francophone Forum reported by other organizations

- L'OFDIG : [Togo November 27-30, 2023: 2nd XOESE Francophone Feminist Forum on Building the Francophone Feminist Movement: Where to start?](#)
- ASFUD : <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ifcTqzF5GA8EnXj4/?mibextid=oFDknk>
- NETWORK OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES, <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/zz8EwShEYKCmku4o/?mibextid=oFDknk>
- L'Association BIOWA « Participation of our organization in the 2023 International Francophone Forum [#XOESE](#) alongside prominent women of impact engaged in the fight [#Féministes En Action](#). A great meeting for exchange, sharing of experiences and connections very useful for the success of our struggle »

- WOMEN IN ACTION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY WAHDI ASBL : On behalf of the beneficiary organizations of the XOESE fund: The Fund for Francophone Women in the DRC, #wahdi_asbl presented a diploma of excellence to Madam President of XOESE as thanks for her commitment to promoting the rights of women and girls. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/rjVuKWE4cHwpkDkw/?mibextid=oFDknk>
- AfricanWITS : 2nd edition of the 2023 francophone forum, <https://africanwits.org/la-2e-edition-du-forum-francophone-par-xoese/>
- Quebec Association of International Cooperation Organizations (AQOCI): XOESE Forums to establish collaborative bridges <https://aqoci.qc.ca/les-forums-xoese-pour-etablir-des-ponts-collaboratifs/>
- Francophone Network for Gender Equality (RF-EFH): Second edition of the XOESE International Francophone Forum, <https://xoese.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Rapport-RFEFH-Forum2023-de-XOESE.pdf>



VIII/ IMPACTS OF XOESE 2023 FRANCOPHONE FORUM

The organization of this 2nd edition of the Francophone Forum has promoted the strengthening of the individual and organizational capacities of the participants according to the opinion of 96% of respondents to the impact evaluation.

The president of XOESE has 24 years of experience in the women's movement. Other older activists started this struggle earlier and had the opportunity to participate in many regional and international meetings. But this is the first time that an initiative brings together Francophone activists and the partners who support them to exclusively discuss strategies for organizational and movement strengthening. This is the first time that in person and virtually that some activists have had the opportunity to be in a Francophone space and meet other activists working on similar issues. They were able to exchange, discuss and strategize together, learn from each other, form friendships and build professional ties.

The Innovation Fund was very useful in transforming several ideas born at the Forum into reality. It funded seven (7) initiatives including four (4) collaborative projects. The head of one of the beneficiary organizations said :

"The XOESE 2023 Forum advised us to work in a consortium, but it went beyond the event that took place in November 2023; apart from what we learned personally by participating, XOESE funded mini projects for feminist organizations including ours (in consortium with another organization) to implement what we learned at the forum and that we would like to achieve in our locality. The women in our locality were able to benefit from a project that took into account their mental well-being, something that most working women never take into account. It was a success, because the women who benefited from the project took the initiative to continue with the resources people made available to them, to implement the practices, advice and recommendations made for their well-being." Nadia ELHADJI BOUEYE (NGO OLA AFRICA)

Another organization benefiting from this innovation grant adds :

« We learned a lot during the Forum, on how women and girls from other countries build feminist movements, we had contacts from partners and just 2 months after the FORUM we received a grant, thanks to the contacts made during the Forum. Thank you very much XOESE for this opportunity. A consortium between an organization from the DRC and that of CAMEROON was set up just after the FORUM, it is WAHDi asbl and AFRICAN WITS even though they did not know each other before the FORUM. » KIBANJA LUKOO GRATIAS (DRC)

Finally, a participant in the Forum who also benefited from the activities of one of the projects financed under this fund testifies :

" Following this forum, we benefited from training on the digitalization of our Organizations, from the DE4WOD project financed by XOESE and executed by the consortium of two women's organizations including: AFRICAN WITS from Cameroon and WAHDI from the DR Congo, we encourage XOESE to think about financing other Sister Organizations in the near future in consortium." Mireille MBUYI KABANGI (RDC)

IX/ CHALLENGES OF THE 2023 FORUM

It is interesting to note that despite the many challenges, the leaders of French-speaking women's organizations have invented multiple strategies to overcome them and show a lot of perseverance in continuing collaborations.

Since many of the defenders do not live in the same locality, the same country or the same region, they depend heavily on networks connected (WhatsApp, Facebook) to the internet to communicate with each other, strengthen ties between them and work together. However, the quality of internet connections is often unreliable in French-speaking countries in Africa and Haiti. Many of the activists do not have high-performance work IT tools (phones, tablets, computers), whether personal or organizational. In their responses, many noted these challenges that slow down their communications and collaborations. It is important for the movement's financial partners to strengthen the IT capacities of defenders in this 21st century and to finance access/subscriptions to the most efficient and secure tools that facilitate collaboration. It is time to explore how the opportunities offered by Artificial Intelligence can support feminist work..

A participant summed it up so well: "The challenges are enormous, remote work is painful, connection costs, the biggest challenges are the lack of finances" Rachel NGOY MUSANGI

X/ CONCLUSION & PERSPECTIVES

10.1. Conclusion

The Forum has increased the visibility of several organizations and activists who often do not have the opportunity to access meetings like these, and for whom it was the first opportunity to interact with other organizations and partners of the movement on an international scale.



The richness and success of the 2023 Forum comes from the combination of activities and initiatives that enriched the framework and furnished the time spent together. This combination of activities contributed greatly to creating a favorable framework and putting the participants in the ideal state of mind, atmosphere and situation to address different topics and to formulate solutions together to improve different aspects of their movement: this ranges from understanding the theme «feminism» to issues of psychological and physical well-being, to redefining current approaches and strategies used to promote the rights of women and young women.

The second edition of the Francophone Forum is unique for Francophone activists because the discussions focused mainly on strengthening the feminist movement and Francophone women and the issue of their well-being and the efficiency of their actions. At XOESE, we are convinced that if they are physically and mentally well, if we create spaces for them to meet and exchange, they would have more opportunities to reinvent the strategies and approaches they use on a daily basis to promote women's rights within their communities.

The Francophone Forum 2023, like the first edition in 2021, largely succeeded in contributing to this.

We are already seeing the impacts through the various collaborative initiatives that we have funded in the 2023 Forum Innovation Fund and the positive feedback that we continue to receive.

We intend to continue organizing these Francophone spaces because, as Professor Ndiro Ndiaye said *"This forum is a necessity for our Francophone space"*

10.2. Perspectives: The 2025 Francophone Forum

Given the success of the 2023 forum, respondents strongly recommend organizing the 3rd edition of the Forum in 2025 and they commit to participating and encouraging other activists to join them.

Many ideas for themes and sub-themes have been proposed for the next Forum. We will draw on them to fill the call for contributions and the Agenda of the 2025 Forum. We hope that this co-construction will promote an excellent quality of discussions with the support of the Scientific Committee.

The appointment is therefore made for the third edition in 2025 which will be held from September 23 to 26, 2025 in Togo on the theme : « Financial autonomy of the Francophone women's/young women's movement: how to achieve it ? ».

On the road to the 2025 Francophone Forum, XOESE will work with the organizations whose sessions were postponed on the last day of the 2023 Forum to prepare for this Forum and give them the opportunity to present their activities.



3^{ÈME} FORUM INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE 2025 DE XOESE

RESERVEZ CES DATES

 **23** | **Septembre**
au **26** | **2025**

 **Togo**

Thème :

**Autonomie financière du
mouvement des femmes et
jeunes femmes francophones :
Comment y parvenir?**

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ANNEXES

1. Call for contributions to the 2023 Forum: : https://xoese.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Appel-a-contribution-FIN-2_compressed.pdf
2. Call for Registration: https://xoese.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/20230606_Xoese_Appel_Inscription.pdf
3. The 2023 Forum Agenda: https://xoese.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/XOESE_FIFX2023_AGENDA_DRAFT-1.pdf

THE FORUM IN IMAGES

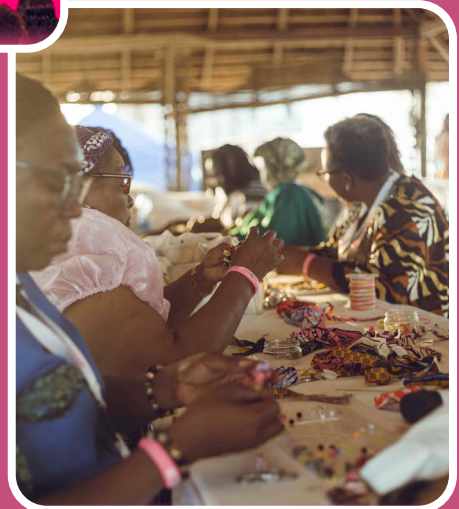












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