

AMPLIFYING AFRICAN WOMEN'S VOICES

A Program Factsheet

February 2021

THE PROBLEM

African women, young women and girls still don't have much opportunities to be heard in important decision-making processes that impact their lives, and discussions around gender equality in Africa tend to be limited to narratives, and solutions designed and presented by non-African practitioners and leaders. African voices - entrepreneurs, leaders, advocates, artists - are seldom at the center of the conversations around what it will take to make gender equality a reality on the African continent.

Furthermore, **the voices of women and girls from Francophone sub-Saharan Africa are even more often forgotten or marginalized in international spaces or processes**, as English remains dominant in pan-African and global women's rights spaces. French-speaking African women's rights activists, organizations, and movements consistently see their inclusion and participation challenged, be it because of language, travel difficulties, lack of resources and even access to information.



HOW WE'RE SOLVING THE PROBLEM

To ensure that the voices and ideas of African, particularly French-speaking women, young women and girls are amplified and listened to at the global level, Batonga has launched two initiatives: Nos Voix Comptent and Conversations for Africa.

The "Nos Voix Comptent" Initiative (Our Voices Count)

➤ **An initiative that aims to ensure that the voices of women and girls from Francophone sub-Saharan Africa are heard at the Generation Equality Forum.**



The initiative is a partnership between Batonga, the XOESE Fund for Francophone Women, and the Global Fund for Women.

Our goal is the improved inclusion and participation of Francophone African women's rights activists, organizations, and movements in the Generation Equality Forum.

The initiative seeks to

- inform all francophone women's rights and youth organizations about the GEF process and outcomes;
- collect clear data and recommendations from those groups on their priorities as they relate to the Forum's six Actions Coalitions, and
- support organizations in their advocacy efforts and membership to the Forum's Action Coalitions in the next five years.

Conversations For Africa

➤ **A project hosted by Angélique Kidjo that aims to connect audiences and African women's priorities with high-level public figures who can build visibility and support on a mass scale.**

CONVERSATIONS FOR AFRICA



Our Voices. Our Ideas. Our Actions

Through tailored interviews and conversations, the Batonga Foundation will offer new content, ideas, and challenges to audiences throughout the continent. Batonga's first Conversation for Africa event will be held in March 2021.



OUR IMPACT

- **Informing francophone women's rights groups about the Generation Equality Forum's process and agenda:**

270 ACTIVISTS ATTENDED OUR WEBINARS

Additionally, the total number of registrants reached 760 individuals: internet connectivity issues and COVID 19-related curfew were severely cited by non-attending registrants as reasons they had to cancel their participation. The webinars were rewatched 74 times on our website.

190 ACTIVISTS RECEIVE OUR INFORMATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Nos Voix Comptent also has an email newsletter that is shared with 500+ individuals.

- **Collecting data to amplify women and young women's needs and priorities through in person and online consultations:**

1,628 WOMEN AND YOUNG WOMEN CONSULTED IN PERSON

Nos Voix Comptent has worked with 10 women and youth rights groups to organise in person consultations of 1,628 women and young women in three countries: Senegal (270), Benin (758), and Cameroon (600).

700+ WOMEN AND YOUNG WOMEN CONSULTED ONLINE

Our online survey was also filled by close to 800 women and young women. These priorities and recommendations will be shared with the Generation Equality Forum organizers and Action Coalition leaders in March 2021.

- **Making concrete demands to Forum organizers to ensure full participation and inclusion of francophone activists:**

Nos Voix Comptent worked with its partner Equipop to draft a series of recommendations for digital inclusion of francophone activists in the upcoming 2021 Forum. These recommendations were shared with the French Government in February 2021. More recommendations will be shared and made public once the consultation's data is analyzed in March 2021.