



CECI's Approach

Support to Women's Movements

Over the past 30 years, \$100 million CAD has been invested through CECI to strengthen women's movements worldwide. This support has led to the creation of influential coalitions and the reinforcement of key organizations that are now recognized as essential players in the protection of women's and girls' rights.

Our work is based on four simple and concrete principles of change:

Women's organizations equipped with sustainable resources (financial, technical, and human) strengthen their impact and long-term viability.

By pooling resources according to their own priorities, they gain greater autonomy, resilience, and influence.

Access to inclusive, safe and quality services promotes the fulfillment of women's and girls' rights.

By supporting women's organizations in expanding, improving, and making their services more accessible, we help meet immediate needs while strengthening the recognition of their essential role in society.

Recognizing women's knowledge and voices strengthens their influence in decision-making spaces.

By valuing local knowledge and generating evidence-based data, women's organizations gain legitimacy, influence policy, and mobilize new allies to advance rights.

Collaboration among women's organizations amplifies their power to act and their influence.

By supporting the construction of diverse alliances and collective actions, they strengthen the women's movements are strengthened, their bargaining power in increased and the respect for rights is advanced.

Our Approach to Supporting Women's Movements

More resilient organizations

CECI supports the organizational development of WROs (Women's Rights Organizations) through a participatory self-assessment process. This leads to tailored capacity-building plans based on standards defined by the organizations themselves. Technical assistance, mentoring, and targeted funding support three key areas: inclusive governance and transformational leadership, effective management, and financial sustainability.

In Senegal, between 2019 and 2024, 100% of supported WROs reported improving their financial resilience, with funding increases of up to 220%.

Optimized services

CECI strengthens the impact of WROs by supporting the improvement of their services and facilitating access to resources, technological innovation, and strategic guidance. Special attention is given to staff well-being and to providing rapid response in contexts of crisis or insecurity.

In Guatemala, the DEMUJERES project (2019–2024) strengthened 8 local organizations, supporting over 14,000 women, including 1,487 Indigenous survivors of violence. They benefited from holistic support, including legal aid, economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and healing therapies rooted in Indigenous traditions.⁴

¹ Women's Rights Organizations (WROs)
² Source: VLF Senegal 2024 Final Report
³ Source: Supplementary Act A/SA.02/05/15
⁴ Source: DEMUJERES Guatemala 2024 Final Report

Strengthened alliances, knowledge generation, and advocacy

CECI supports the production of knowledge rooted in the realities of women's organizations to fuel strategic advocacy in decision-making spaces that are all too often inaccessible. By rigorously valuing local knowledge, we strengthen its recognition and reach. We also support broader alliances—with the media, the private sector, traditional leaders, and committed men—to increase collective impact and mobilize new resources.

CECI supported the ECOWAS Centre for Gender Development and women's coalitions from 8 Francophone African countries in drafting the Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights, adopted in 2015. This text now serves as a regional framework for gender equality.³



Total : 142 WROs

Guatemala

13 organizations

Haiti

25 organizations

Guinea

7 organizations

Burkina Faso

5 organizations

Niger

2 organizations

Nepal

5 organizations

Bolivia

18 organizations

Senegal

25 organizations

Mali

25 organizations

Benin

5 organizations

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Burundi

Rwanda

12 organizations

CECI supports more than twenty women's rights networks around the world. Through their member organizations, more than 3 million women are reached.

Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) Program

Results

From 2018 to 2024, CECI implemented the Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) program, funded by Global Affairs Canada, in Haiti, Mali, and Senegal. The program supported women's and girls' rights organizations in their fight for equality and social justice.



86 organizations

improved the effectiveness of their programs and strengthened their institutional capacities



17 networks

reinforced including more than 600 organizations



+ than 1.8 million people

directly reached by the program, including 82% of which were women

In Senegal, 25 WROs (Women's Rights Organizations) have joined forces to demand an increase in the legal marriage age and to end child marriage. Their mobilization propelled the issue to the heart of the 2025 electoral campaign. Today, they are continuing their efforts to secure the passage of a law to protect girls

Our Partners

With strong local roots, CECI collaborates with a wide range of women's movement stakeholders, supporting their own dynamics priorities and their diverse action strategies. Our partnerships

Umbrella organizations with branches or local chapters in different regions of their country, which play a structural role in coordination and influence at the national level

Networks and coalitions that bring members together around common causes and support collective action

Emerging organizations such as young feminist groups, those representing marginalized populations from an intersectional perspective, or innovative, digital, or ephemeral collectives

Institutions and research centers which contribute to the production of local knowledge and evidence-based data to fuel advocacy and influence public policy

Rooted in a logic of **localization, trust, and co-construction**, this partnership approach strengthens pluralistic and dynamic women's movements, capable of **defending, upholding, and realizing women's rights**.



CECI is an international organization active in 17 countries in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. CECI works in two impact areas: Inclusive and Sustainable Economies for Women and Youth, and Rights of Women and Girls. Inclusive Governance and Humanitarian Action forms the foundation of our work, enabling the achievement of results across both impact areas.

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