

# IGNITE: LOCALIZATION WITH A FEMINIST APPROACH



Inspiring Girls and Grassroots Networks for Inclusive and Transformative Education (**IGNITE**) is a 36-month project that aims to amplify the voices and agency of feminist CSOs to advance gender-transformative education and empowerment for marginalized adolescent girls through projects rooted in sustainable and locally-driven approaches.

## WHAT WE AIM FOR

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Feminist CSOs have stronger organizational capacity and improved access to funding.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Feminist CSOs have greater advocacy resources, access to evidence and access to decision-makers.

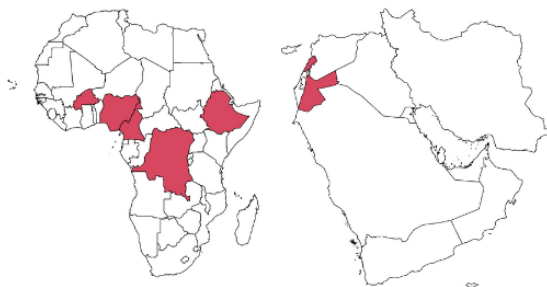
## HOW WE DO IT

**COMPONENT 1:** Feminist grant-making through flexible funding to CSOs.

**COMPONENT 2:** Programmatic and organizational capacity-sharing and peer-to-peer learning.

**COMPONENT 3:** Advocacy and policy influence.

## WHERE WE WORK



Burkina Faso, Cameroon,  
DR Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria

Jordan, Lebanon

## WHO WE SUPPORT

- Local feminist civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Adolescent girls
- Key stakeholders working in the education sector
- Research actors
- Families and community members
- Policy-makers

## IGNITE | SNAPSHOT

 **10** million EUR  
*including 5 million for feminist grant-making*

**72** grants  
*(including 10 consortia)* **86** CSOs

Seeds grants: 17 CSOs | Scale-Up grants: 64 CSOs | Research & Advocacy: 5 CSOs



### CONSORTIUM MEMBERS



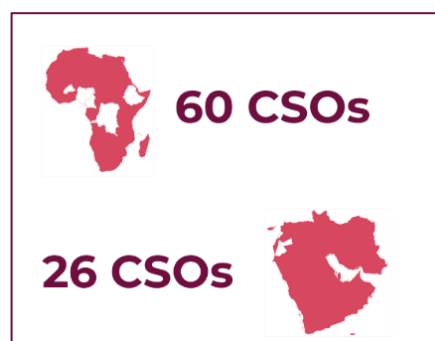
### FUNDED BY



## Our IGNITEes

IGNITE currently supports **86 feminist civil society organizations** (CSOs) through **72 grants across seven countries**: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon and Nigeria.

These **locally led initiatives** focus on challenging gender-related social norms that hinder girls' participation in education. IGNITEes' projects span a wide range of interventions, including mentorship clubs, school reintegration, vocational training, gender-based violence prevention, community-level advocacy, and support to marginalized girls.



## Our Reach

Since the inception of their projects in 2024, Africa-based IGNITEes<sup>1</sup> have reached an estimated **83,000** individuals – among them **53,000 adolescent girls, 5,000+ internally displaced, and 200+ refugees** – through awareness-raising, education support, and empowerment activities.

Beyond individual support, IGNITEes have actively engaged families, educators, religious leaders, and local authorities to help create more enabling and supportive environments for girls' education. Through collaboration, and community outreach, these efforts are fostering shared ownership and stronger commitment to girls' right to learn.

### Here are some examples:

- Advocacy at scale: IGNITEes advanced policy influence through **7 policy briefs, 30+ public messages, 5+ multi-stakeholder dialogues, 6 advocacy labs, 30+ advocacy action plans, 2 advocacy campaigns**, and peer exchanges, strengthening collective voice and evidence-based engagement.
- In DRC, Mouvement Féministe Bisobaasi Telema helped **remove around 200 girls from mine work in Katanga**, enabling their return to school and safer learning environments.
- In Burkina Faso, Association pour la Protection des Droits de la Jeune Fille et de l'Enfant supported the **return to school of 290 girls and delivered vocational training to about 50 others** in pastry-making, graphic design, plumbing, and installation and maintenance of solar systems.
- In Jordan, NAGAT's IGNITE-supported programme **empowered 80 girls facing poverty, bullying, and harmful social norms**. By combining academic support, life skills, digital safety, and psychosocial care with community engagement, the project improved girls' learning outcomes, confidence, and family support—creating safer, more enabling environments for girls to stay in school and thrive.



### From Legal Uncertainty to Institutional Stability: Supporting CSOs in Cameroon

In **Cameroon**, new legal restrictions delayed second disbursements for 16 CSOs. IGNITE, alongside AFD and the French Embassy, engaged authorities and provided legal support to safeguard continuity.

Through tailored accompaniment and legal support, **IGNITE enabled AFAIRD to secure formal NGO registration within a matter of months**—an outcome that typically takes years and carries significant uncertainty. This milestone not only strengthened the organization's institutional sustainability but also set a precedent for other groups to regularize their status and access international funding.

<sup>1</sup> **IGNITEes** are feminist civil society organizations supported by IGNITE's project. The term refers to CSOs directly contracted under IGNITE's grant-making component as well as consortia co-applicants.



Supporting adolescent girls with hygiene kits so they can stay in school, every day of the month  
**Forum des Femmes Citoyennes et engagées pour la gouvernance et le développement (DRC, May 2025)**

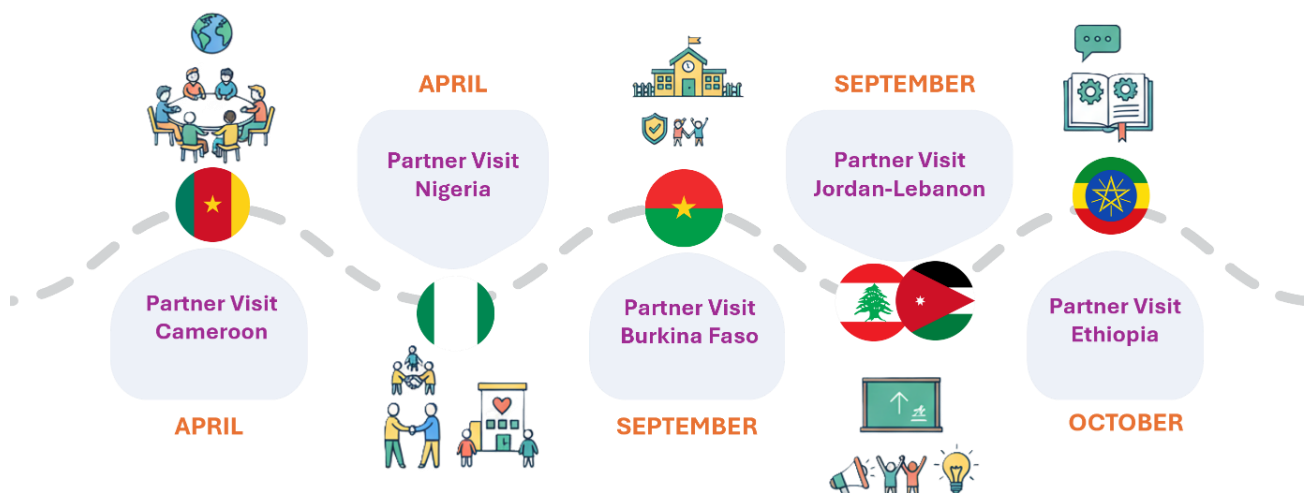
## Consortium Highlights in 2025

Over the last six months, IGNITE continued to advance feminist localisation and girls' education advocacy. Consortium members and CSOs represented IGNITE at key global forums, including:

- **4th Feminist Diplomacy Ministerial Conference** in Paris (October 2025)
- **3rd Feminist Republik Festival in Mombasa** (Nov 26-30) organized by UAF-Africa

Additionally, **IGNITE managed to grant 17 CSOs with a top-up** for their organizational capacity and programme implementation during the third quarter of 2025 that will cover the three-month extension of the Project that will now end in June 2026.

## NURTURING OUR RELATIONSHIP



Between April and October 2025, IGNITE partnership visits in Cameroon, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Lebanon enabled teams to witness change on the ground, engage directly with girls and communities, and listen closely to CSOs' feedback. Combining observation with dialogue, the visits strengthened trust, deepened partnerships, and informed timely adjustments to IGNITE's approach—ensuring support remains responsive, context-driven, and aligned with partners' realities and priorities.

## Capacity Sharing

In October, IGNITE has deployed its **Online Resource Platform**, a dedicated space designed to centralize tools, guidance, and learning materials for our partners and grantees. The platform brings together resources on advocacy, safeguarding, organizational development, and programmatic learning, making them easier to access and use. By providing a shared and user-friendly hub, the platform aims to strengthen capacity-sharing, support peer learning, and help organizations apply knowledge more effectively in their day-to-day work.

### As of end 2025:

- **Nine in-person workshops** have been delivered in six countries for a cumulative 210 participants in 2025.
- **17 online capacity sharing sessions** were attended by 372 participants.
- Urgent Action Fund–Africa (UAF-A) and the René Moawad Foundation continued intensive accompaniment delivering a total of **374 one-on-one support sessions** focused on project management, financial compliance, reporting, and organisational systems.

### Why Capacity-Sharing?

The IGNITE consortium has adopted a ‘capacity-sharing’ approach, which moves beyond conventional capacity-building. This approach is defined as a collaborative and reciprocal process that fosters horizontal learning and co-creation. It recognizes the existing knowledge and expertise of civil society organizations, and creates space for mutual exchange, reflection, and growth. Rather than focusing solely on the one-way transfer of skills and tools IGNITE’s capacity-sharing model is designed to identify strengths, address capacity gaps, and co-develop sustainable, context-specific solutions. This approach is grounded in feminist values and places the lived experiences, needs, and perspectives of adolescent girls at the heart of program design and implementation.

## Looking Ahead

As IGNITE moves into its next phase, preparations are underway for the **IGNITE Forward event in April 2026 in Nairobi**, which will serve as a key moment to reflect on collective achievements, elevate grantee voices, and strengthen connections across the network and with the global feminist movement.

At the same time, the team will progressively enter the **conclusion of the project**, with the implementation phase in Africa and MENA expected to come to an end in June 2026.

This period will focus on consolidating results and legacy, capturing lessons learned, and amplifying the impact of feminist, locally led approaches. Throughout this transition, capacity-sharing activities will continue, and the Resource Platform will be regularly updated to ensure grantees can access tools, learning materials, and peer insights. In parallel, the IGNITE Consortium is actively working to secure continued funding to **sustain support for feminist organizations** in both regions and build on the momentum generated through IGNITE.