



A MODEL FOR LOCALLY LED, TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Since March 2023, IGNITE has demonstrated the effectiveness of a locally led, flexible, and partnership-driven approach to advancing girls' education and gender equality in both emergency and development contexts. Through 72 grants supporting 86 civil society organizations across 7 countries, the programme has reached over 110,000 individuals, including large numbers of internally displaced persons and refugees.

Beyond immediate result, IGNITE is above all an investment in long-term capacity strengthening, with over 800 capacity-sharing activities delivered through workshops, coaching, and communities of practice. This holistic approach enabled partners not only to advance girls' access to education, but also to strengthen their organizational resilience, advocacy capacity, and sustainability.

From Local Action to Systemic Change

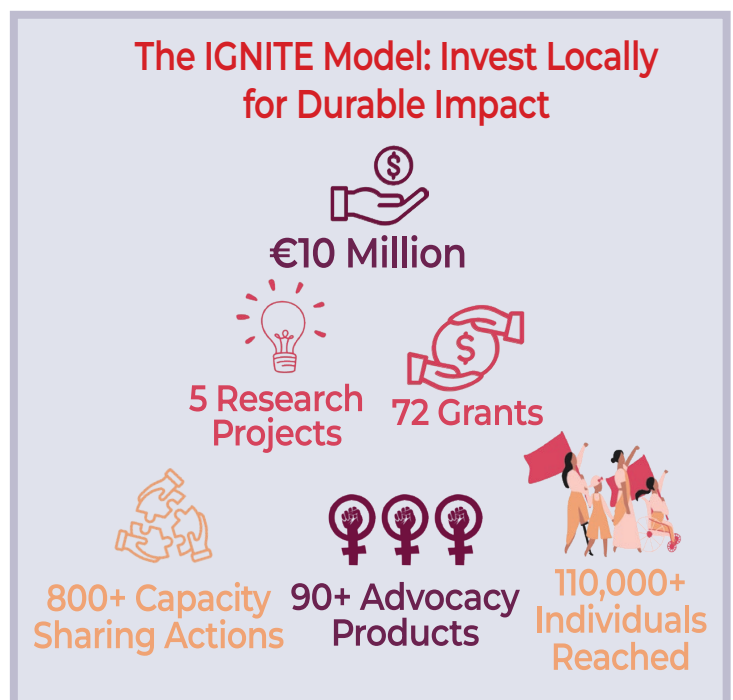
IGNITE's impact is visible both at individual and systemic levels. In Burkina Faso, vocational training enabled young women, many out of school or displaced, to **access non-traditional professions and achieve economic independence**. In Nigeria, a CSO produced **radio shows listened by over 30,000 people** that promoted girls' education and inclusion and tackled harmful gender norms. In Lebanon and Jordan, science, technology, and leadership training initiatives opened new pathways for girls in sectors where they remain underrepresented.

At the policy level, advocacy efforts supported by IGNITE contributed to tangible change. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, advocacy efforts with the Ministry of Education paid off with a recent **reform allowing pregnant adolescents to remain in school**.

In Ethiopia, one CSO partnered with 31 government officials to conduct a multi-site evidence study. **Surveying over 1,000 respondents**, they uncovered that girls' dropout is driven by intersecting crises (poverty, early marriage, gender-based violence, poor infrastructure, and harmful social norms) requiring systemic rather than piecemeal responses.

This process strengthened credibility and led to ownership of results by 54 stakeholders through validation workshops.

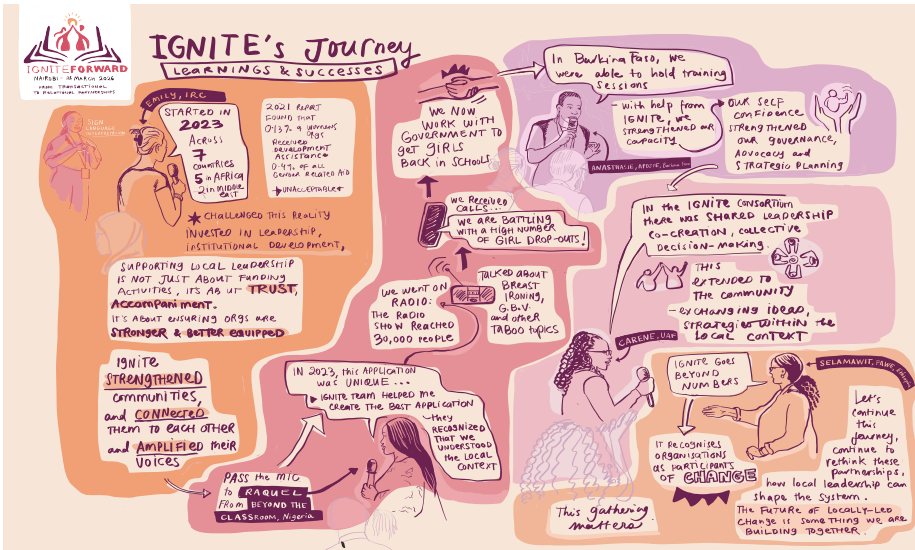
In total, more than **90 advocacy products** were developed, amplifying locally grounded evidence and influencing decision-making processes.





From Transactional to Relational Relationship

In March 2026, the IGNITE Forward event brought together nearly **100 participants**, including grassroots organizations, institutional partners, donors, and private sector, to collectively shape the future of localization and women-led responses. Participants' feedback consistently emphasized the relevance of the IGNITE model, particularly its emphasis on trust-based partnerships, flexibility, and the centrality of local actors in defining priorities and solutions.



Showcasing the Power of Locally-Led Action at IGNITE Forward

3 Days

98 Participants

30 Organizations represented

45 IGNITEes

80% Satisfaction



Looking Ahead

As social norms in many countries continue to affect access to education and protection for girls, IGNITE offers a tested and adaptable model for community-led and multisectorial service delivery. Its results highlight the value of investing in locally led approaches that combine grant making, capacity strengthening, and research and advocacy, laying the groundwork for inclusive and transformative education.

Click to enlarge the pictures and access the full gallery of graphic notes

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