

ECOWAS Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development - FRSD

Project Overview

FRSD | July 2024



Implemented by:



Oportunidades profissionais
brilhantes e capacitação de
jovens e mulheres para o
desenvolvimento sustentável



OVERVIEW OF THE FRSD

The FRSD (Fund for Regional Stabilisation and Development in Fragile Regions within ECOWAS Member States) is an **instrument promoting social and economic stability** through investments and capacity development.

Set up by:



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO



Implementation of Technical Cooperation (TC):
Capacity strengthening of partners and on civil society level in partner communities implemented by:



Implementation of Financial Cooperation (FC):
Investments funded through KfW Development Bank with implementation supported by GFA Consulting Group.



OUR MULTI-LEVEL APPROACH

Conflicts and crises affecting the ECOWAS region have **multifaceted socio-economic effects on civil societies**. Therefore, the FRSD embraces proven holistic and **fast-acting approaches** to foster stabilisation **on different levels**.



GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE

Meaningful **empowerment** of women and youth as **basis and integral part** of all interventions



OUR MULTI-LEVEL APPROACH



Employment promotion

- Vocational Training
- Support to Small Businesses
- Financial Literacy for Women



Trust in governments and institutions

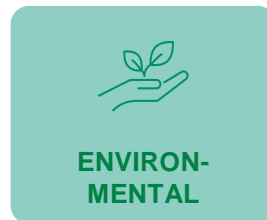
Media4Peace:

- Enhance reporting capacities in a conflict-sensitive manner
- Focus on underrepresented female journalists
- Identification of fake news



Social cohesion & peaceful societies

- Community based peace dialogues with feminist development approach
- Sport4Development: team spirit, talent development, employability though soft skills, inclusivity by encouraging participation of PwDs



Climate resilience through resource-efficient food-systems

- Agro-Ecology Approaches
- Renewable Energy
- Cooling with basic locally available material
- Provision of solar-powered Cooling



Overcome infrastructural challenges and digital gender gap with „Coldtivate“ App:

- Access to markets for women who often face barriers
- Market and cold-room storage information
- Language inclusivity: indigenous languages and comic strips for illiterate users
- No stable internet coverage needed



Knowledge sharing with political and implementing partners

- Digital platform on stabilisation in the ECOWAS region
- National advisory committees to ensure adequacy of measures for local context



GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE

Meaningful empowerment of women and youth as basis and integral part of all activities and interventions



IMPLEMENTATION REGIONS

The fund is open to all ECOWAS member states. Countries are selected based on a predefined selection process. The FRSD focuses on the **most fragile and remote regions** where **increased needs are often met by little development efforts**.

THE GAMBIA (PILOT)

- completed in 2023
- almost 5000 young people reached
- 70% women

GUINEA-BISSAU



- since September 2023
- currently reaching ~3000 young people
- > 50% women

TOGO

- launched in June 2024



BENIN

- launched in June 2024



~ 8,000 young people reached

GOAL BY END OF 2025: 15,000

~ 5,000 among these are women

GOAL BY END OF 2025: 7,500



FRSD EMPOWERS WITH GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

- Especially women are encouraged to take on the responsibility of becoming facilitators to be positioned as **breadwinners and decision makers**.
- **Aminata Baldé** is one of the FRSD facilitators **undergoing intensive trainings** in sustainable farming, marketing, human rights, and women's rights.
- Her goal is to **bring this knowledge back to her community** and share it with fellow farmers.
- Despite being a busy mother, she attends the training as **childcare is provided**.
- She acts as the **custodian of material and vocational support** to the community. She has been entrusted with this responsibility by her community and her **accountability** is documented through the memorandum.



Aminata Baldé with her baby in the village of Daro Salam in Guinea-Bissau signing the memorandum of cooperation

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FRSD EMPOWERS WITH GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES



Gender transformative approaches in the electrification of rural areas:

- Women tend to be the primary energy users in a household but are rarely decision makers in energy purchasing.
- As primary providers of household care work, women are more likely to be responsible for energy-intensive chores.
- Traditional gender roles, therefore, result in different patterns of energy use between men and women.

→ women stand to gain disproportionately from electrification



ECREEE
Towards Sustainable Energy

Collaboration with ECREEE (ECOWAS Centre for renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency)

- Access to electricity for women
- Enable women to become knowledgeable stakeholders
- Institutionalized trainings and capacity strengthening via state and non-state structures
- Bridge the gap between rural communities and political institutions and build trust



**THANK
YOU**

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On behalf of



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COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
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