



# The Gender Working Group

Gender at Cités Unies France, here and there, from peer to peer

## Context

Gender equality issues have been particularly highlighted by the Covid-19 crisis: indeed, it has made women more vulnerable in both the professional and private spheres, and has accentuated already existing gender inequalities.

Cités Unies France wanted to make a long-term commitment to raising awareness on gender equality issues by creating the Gender Thematic Group in October 2020.

Local authorities involved at the international level have the possibility to act on gender equality issues by carrying out decentralized cooperation actions, and by taking part in reflection works related to the reduction of inequalities and other violations of fundamental rights. They are key players in the implementation of solutions. This is achieved through the sharing and pooling of experiences for greater efficiency and impact on populations. The objective is to ensure that the MDG n°5, dedicated to gender equality, is achieved everywhere, in a logic of territorialization of the SDGs.

## Role and Missions

- To support French local authorities in integrating the gender issue in their international cooperation projects.
- To offer a space for discussion and exchange with local authorities involved in international cooperation on gender equality issues.
- To raise awareness on gender equality issues in the world, particularly through decentralized cooperation.
- To contribute to innovate the practices and methods of decentralized cooperation.

## PRÉSIDENTE

VILLE DE   
**TOURS**

Elise Pereira-Nunes, Deputy Mayor of Tours, Delegate for gender equality, the fight against discrimination, international relations, city networks and the Francophonie, City of Tours, France. President of the gender working group, Cités Unies France.

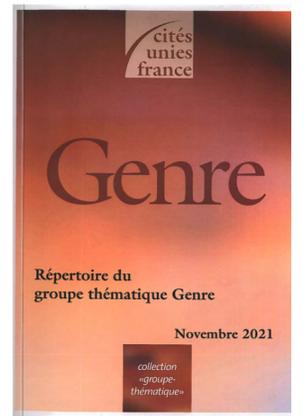




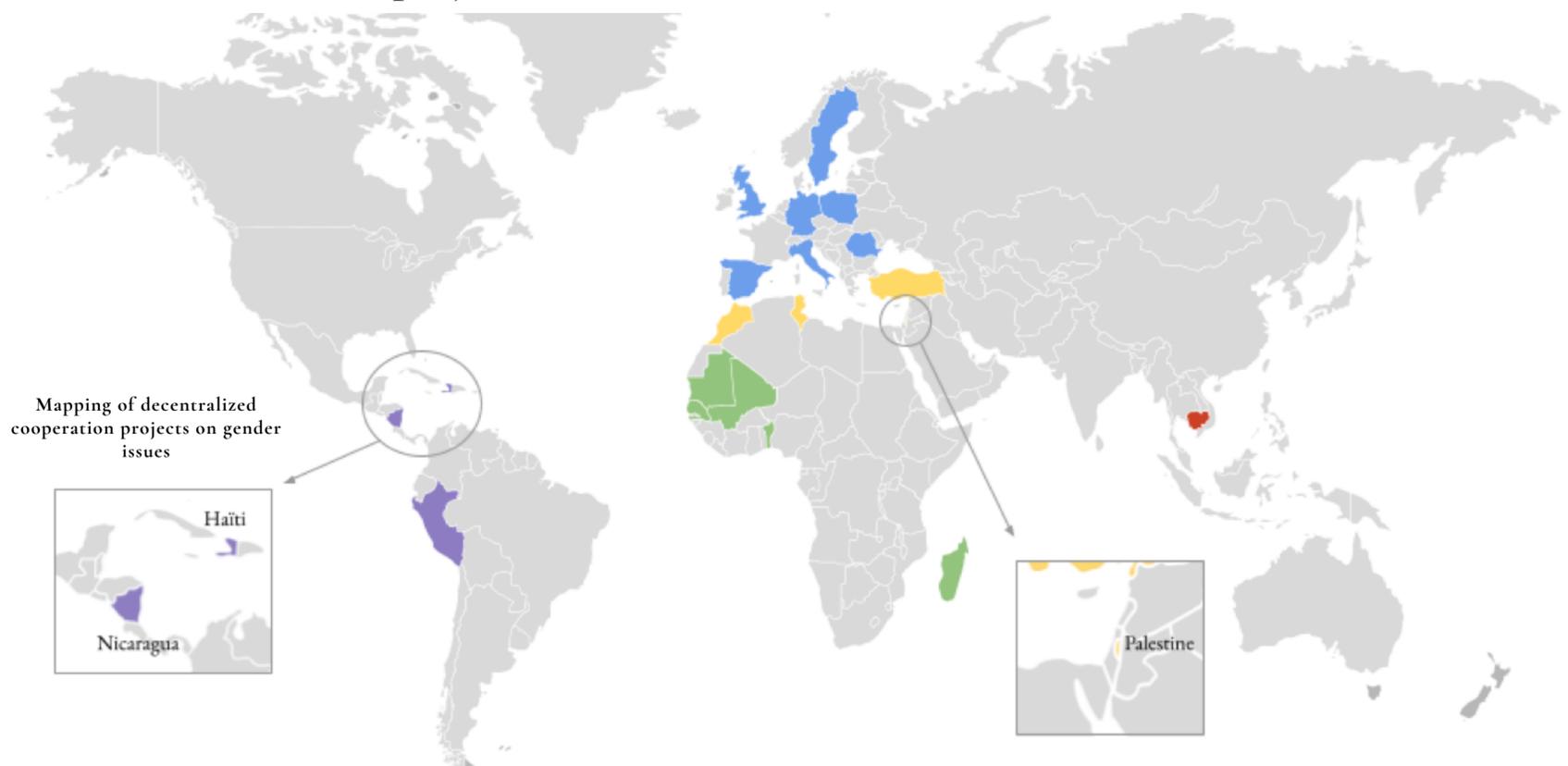
# Gender in the international action of Local Authorities

Within the framework of the actions of the Gender Thematic Group, a directory of decentralized cooperation projects on gender issues has been developed. This tool is intended for French local authorities and their partners in order to support them in their commitment to gender issues. This document has been compiled from the answers provided by French local authorities involved in international action in the framework of an online survey proposed by Cités Unies France from February to November 2021.

This document, which aims to help French local authorities involved in international action to integrate the gender issue into their cooperation projects and to contribute to the international dialogue on the subject from the point of view of local authorities, has made it possible to identify the main themes of local authorities' international projects.



Repertoire of decentralized cooperation CUF, November 2021 (French version only)



## Themes of decentralized government projects

Women's movements and leadership

Feminist Action for Climate Justice

Action against gender-based violence

Economic empowerment

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Promotion of the rights of women and/or LGBTQIA+ people

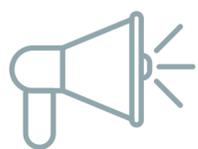
Other (vocational training, skills transfer, access to basic services, access to education, sports ...)

# Actions and events of the CUF Gender working group

## Group meetings



- Action against sexual violence and gender discrimination
- Economic empowerment
- Representation of women in the public sphere
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Promotion of the rights of women and/or LGBTQIA+ people



## Advocacy for the role of the French Territorial Collectivities for gender equality

- Video on behalf of the 8th of March
- Letter to the Turkish Embassy in France signed by elected officials following Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention...

## Representation at forums and other high level events



- Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow, UK
- Generation Equality Forum in Tours, France
- World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland
- Annual Meeting of the International Action of Local Authorities (RAICT), Paris, France

## Sahel-Gender Crossroads Workshop:

### Empowering Women and Girls in the Sahel



How do decentralized cooperation projects in the Sahel contribute to the promotion of women's rights and their economic empowerment? This workshop allowed three French local authorities to share their experience and know-how in terms of cooperation on gender in the Sahel region. An expert also intervened to give elements of response to the problematic raised during this meeting.

## Education and training



- Intervention of experts in gender on the taking into account of gender in the cooperations
- How to respond to the "gender equality" section of calls for projects? interventions by the DAECT, AFD and others

## Workshop on climate change and gender effects



How can decentralized cooperation act on gender-sensitive climate projects? This workshop aimed to provide keys to understanding to communities how climate change affects not only women, but also the already existing inequalities between women and men. It was also to highlight how women have contributed to the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies through their knowledge and skills. Finally, it was necessary to reflect on how these contributions can be incorporated into policies and action frameworks at the international, national and local levels.



# Associated partners (non-exhaustive list)

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## French Ministries

- Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Delegation for the External Action of Local Authorities, Gender and Development Platform
- Ministry in charge of Equality between women and men, Diversity and Equal Opportunities



## Embassies



## Agencies :

- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Expertise France
- UN Women France



## Networks and associations (in alphabetical order) :

- French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE)
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)/Platforma
- F3E
- National Federation of Urban Planning Agencies (FNAU)
- France Urbaine
- Gender in action
- L'Etre Egale
- The Regional Multi-Actor Networks (RRMA)
- French partnership for the city and the territories



📍 9, rue Christiani, 75018 Paris

☎ +33 (0)1 53 41 81 81

Network



CUF Website : [www.cites-unies-france.org](http://www.cites-unies-france.org)



Facebook : Cités-Unies-France



YouTube : Cités Unies France Communication



Twitter : @CitesUniesFR

Contacts

Constance Koukoui

Head of Departement, Geographic and thematic animation, Gender and Climate referent  
[c.koukoui@cites-unies-france.org](mailto:c.koukoui@cites-unies-france.org)

*Design and production by Gemima Pierre*

*Intern, Geographic and thematic animation Department, Cités Unies France*

*Juillet 2022*