

# WHAT DATA MAKES POSSIBLE

STORIES OF  
DATA-DRIVEN FEMINIST  
ADVOCACY FROM EQUAL MEASURES

# WHY WE COLLECTED THESE STORIES

Across three continents, Equal Measures' partners have spent nearly a decade turning gender data into measurable change. They have influenced county budgets in Kenya, reshaped municipal planning in Colombia, secured services for women in Guatemala, strengthened national accountability mechanisms in Indonesia, and elevated African women's voices through the Beijing+30 process. These eight case studies help trace how that change happens.

Advocacy impact rarely unfolds within a single project cycle or reporting period. It develops over time through relationships, shifting political contexts, and opportunities that can emerge years after an initial training, introduction, or piece of research. Through sustained partnerships and regular dialogue, we have been able to follow our coalition members' broader data-driven advocacy journeys, including both the breakthroughs and setbacks they have experienced along the way. As we launch our 2026-2030 strategy, we believe this is the right moment to document and share those journeys more widely.

Looking beyond grants and reporting periods allowed us to ask questions that are often difficult to answer through traditional monitoring and evaluation processes. How did a Data-Driven Advocacy training in Guatemala contribute years later to protecting funding for survivor services? What did the SDG Gender Index make possible in Kitui County? How did FEMNET's thirteen sub-regional consultations strengthen the African Group's engagement in the Beijing+30 review? The answers rarely sit in a single report. We found them by looking across years of work and listening to the organisations leading it.

As we examined these stories, several themes emerged again and again. The SDG Gender Index provided coalition members with a shared and credible evidence base, but its influence depended on what happened next: how organisations interpreted the data, connected it to lived realities, and used it within trusted relationships. Data, we have learned, does not create change on its own. It becomes influential when credible evidence meets experienced advocates, community knowledge, and opportunities for action.

For example, in Guatemala, ASOGEN combined Index data with its own evidence on violence against women to advocate successfully for continued public funding for survivor services. In Indonesia, KAPAL Perempuan integrated the Index into national SDG processes and government training materials. In Colombia, La Ruta Pacífica used gender data to monitor implementation of 130 commitments on women's and gender rights within the 2016 Peace Agreement, while CLADEM combined Index findings with decades of feminist legal analysis and advocacy across Latin America and the Caribbean. Across very different contexts, gender inequality became harder for institutions to ignore when feminist organisations could demonstrate where commitments were falling short and provide evidence of what progress, or lack of progress, looked like in practice. In every case, data helped shift conversations from promises and commitments to measurable progress and outcomes.

We also saw organisations transform the way they work with data. Equal Measures' Data-Driven Advocacy approach helped coalition members identify, analyse, communicate, and apply evidence more strategically. It enabled them to combine quantitative data with the realities women were documenting in their communities and use that evidence more effectively with decision-makers. Our 2025 survey of 468 gender equality advocates reinforces this finding: 66 percent said data helped raise gender equality on policy agendas, and 63 percent said it made policymakers take their demands more seriously.

Many coalition members went on to train hundreds of advocates through their own networks, creating multiplier effects that extended the reach of data-driven advocacy far beyond a single organisation. Others adapted the curriculum for universities, community groups, journalists, and public institutions. GROOTS Kenya supported grassroots women to collect community-level data and bring it directly into county planning processes. KAPAL's Sekolah Perempuan networks generated village-level evidence where official statistics were absent. In Senegal, Réseau Siggil Jigéen translated the Index into a national factsheet and used

it in advocacy campaigns conducted in local languages. The tools travelled because coalition members adapted them to their own contexts and made them their own.

The relationships built around the data mattered just as much. Over time, several coalition members became trusted sources of evidence and analysis for government institutions, national statistics offices, and justice sector actors. GROOTS Kenya contributed to national gender statistics processes. KAPAL developed sustained partnerships with Indonesian ministries and the SDGs Secretariat. ASOGEN brought Index findings into its work with prosecutors and judges, and during the 2024 national Index launch, Guatemala's National Statistics Office publicly committed to working with organisations such as ASOGEN to strengthen the use of gender data in public policy.

Across these stories, a clear pathway emerges: data builds credibility, credibility creates influence, and influence opens the door to lasting policy and systems change. These relationships often took years to build, and they endured through elections, leadership changes, and periods in which civic space became more difficult to navigate.

Yet none of this happened through data alone. Coalition members repeatedly highlighted the importance of learning from peers facing similar challenges in other regions, accessing regional and global policy spaces, and receiving flexible funding that allowed them to respond when political contexts shifted or advocacy opportunities emerged. Equal Measures provided the SDG Gender Index, the Data-Driven Advocacy curriculum, funding, technical support, and connections across the coalition. Coalition members brought decades of feminist organising, deep community relationships, local expertise, and a commitment to accountability. The impact documented in these stories emerged from the combination of those resources over time.

Each case study can be read on its own, grounded in a distinct organisation, political context, and advocacy journey. Together, however, they tell a broader story about how change happens: how a training evolves into a new approach to advocacy, how community-generated evidence reaches government institutions, how relationships built over years create openings for policy reform, and how opportunities shared through a coalition can travel much further than anyone initially imagined.

After nearly a decade, the most important question is no longer whether data matters for gender equality. The evidence is clear that it does. The more important question is how to build the relationships, capacities, and movements that enable evidence to become influence and influence to become power. These stories suggest that lasting change is not created by data simply because it exists. Change happens when people have the skills, resources, and opportunities to use evidence to challenge inequities and shift power.

We are deeply grateful to every partner who entrusted us with their experiences, reflections, and lessons, and to the women and advocates whose work sits at the center of these stories. We hope this collection honours their leadership and contributes to the growing understanding of how data can support more effective and accountable movements for gender equality.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*This publication was conceptualized and developed by Aminah Jasho for Equal Measures and designed by Esme Abbott. The case studies were edited by Alison Holder, Julisa Tambunan, Tity Agbahey, Cecilia García, Albert Motivans, Aarushi Khanna, and Coretta Jonah.*

*We extend our deep gratitude to our coalition members working within and alongside feminist movements. We are especially grateful to everyone who generously shares their experiences, insights, evidence, and reflections with us. Their work, knowledge, and commitment make these stories possible. Responsibility for the development, interpretation, and final presentation of the publication rests with Equal Measures.*

*Translations are prepared by the Equal Measures team, with support from DeepL, an AI-assisted translation tool. While translations are reviewed by our team, errors or nuances may remain. We welcome corrections and appreciate the understanding of our readers.*

# ASOGEN, Asociación Generando Equidad, Liderazgo y Oportunidades



ASOGEN is a feminist human rights organization in Guatemala advancing gender equality through survivor-centred services, justice reform, and data-driven advocacy.

Founded in 2008, it remains the only organisation providing comprehensive care for survivors of violence in the department of Chimaltenango, offering legal representation, psychosocial and medical support, shelter, and economic empowerment training to over 500 women annually.

ASOGEN joined the Equal Measures 2030 (EM2030) in 2020, the newest member to come on board. The partnership began during the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring entirely virtual onboarding and training. Despite this, ASOGEN quickly committed to integrating EM2030's SDG Gender Index into its advocacy, justice-sector engagement, and national policy work using data as documentation and negotiation leverage.

**500+**

women trained  
annually

**95%**

Conviction rate in  
litigated cases

**100+**

local advocates trained in data-driven  
advocacy with SDG Gender Index integrated  
into training for prosecutors and judges

## From individual accompaniment to national accountability

Guatemala continues to report high levels of femicidal violence relative to the region. According to ECLAC's 2024 regional analysis, the country recorded a femicide rate of 1.9 cases per 100,000 women, among the highest reported rates in Latin America. ASOGEN's work responds directly to this context through survivor support, justice advocacy, and institutional accountability efforts.

“

“What drives and inspires us is the pursuit of the utopia that is out there on the horizon, a life free from violence for every woman and girl. We want to make this utopia a visible, tangible reality.” - *Alva Gordillo Aguirre, Deputy Director, ASOGEN*

In Chimaltenango, ASOGEN's work is deeply personal. Women arrive with few options and leave with legal support, a safety plan, and, increasingly, the knowledge that their case will be heard. ASOGEN's 95% conviction rate in cases it litigates on behalf of survivors, is a signal to perpetrators that impunity is no longer guaranteed. But ASOGEN's model has always been built on a clear understanding: local action and national transformation are not separate strategies. Every survivor case generates data. Every data point feeds advocacy. Every advocacy win changes the conditions for the next survivor.

“

Everything is interlinked. We cannot work at the individual and local level without also working at the national level.” - *Alva Gordillo Aguirre, Deputy Director, ASOGEN*

This connection between local action and national change was visible on 8 March 2024, when ASOGEN organized a march from the juvenile court to the National Civil Police commissioner, where they presented a petition.

# THE JOURNEY

Before joining Equal Measures 2030, ASOGEN was already leading national advocacy on femicide and GBV policy. They were already working alongside the Ministry of the Interior, police, and judiciary helping drive the creation of the specialized Court and Tribunal against Femicide in Chimaltenango in 2017. A landmark step toward reducing secondary victimization of survivors in the justice system.

What the Equal Measures 2030 partnership added was a tool and a framework: the SDG Gender Index. By situating Guatemala's rates of femicide and GBV within global SDG accountability structures, ASOGEN could reframe the conversation with government actors. Violence against women was no longer only a moral argument. It was a measurable development failure — one that Guatemala had committed to addressing.

## DATA STAT

Guatemala ranks very low on both the 2022 and 2024 SDG Gender Index, scoring **57.2 out of 100** and placing **95th out of 139** countries globally and **18th out of 20** in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The country has been rated "very poor" since 2015, and the trajectory is moving in the wrong direction. With its score declining between 2019 and 2022, from **59.4 to 57.2**.

Women's representation in government, access to housing, and parliamentary participation remain among the worst performing indicators in the country. Based on current trends, Guatemala would need to improve by more than five points per year to reach gender equality by 2030.

This is the context in which ASOGEN works. Every policy win, every conviction, every budget secured happens against this backdrop.

[See the country profile for Guatemala.](#)



Through Equal Measures 2030's Data-Driven Advocacy (DDA) training, ASOGEN's team and the advocates it works with built new skills in identifying, interpreting and communicating evidence. The results from a survey conducted indicated that the proportion of participants who felt confident or very confident using data rose from 19 to 77 after training, while those unsure how to use data dropped from 73 to just 1.

ASOGEN also participated in Equal Measures' 2023 Data Journalism Fellowship, through which Executive Director Danessa Luna, used data from the Judicial Branch to investigate the challenges faced by women victims of violence in accessing justice. Her analysis revealed a pattern of dismissals, particularly in cases of sexual violence and femicides, driven by discretionary criteria. Danessa's research plays a vital role in advocating for justice reform and monitoring the Judiciary's actions during the government's transition period.

“

Documenting the denial of justice gives us an idea of the negative impact that exists in women's lives, as well as statistical data that is compelling for advocacy.”

- Danessa Luna, Executive Director, ASOGEN



# THE COALITION EFFECT

The partnership with Equal Measures has strengthened ASOGEN's strategy. As Cecilia García, Equal Measures 2030's LAC regional lead, reflected: "Since they joined the coalition, they have really committed to showcasing these tools and linking that to their work."

→ **National budget secured for survivor services.** Using SDG Gender Index data and evidence from ASOGEN's own casework, the organisation successfully negotiated with the Ministry of the Interior to secure continued government funding for the CAIMUS network, the national system of comprehensive care centres for women survivors of violence. In December 2021, the government committed new budget resources to ensure CAIMUS centres continued operating nationwide.

→ **Justice-sector integration of gender data.** SDG Gender Index findings are now embedded in training programmes for prosecutors and judges in Chimaltenango and Sacatepéquez. ASOGEN leads the local security and justice roundtable, bringing together justice-sector actors to improve coordinated GBV response. Leading to improved coordination between justice institutions through security and justice roundtables. This is a direct result of the credibility ASOGEN has built as a reliable gender data source in the region.

→ **Strengthened oversight of sexual violence in schools.** ASOGEN's data-informed congressional engagement has led to improved monitoring of sexual violence cases in schools. One of the most underreported and under-addressed forms of violence in Guatemala.

→ **100+ advocates trained in data-driven advocacy.** With Equal Measures 2030's DDA curriculum, ASOGEN has trained over 100 local gender advocates to find, analyse, and use data in their work. These advocates operate across justice, health, and community sectors — each carrying new capacity into spaces ASOGEN cannot reach alone. The DDA curriculum built measurable skills in data use across ASOGEN's team and the wider network of advocates they train, with confidence in data use rising sharply post-training.

→ **2024 SDG Gender Index national launch.** ASOGEN led the national launch of the 2024 SDG Gender Index in Guatemala, convening representatives from government institutions, civil society, the judiciary, police, and the national statistics office. The launch became an important space for dialogue around gender inequality, institutional accountability, and the role of feminist organizations in advancing public policy.

Government representatives publicly acknowledged both the value of collaboration with civil society and the need to strengthen institutional capacities around gender data and analysis. Evelyn Ovalle from the National Statistics Office (INE) reaffirmed the institution's commitment to "work hand in hand with organizations like ASOGEN" and highlighted the importance of gender indicators, including women's time use data, in shaping care policies and broader gender-responsive planning.

Representatives from the National Civil Police also recognised the role feminist organizations have played in advancing equity and visibility around violence against women. As Dulran Pérez noted during the launch, "With these tools, we can give visibility to these issues and make our respective contributions."

The event reflected a broader shift toward recognising gender data not only as an advocacy tool, but as part of strengthening institutional planning, accountability, and access to justice. It also demonstrated the growing legitimacy of feminist civil society actors such as ASOGEN within national policy and data ecosystems.

→ **Global Advocacy and Visibility.** The SDG Gender Index provided a globally recognized framework that gave ASOGEN credibility in conversations with government institutions. Additionally, Equal Measures provides international visibility that also functions as a form of protection. Partners have shared that they feel “somehow protected” when Equal Measures gives visibility to their work. A form of solidarity that goes beyond technical support.

→ **Flexible funding.** Equal Measures 2030’s subgrants provided sustained resourcing for advocacy on child marriage and sexual violence, including through the disruptions of COVID-19. Engagement with other Equal Measures coalition members reinforced shared strategies around data-driven feminist advocacy

## Sustaining impact in a constrained and dangerous civic space

ASOGEN operates in a politically complex environment where civic space for feminist and human rights organizations has fluctuated significantly over recent years. Previous periods of government hostility toward anti-corruption and feminist actors created serious risks and constraints for civil society organizations working on gender justice and accountability. While Guatemala’s political context has shifted following the election of President Bernardo Arévalo, organizations like ASOGEN continue to navigate uneven institutional conditions and persistent gender inequalities, particularly in relation to gender-based violence and access to justice. Despite this, ASOGEN has maintained its services, its justice-sector relationships, and its data advocacy throughout. During COVID-19, when presidential orders shut down the country, ASOGEN continued to support survivors, delivering hygiene products and food to homes, transitioning services online, and expanding its reach despite the restrictions.

## LOOKING AHEAD

ASOGEN’s focus going forward is on consolidating and institutionalizing the gains already made, while deepening prevention alongside response. Future priorities include continued monitoring of GBV budgets and CAIMUS funding, strengthening prevention frameworks, deepening justice-sector training on SDG-aligned accountability, and expanding alliances across civil society, academia, media, and public institutions.

In a country where progress on women’s rights is actively under threat from conservative political forces, ASOGEN’s model — survivor-centred services, data-backed advocacy, and justice-system reform working in tandem, demonstrates what sustained, embedded feminist organising can achieve.



Learn more about ASOGEN’s work:



[asogengt.org/](https://asogengt.org/)



Mujeres Generando Equidad Asogen



@asogen\_gt

# CLADEM - Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres



CLADEM is one of the region's oldest and most respected feminist legal networks. Founded in 1987, it operates across 15 countries through a network of approximately 200 women's organizations, bringing together lawyers, researchers, and activists around a shared methodology: use law, data, and international accountability mechanisms to advance women's rights and hold governments to account.

A defining feature of CLADEM's work is its ability to combine a regional perspective with continuous national adaptation. Regional initiatives are developed and implemented in close coordination with member organizations and national coordinating bodies, ensuring that strategies respond to the specific legal, institutional, cultural, and social realities of each country.

This approach is grounded in comparative analysis and continuous learning. CLADEM draws on national legislation, jurisprudence, public policy analysis, research, and consultations with local actors to identify priorities and adapt methodologies, training materials, advocacy strategies, and monitoring tools to different contexts. The ongoing exchange of experiences across the network strengthens collective learning and enables innovative responses to shared challenges.

Collaboration is central to CLADEM's model. Over the years, the network has built relationships with universities, research centers, public institutions, national human rights bodies, and specialized civil society organizations throughout the region. This combination of specialized technical knowledge, national presence, networking, and a human rights-based approach has enabled CLADEM to develop initiatives that are both regionally connected and locally grounded, contributing to substantive equality across Latin America and the Caribbean.

CLADEM joined Equal Measures 2030 in 2019 as one of three regional partners — alongside FEMNET (Africa) and ARROW (Asia-Pacific) — making it a central pillar of Equal Measures 2030's global architecture in Latin America. The partnership connected CLADEM's legal and advocacy expertise to the analytical power of the SDG Gender Index and connected Equal Measures 2030's data tools to decades of frontline feminist organizing on forced pregnancy, femicide, sexual violence, and discriminatory laws.

**15** 14 country factsheets + 1 regional factsheet produced with Equal Measures data  
**factsheets**

**12** 2 flagship diploma courses on forced adolescent pregnancy and femicide, reaching advocates across 12+ countries  
**countries**

**9** Shadow reports submitted for 9 countries to the Belém do Pará Convention mechanism  
**reports**

**100%** of training participants reported new skills and improved readiness to use data in government advocacy  
**improved readiness**

## THE JOURNEY

### Where law meets data: building the evidentiary case for women's rights



CLADEM has always operated at the intersection of law and activism. Its core methodology, strategic litigation, treaty monitoring, shadow reporting, and regional mobilization, is built on the premise that governments must be held to the standards they have signed. What the partnership with Equal Measures added was a rigorous quantitative layer: the ability to show, with internationally reliable data, how far governments were falling short.

Before Equal Measures, CLADEM's case-making on issues like forced adolescent pregnancy relied heavily on qualitative evidence — documented cases, survivor testimony, and legal analysis. Powerful, but vulnerable to dismissal. Government officials could claim that the cases were exceptional, or that data didn't support the scale of the problem. The SDG Gender Index changed that dynamic.

“If data can strengthen advocacy efforts of civil society and help them to hold their governments accountable, then it becomes a tool to achieve equality. It is here that the paths of CLADEM and Equal Measures 2030 meet.” - CLADEM

### What this partnership has achieved

CLADEM came to Equal Measures with over three decades of feminist legal expertise and a regional network that few organisations in the world could match. What Equal Measures provided was, amplification and extension: quantitative credibility for arguments CLADEM was already making, and access to data spaces where CLADEM had previously had less presence.

“If the data do not include girls and women, then they reproduce inequity. If the data do not include different regions, they also reproduce inequity. As CLADEM, we join Equal Measures 2030 because we believe that data is needed to drive accountability and shed light on the inequalities and realities that girls and women face” - CLADEM

Building on their long-standing campaign against forced pregnancy, CLADEM's collaboration with Equal Measures helped them to combine their traditional focus on specific documented cases with broader quantitative data showing an increase in births in the 10–14 age group in recent years across the region. Index data and *Mira que te Miro* — a regional SRHR commitments tracker — were combined to produce 14 country factsheets and one regional factsheet, translated into Spanish-language advocacy tools and disseminated through CLADEM's entire network. These factsheets reached thousands of stakeholders through webinars, virtual dialogues, regional events, op-eds, and media engagement, and were used to influence key regional forums including the 2020 Regional Conference on Women in LAC, CSW65, the Generation Equality Forum, and the Latin America and the Caribbean Forum on Sustainable Development.

In 2021, this data integration became more sophisticated. CLADEM began systematically using the Index to identify data gaps on its core issues; forced child and adolescent pregnancy, femicide, sexual violence, and discriminatory laws. In Brazil, CLADEM documented the gendered impact of 'parental alienation' laws — a legal construct CLADEM and others consider a patriarchal tool to undermine women's testimony in custody disputes — in collaboration with scholars, civil society organizations, and mothers' groups. Their findings formed the basis of an *Amicus Curiae* filed to challenge the laws. The legal arguments were referenced by Judge Rosa Weber, Vice President of the Federal Supreme Court, when presenting a formal request for unconstitutionality. In Bolivia, CLADEM compiled data to support shadow reports to international human rights bodies and led a workshop with La

Paz municipal authorities advocating for better services for GBV survivors and access to safe and legal abortion. In Mexico, CLADEM highlighted major gaps in official data on violence against women and under-reporting of femicides, findings amplified by local media, strengthening calls for accountability and better national data systems. The pattern observed in Brazil, Bolivia, and Mexico reflects CLADEM's consistent approach: find the data gap, name it, link it to international commitments, and use it to drive a policy response.

The diploma courses were one of CLADEM's most significant avenues for regional impact. Two flagship programmes, one on forced adolescent pregnancy and maternity, one on femicide and sexual violence, integrated Equal Measures 2030's data tools into CLADEM's established feminist legal education infrastructure. These workshops were structured, multi-session courses reaching feminist advocates, legal professionals, health system leaders, and justice sector officials across the region. By integrating Equal Measures 2030's methodology into these courses, data-driven advocacy was incorporated into a long-standing regional learning architecture. Post-training evaluations showed 100% of participants reported learning new skills and feeling better positioned to use data to influence government action on gender equality.

The partnership also produced one of Equal Measures 2030's foundational products. The Bending the Curve report, Equal Measures 2030's analysis of what it would take to accelerate progress on gender equality globally, drew directly on CLADEM's regional expertise. It was one of the first examples of Equal Measures using a coalition partner's knowledge to contextualize global data with specific country examples in the region, setting a model for how Equal Measures and its members would continue to work: global quantitative data meeting regional lived experience and legal expertise.

Former CLADEM regional coordinator, Milena Páramo Bernal, was selected as a 2023 Equal Measures Data Journalism Fellow — researching the evolution of pregnancies among girls aged 10–14 between 2008 and 2017, producing data-driven journalism that shed light on a problem that remains poorly understood and underreported across the region.



[Read more here](#)

## Advocating when the political winds shift

CLADEM operates in a region where the anti-gender movement is well-organised and well-funded, and where governments have actively sought to roll back hard-won gains on sexual and reproductive rights, GBV responses, and legal protections for women and girls. Brazil under the Bolsonaro administration, Argentina's rolling battles over abortion rights, the spread of "parental alienation" legislation as a legal strategy to silence women — CLADEM has confronted all of this.

Data has been key to the defense. When governments deny the scale of forced adolescent pregnancy, CLADEM can point to Index data showing regional trends. When a government claims its laws are aligned with international norms, CLADEM's shadow reports to the Belém do Pará mechanism can demonstrate otherwise, using both national data and international benchmarks. The partnership with Equal Measures did not create CLADEM's resilience — but it gave that resilience a sharper evidentiary edge.

COVID-19 tested this further. CLADEM rapidly shifted all its activities to virtual formats, maintained regional collaboration across lockdowns, and used pandemic-related data to highlight the gendered impacts of the crisis — influencing media narratives and advocacy priorities at a moment when public attention was overwhelmingly elsewhere.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Femicide data is one of the frontiers where gaps remain most acute — and where the cost of those gaps is measured in lives. CLADEM has spent years advocating for better regional data and tracking, including through the 2023 regional strategic meeting on parental alienation co-organised with Equality Now and the Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law in Rio de Janeiro, and through ongoing engagement with feminist legal networks on evidence standards for gender-based violence. CLADEM's book 'Alienación Parental: una nueva forma de violencia de género contra mujeres y niñas en América Latina y el Caribe' positions the fight against legal backlash explicitly as a data problem: making the invisible visible, naming patterns that governments would rather deny.

“

The Index puts us on alert about what is missing in each country, both in Latin America and the Caribbean and in the world. What the region lacks is a combination of political will, resources and distributive justice. We cannot wait centuries to change the structures of inequality, including those of gender.”

- CLADEM during the LAC launch of the 2024 SDG Gender Index, UN World Data Forum, Medellín, November 2024

CLADEM is also a full participant in shaping what comes after 2030. As a member of Equal Measures' emerging 2025–2030 strategy, it is helping define what data-driven feminist advocacy looks like in the next phase — including how global agendas like the Montevideo Consensus and the Beijing Platform for Action can be tracked at regional and local levels. Dr. María Guadalupe Ramos Ponce, elected as CLADEM's new Regional Coordinator in August 2025, brings decades of expertise on femicide documentation and feminist legal reform. She founded the Observatorio Ciudadano Nacional del Femicidio, drafted key violence against women laws in Mexico, and has spent nearly 40 years at the intersection of research and activism. Her election as Regional Coordinator signals continuity of this important work.

CLADEM's trajectory, from a regional legal network to a full partner in a global data architecture, shaping both the tools and the governance of feminist accountability, reflects what is possible when movement expertise and data credibility reinforce each other.

Learn more about CLADEM's work:



[cladem.org/](https://cladem.org/)



CLADEM



@clademregional



The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), headquartered in Nairobi and founded in 1988, is one of Africa's most established and influential pan-African feminist networks. With over 800 member organisations across 46 African countries, FEMNET has spent nearly four decades connecting African women's rights organisations to each other, to their governments, and to the regional and global processes that shape their lives — from the African Union and the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), HLPF and COP.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Memory Kachambwa, FEMNET has been a founding regional partner of the Equal Measures 2030 (EM2030) coalition since its earliest years, representing the African voice in Equal Measures' governance, advocacy and gender data work. FEMNET's role is twofold: an Africa-wide advocate using Equal Measures' SDG Gender Index in the continent's most influential policy spaces, and a regional capacity-builder strengthening national partners across Africa, including GROOTS Kenya and Réseau Siggil Jigéen in Senegal.

3136

advocates engaged in  
Beijing+30 consultations

704

advocates using data in  
policy and budget  
advocacy

967

women and girls reporting  
greater data confidence

202

African WROs engaging  
policymakers with data

## THE JOURNEY

### From founding partner to continental gender data leader

FEMNET joined the Equal Measures partnership at its outset, as one of the coalition's founding regional and global partners alongside ARROW, CLADEM, Data2X, ONE Campaign, Plan International, Tableau Foundation, Women Deliver and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. From the start, FEMNET's role was distinctive: to ensure that the SDG Gender Index and Equal Measures' data tools landed in the policy spaces where African gender-equality decisions are made and to push back when those spaces ignored African women's realities.

“

“Without data, issues relating to women and girls will not count.”

- Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, FEMNET



That conviction has shaped FEMNET's use of Equal Measures tools across every major regional moment of the partnership. The 2019 SDG Gender Index was cited multiple times in the Africa Women's Rights Organizations' Beijing+25 Parallel Report to highlight best and worst performers on gender equality in Africa, and to draw continental attention to the gender data gap itself as a barrier to equality. At the 2019 Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting, FEMNET presented the Index at a civil society roundtable; Index data was then referenced in the final declaration signed by approximately 40 civil society representatives and government ministers.

During COVID-19, FEMNET demonstrated the kind of adaptive feminist leadership that defines the Equal Measures partnership at its best. Within weeks of the pandemic's onset, FEMNET launched the Pan-African Women's COVID-19 platform and three continental campaigns: #InclusiveLockdown, #DignifiedResponse and #JustRecoveryAfrica. The campaigns positioned FEMNET as one of the first pan-African civil society organizations to mobilize a large online feminist constituency during the pandemic. Equal Measures' flexible partnership model allowed FEMNET to pivot resources to this work ensuring that African women's realities stayed visible in regional and global SDG accountability spaces despite movement and connectivity restrictions.

Between 2019 and 2022, FEMNET delivered Equal Measures' Data-Driven Advocacy (DDA) curriculum at a continental scale. A February 2020 in-person regional training reached 51 advocates from 12 African countries before COVID forced a pivot to virtual delivery. Local partners then cascaded that training to a further 444 women and girls — nearly double the original project target of 250. By the end of the project, 967 women and girls reported increased confidence using data for advocacy, and 704 advocates — including 42 persons with disabilities — were actively applying data-driven skills to influence policy and budget discussions at national and sub-national levels.

“

We cannot emphasize enough just how political and necessary data is in transforming lives in Africa. Data helps those who are invisible, visible. It may direct attention to crises which powerful actors may prefer remains hidden; this is what prevents women and girls from being counted and therefore accounted for. Their lives can never transform unless they are counted. What is not counted cannot be accounted for and what is accounted for must count for women and girls!”

- Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, FEMNET

## Leading the African Feminist Voice on Beijing+30

Across 2024 and into 2025, FEMNET led one of the most consequential pieces of EM2030 coalition advocacy of the partnership's history: ensuring that African women's voices shaped the Beijing+30 review process. In partnership with NGO CSW Africa and UN Women, FEMNET organised 13 sub-regional consultations across all five African subregions, engaging over 3,100 participants; women's rights organisations, youth groups, INGOs, UN agencies and other partners drawn from the entire continent.

The Beijing+30 Africa Regional CSO Consultations brought together 208 women drawn from women's rights advocates and civil society organizations, from 41 countries across five sub regions in Africa to develop a position statement spanning six critical areas: inclusive development, poverty eradication, freedom from violence, institutional accountability, peaceful societies, and environmental sustainability. The statement carried directly into the African Group negotiating position at CSW69 in March 2025, making FEMNET one of the most influential civil society shapers of the Beijing+30 review.

FEMNET subsequently convened the Africa Disrupt CSW69 gathering in Gaborone, Botswana, in partnership with Sustain 267, bringing African feminist leaders, activists and advocates together to take stock of where African girls and young women actually stand thirty years on from Beijing. EM2030's coalition platforms, data tools and Beijing+30 communications work detailed [in this blog from March 2025](#), amplified FEMNET's leadership in this continental process.

## THE COALITION EFFECT

The Equal Measures 2030 partnership equipped FEMNET with the tools, platforms, financing and coalition infrastructure to translate African feminist priorities into measurable policy influence at continental and global scale:

→ **A continental evidence base.** The SDG Gender Index, Bending the Curve reports, Africa regional factsheets, and thematic infographics on economic justice and workplace equality gave FEMNET a credible, comparable evidence base across 46 African countries. These were disseminated through websites, social media, listservs, mainstream media and hybrid/virtual events, then taken into AU, ARFSD, CSW, HLPF and COP processes.



→ **DDA at continental scale.** Equal Measures 2030's DDA curriculum and FEMNET's convening power combined to reach 51 advocates directly across 12 African countries, then cascade to 444 more through local partners. The most durable outcome is institutional: women-led CSOs across Africa now hold the data literacy that positions them as credible interlocutors with governments and duty-bearers — not just as protesters.

→ **Regional support to EM2030's national partners.** FEMNET worked directly with GROOTS Kenya and RSJ Senegal to localize Index data, develop national gender factsheets, and identify the policy spaces where data could move decisions. This regional-to-national connective tissue is one of the partnership's most under-recognized assets: it is what allows a global tool to land in a Kitui county budget meeting or a Dakar ministry briefing.

→ **Flexible financing for adaptive leadership.** The partnership's flexible funding model allowed FEMNET to pivot quickly when COVID-19 hit — launching the Pan-African Women's COVID-19 platform, the #InclusiveLockdown / #DignifiedResponse / #JustRecoveryAfrica campaigns, and continuing capacity building virtually. Few funder relationships permit that kind of mid-flight reorientation.

→ **Co-creation of EM2030's coalition governance.** FEMNET has shaped EM2030's new coalition model from the inside — participating in coalition-wide consultations, working groups on advocacy, communications and capacity building, and the co-creation of EM2030's anti-racist, feminist, values-based partnership design. The partnership is what it is in part because FEMNET helped define it.

→ **Global platforms for African feminist leadership.** Through the EM2030 coalition, FEMNET secured visibility at CSW66 (Nairobi), Generation Equality Forum (Mexico and Paris), HLPF, the SDG Global Festival of Action, COP27 and CSW69 — ensuring African feminist analysis travelled with the data, not as a footnote to it.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Equal Measures' 2024 SDG Gender Index found that 91 countries still have 'poor' or 'very poor' scores on personal autonomy, individual rights and freedom from discrimination, and that women's right to discuss political issues openly has declined globally since 2015. Africa is part of that picture, but it is also where some of the most determined feminist organizing in the world is now happening and FEMNET is at the heart of it.

FEMNET has been explicit with Equal Measures about what comes next: deepening use of Equal Measures' tools; ongoing coaching and peer learning across the African feminist ecosystem; and direct involvement in Index development from planning stages, so that African priorities shape the framework, not only the findings. FEMNET also intends to feature the next Index in its annual State of Women in Africa report, aligned with the Maputo Protocol anniversary.

“

“We can no longer operate on presumptions and approximations. Gaps of inequalities must be marked, counted and recorded so that the trail of implementation is clear and decision makers are held to account.”

- Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, FEMNET

Across nearly four decades, FEMNET has remained what its founders dreamed of: an African women's machinery keeping African women connected to each other. The Equal Measures partnership has been one of the most productive expressions of that vision over the past five years — turning a global gender data tool into continental policy influence and ensuring African women's priorities remain central to Beijing+30 and beyond.

Learn more about FEMNET's work:



femnet.org/



@femnetsecretariat



@FEMNET - African Women's  
Development and Communication Network

# GROOTS Kenya



GROOTS Kenya is one of Kenya's most significant grassroots women's movements: a network of over 5,000 women-led community groups and self-help organizations across 30 counties.

Founded in 1995 following the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, the movement emerged in response to the exclusion of grassroots women from development processes and decision-making spaces that affect their lives and communities.

GROOTS Kenya operates through its distinctive "champions' model", a community-led approach in which grassroots women identify problems, design solutions, implement interventions, and track change in their communities. The model centers the knowledge and leadership of grassroots women themselves, recognizing them as the agents best placed to drive sustainable development and social transformation.

For three decades, the movement has been grounded in a simple conviction: that the women most affected by inequality are best positioned to lead change. Through community organizing, evidence generation, and collective advocacy, GROOTS Kenya works to ensure that grassroots women's voices are visible, credible, and influential in shaping policies and development agendas at local, national, and global levels.

GROOTS joined the Equal Measures 2030 coalition in 2017. What began as access to a globally credible SDG framework has grown into a transformation of GROOTS's identity: from data consumer to nationally and internationally recognized data producer, standard-setter, and movement infrastructure builder.

**5000+**

women-led community groups across 30 counties

**821**

GBV survivors supported by trained data advocates

**12**

data dialogue forums for government, CSOs & media

**230M**

social media impressions, #SDGGenderIndex trending #3

## THE JOURNEY

### From data consumers to data producers

When GROOTS joined Equal Measures in 2017, the SDG Gender Index gave it a framework for situating Kenya's gender equality gaps within international accountability commitments. But the deeper transformation was what happened to GROOTS's own data identity.

GROOTS had already begun training grassroots women to collect community data via mobile tools, running household surveys on land rights, unpaid care work, and clean energy access. The Equal Measures partnership sharpened this into a complete data-driven advocacy methodology. Before Equal Measures, GROOTS was already organized but used data reactively. After joining the partnership, staff and champions could walk into government technical meetings as recognized experts, not petitioners.

The results were concrete. In Kitui County, community data on unclean cooking, finding that over two-thirds of families relied on the three-stone method, provided the evidence base for an 800 million KSh (approximately USD 7.9 million) clean energy commitment in the County Integrated Development Plan. Kiambu and Kilifi counties used GROOTSmart, GROOTS's Gender Data Dashboard, an online tool tracking 11 gender equality indicators from national to county level, to develop county energy policies and bills to develop county energy policies and bills. Kitui went further: it formally requested GROOTS to place a grassroots data advocate within county planning processes.

In Muranga County, GROOTS's data-driven advocacy contributed to a USD 1 million county investment in a gender-responsive WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) strategy, a direct line from community evidence to budget allocation. The grassroots-generated data revealed severe gender inequality in group ranch registration. Advocacy resulted in women being registered in community ranches, two out of thirteen achieving the constitutional two-thirds gender rule, and the remaining ranches nominating women for upcoming leadership elections, accelerating progress toward the Community Land Act.

GBV data collection became another significant application. GROOTS trained 75 grassroots advocates in data collection, visualization, and use. During COVID-19, 60 of these trained advocates applied their skills in real time: they tracked and responded to GBV trends, mobilized county officials and media, and advocated for budget allocations for shelters and services. Across Kakamega, Tana River, and Kiambu counties, 821 survivors of GBV were supported through this combination of data documentation and direct advocacy. One advocate was selected to join the national GBV working group — a grassroots woman from the community now at the national policy table.



“Data and evidence help us to overcome bias because they provide the statistics. We do not have to waste a lot of time arguing. We can influence resource allocation. I see data as a very strong enabler and GROOTS has a very interesting relationship with data because we are not just data consumers but data producers.”

- Fridah Githuku, former Executive Director, GROOTS Kenya

## THE COALITION EFFECT

The SDG Gender Index gave GROOTS scale beyond its own networks. Index data was disseminated to gender directors across all 47 Kenyan counties. GROOTS held 12 data dialogue forums bringing together 80 county government staff, 80 CSO representatives, and 80 journalists to inform the 3rd generation of County Integrated Development Plans. GROOTS also responded to 50+ direct data requests from government agencies, CSOs, media houses, private companies, and development partners. On social media, a GROOTS-led campaign using SDG Gender Index and Women Count data generated 230 million impressions and drove #SDGGenderIndex to trend at number three in Kenya.

GROOTS also served as the Kenya national partner for the inaugural 2021 Equal Measures and Tableau Foundation Data Journalism Fellowship, the first cohort of which was drawn entirely from Kenya and India. Eight Kenyan journalists worked with GROOTS's staff and data tools to produce gender data stories for local and national audiences, building journalist capacity to translate community-level evidence into public accountability. The fellowship created a new channel for GROOTS's data to reach Kenyan media extending its influence from government technical meetings into newsrooms.

“The confidence, reach, and profile of the project team has exploded to a level where GROOTS Kenya's data work is often referenced, and the staff called upon to train and support other CSOs and professionals. Because of Equal Measures, GROOTS Kenya has received recognition by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, UN Women, the World Bank, the media, CSOs and the private sector for investing in gender data.”

- Fridah Githuku, former Executive Director, GROOTS Kenya

That recognition became institutional. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) invited GROOTS to join the Inter-Agency Committee on Gender Statistics — a formal acknowledgment that community-generated data belonged in Kenya’s official statistical ecosystem. GROOTS contributed to the Women’s Empowerment Index, County Poverty Profiles, the Gender Sector Statistical Plan, and national guidelines on citizen-generated data. It became involved in Kenya’s first national Time-Use Survey on women’s unpaid care work. GROOTS also signed an MoU with Kenyatta University’s School of Applied Economics to co-design leadership and financial literacy training for grassroots advocates — embedding the data methodology in academic infrastructure. The GROOTS Executive Director was appointed to the World Bank Advisory Group on Gender Data and was a keynote speaker at the UN Data Forum (Bern) and the Gender Statistics Imperatives in Africa Convention.

At the center of this data infrastructure sits GROOTSmart — GROOTS’s Gender Data Dashboard, an online visualization tool built with Equal Measures support. It covers 11 gender equality indicators, from women’s political representation and land rights to family planning, education, energy access, and unpaid care work — breaking data down from national to county level. Used by both grassroots advocates and county-level policymakers, GROOTSmart is one of the most durable institutional products to emerge from any Equal Measures coalition partnership. KNBS itself praised the dashboard for making data more understandable, an acknowledgment that GROOTS had solved a problem the national statistical system had not.



## Investing in the invisible infrastructure

→ **Global platforms for grassroots voices.** Being part of the Equal Measures coalition gave GROOTS access to COP27, CSW, the UN World Data Forum, the Open Government Partnership Global Summit, and Women Deliver spaces where women from Kitui and Laikipia spoke directly to global decision-makers. Working alongside FEMNET, GROOTS contributed to the Africa Major Group’s call for official recognition of citizen-generated data.

→ **Strengthening the backbone of the Movement.** One of the most important aspects of Equal Measures 2030’s partnership with GROOTS has been support for the movement’s core infrastructure — the often unseen systems that sustain grassroots organising over time. Rather than focusing only on project outputs, flexible, trust-based funding enabled GROOTS to strengthen the internal architecture that supports advocacy, leadership development, and collective action across generations.



## LOOKING AHEAD

GROOTS is using the Index data to deepen county-level influence, push for unpaid care work to be formally counted in Kenya’s economic framework, and advance its climate justice advocacy. The Beijing+30 findings are being used in county and national advocacy. The mentorship pipeline is building the next generation of champions. [Read more: The power of community-generated data to drive progress on gender equality](#)

Learn more about GROOTS Kenya’s work:

# KAPAL Perempuan



KAPAL Perempuan Institute is a feminist civil society organization in Indonesia working to advance gender equality through critical education, grassroots women organizing and data-driven advocacy to push for better policies and services. KAPAL Perempuan became EM2030's national partner in Indonesia in 2019, at a moment when child marriage, gender-based violence, and women's rights were key concern raised by the women's movement in the national development debates.

Since the early 2000s, the KAPAL Perempuan Institute has been developing a critical education model for activists and establishing Women's Schools to foster women's leadership. Currently, more than 225 Women's Schools have been established across various regions of Indonesia, serving as spaces for learning, building solidarity, forming networks of grassroots women's movements, acting as a point of reference for case management, and generating community-based data to inform advocacy for policy and service reform.

“

Trainees used to ask why they should look at problems that are considered private and why they should question traditions that they considered normal. They even wondered if we were sharing wrong information” — Misi Misiyah, Director, KAPAL Perempuan

139

villages with  
child-marriage prevention  
regulations

250

advocates trained in  
gender data-driven  
advocacy

225+

Sekolah Perempuan  
community schools

10

provinces reached  
through advocacy  
training

## THE JOURNEY

### From reactive advocacy to strategic influence

Before partnering with EM2030, KAPAL Perempuan was already engaged in advocacy and evidence generation on gender equality and women's rights, including legal reform on child marriage. However, access to national-level policy spaces and statistical systems remained limited, and it was difficult to use data strategically.

Through the partnership with EM2030, KAPAL Perempuan gained access to the SDG Gender Index. The Index gave KAPAL something essential: it supports evidence-based advocacy and translates policy language into terms that are more easily understood by planning agencies and the Central Statistic Agency. KAPAL Perempuan integrated the Index into its advocacy processes its own training programmes and into government training materials, including the DRPPA (Women-Friendly and Child-Friendly Villages) technical guidance used at the district level.

This repositioned KAPAL Perempuan from external advocate to trusted advisor to policymakers. Rather than approaching ministries solely through demands, KAPAL Perempuan engaged as a substantive partner on both technical and policy contributing to Indonesia's 2021 Voluntary National Review, helping shape the National SDG Action Plan, and becoming a trusted advisor to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), and the SDG Secretariat.

# THE COALITION EFFECT

“

“Data-driven advocacy has always been at the heart of KAPAL’s work. Data is the core of the struggle. With no data, we end up in a futile argument. But when we have solid data about gender issues, either quantitative or qualitative, we can use that as a tool to push government to give their protection to women.”

— Misi Misiyah, Director, KAPAL Perempuan



**EM2030’s role was enabling rather than directive. The coalition provided tools, platforms and resources that KAPAL translated into national impact:**

- **Child marriage prevention translated into local law.** KAPAL engaged policymakers in three provinces to ensure implementation of Indonesia’s 2019 Marriage Law at the local level, using data from EM2030 tools and its own research. This resulted in 139 villages in East Lombok adopting regulations to prevent child marriage. Turning a national legal reform into enforceable local action.
- **Strengthened advocacy capacity across 10 provinces.** The SDG Gender Index, alongside Equal Measures 2030’s Data-Driven Advocacy (DDA) curriculum and other related advocacy resources were adapted and localised for Indonesian contexts. KAPAL integrated these tools into its own training programmes and government training modules such as DRPPA technical guidance. Beyond technical knowledge, the DDA approach strengthened advocates’ ability to analyse data, frame policy arguments, and engage decision-makers with confidence and clarity. In October 2025, The DDA curriculum built the skills of 250+ advocates across 10 provinces to use data in policy engagement. Alumni networks have continued well beyond the training: one group went on to document the rise in child marriage during COVID-19, feeding their findings directly into advocacy for a gendered pandemic response.
- **National integration of gender data.** Following KAPAL’s engagement, the SDG Gender Index was used by Indonesia’s National Statistics Office (BPS) in its global SDG reporting. KAPAL’s programmes were cited as good practice in national and international policy forums.
- **Global recognition.** Through Equal Measures 2030’s platforms, KAPAL participated in the Civil 20 (C20) during Indonesia’s G20 presidency in 2022, using the SDG Gender Index to ensure gender equality was prioritized in C20 recommendations. Engagement in international forums, including CSW and the Australasian Aid Conference, reinforced KAPAL’s standing with the Indonesian government.
- **Flexible funding.** Equal Measures 2030’s subgrants provided sustained resourcing for advocacy on child marriage and sexual violence, including through the disruptions of COVID-19. Engagement with other EM2030 coalition members reinforced shared strategies around data-driven feminist advocacy.

## Sustaining impact through crisis and political change

From 2020 onward, COVID-19, natural disasters, and a shift toward more conservative governance created significant disruption. Where many civil society organizations lost institutional access, KAPAL maintained it. Because KAPAL's advocacy was anchored in recognized SDG frameworks and evidence, relationships held even as political leadership changed. When ministers moved on, the frameworks stayed. This is what data-driven advocacy makes possible: continuity of influence through institutional change.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As Indonesia navigates increasing resistance to gender equality, KAPAL is focused on reinforcing gender-responsive planning and accountability at the subnational level, where implementation gaps are most visible and where girls' lives are most directly shaped.

Data remains central to this strategy: not only as evidence, but as a means of maintaining engagement with state institutions during periods of uncertainty. By anchoring advocacy in recognized frameworks, KAPAL works to ensure gender equality stays embedded in development processes even as political priorities shift.



Learn more about KAPAL's work:



[kapalperempuan.org/](https://kapalperempuan.org/)



[Kapalperempuan](https://www.instagram.com/Kapalperempuan)



[INSTITUT KAPAL Perempuan](https://www.facebook.com/INSTITUTKAPALPerempuan)

# Réseau Siggil Jigéen (RSJ)



Founded in Dakar in 1995, Réseau Siggil Jigéen (RSJ) is a coalition of 18 Senegalese organisations advancing women's rights, political participation, and sexual and reproductive health. In Wolof, 'Siggil' means to enhance, rehabilitate, promote and defend; 'Jigéen' means women, and by extension family and society. For three decades, RSJ has campaigned for the legal and institutional reforms that underpin gender equality in Senegal — from the 1999 Law on the Suppression of Violence against Women to the 2010 Parity Law to the ongoing reform of the Family Code.

As an Equal Measures 2030 (EM2030) coalition member, RSJ has used the SDG Gender Index, the Data-Driven Advocacy (DDA) curriculum, and EM2030's convening platforms to translate a strong legal framework into measurable change for Senegalese women. Under the leadership of Executive Director Fatou Ndiaye Turpin, RSJ has built a national network of trained advocates, secured commitments from mayors and ministries, and led the national launch of the 2024 SDG Gender Index in Dakar.

30

years of feminist  
advocacy since 1995

146

advocates trained in  
data-driven advocacy

50K+

people reached through  
online campaigns

20

DDA alumni in the  
national advocacy  
committee

## THE JOURNEY

### From a strong legal framework to lived equality

Senegal has long been considered a regional leader in women's rights legislation — ratifying CEDAW in 1985, the Maputo Protocol in 2005, and passing the 2010 Parity Law that brought women to over 48% of seats in Senegal's parliament. But for RSJ, the persistent challenge has never been the law on the page; it has been the gap between law and lived reality.

“

“Yes, we have laws, but the problem lies in their application and implementation. Laws are important, of course, but they are often passed only to end up at the back of a drawer. That does nothing to help families in Senegal.” -Fatou Ndiaye Turpin, Executive Director, RSJ

That diagnosis — a strong legal framework undermined by uneven implementation, discriminatory provisions and limited public understanding — has shaped RSJ's strategy across three decades of work. The partnership with EM2030 gave RSJ a new tool for that mission: rigorous, credible, locally translatable data that could turn implementation gaps into measurable advocacy targets.

Between 2021 and 2024, RSJ ran five rounds of virtual Data-Driven Advocacy training reaching 146 advocates from across Senegal — RSJ's own network members, national and local CSOs, and youth groups. A Training-of-Trainers model meant participants could replicate the methodology in their own contexts. Several RSJ network members who had never previously engaged in advocacy began approaching policymakers using EM2030 tools. In 2022, following the launch of the 2022 SDG Gender Index, 20 alumni from these trainings formed a national advocacy committee — a standing body that continues to deliver DDA training, present Index findings to policymakers, monitor Senegal's Generation Equality Forum (GEF) commitments, and run radio, workshop and digital campaigns. A WhatsApp group called “Data tracking in Senegal” keeps the alumni network sharing data and coordinating advocacy in real time.

# THE COALITION EFFECT

The partnership equipped RSJ with the tools, platforms, and resources it translated into national policy and community-level change.

The SDG Gender Index provided RSJ with a globally credible evidence base that policymakers could not easily dismiss. By combining Index findings with national statistics, RSJ brought attention to issues such as unequal marriage age, secondary school dropout, and gender-based violence, reframing them as accountability questions. Following workshops with legislators after Senegal's elections, parliamentarians committed to integrating RSJ's data into policy planning.

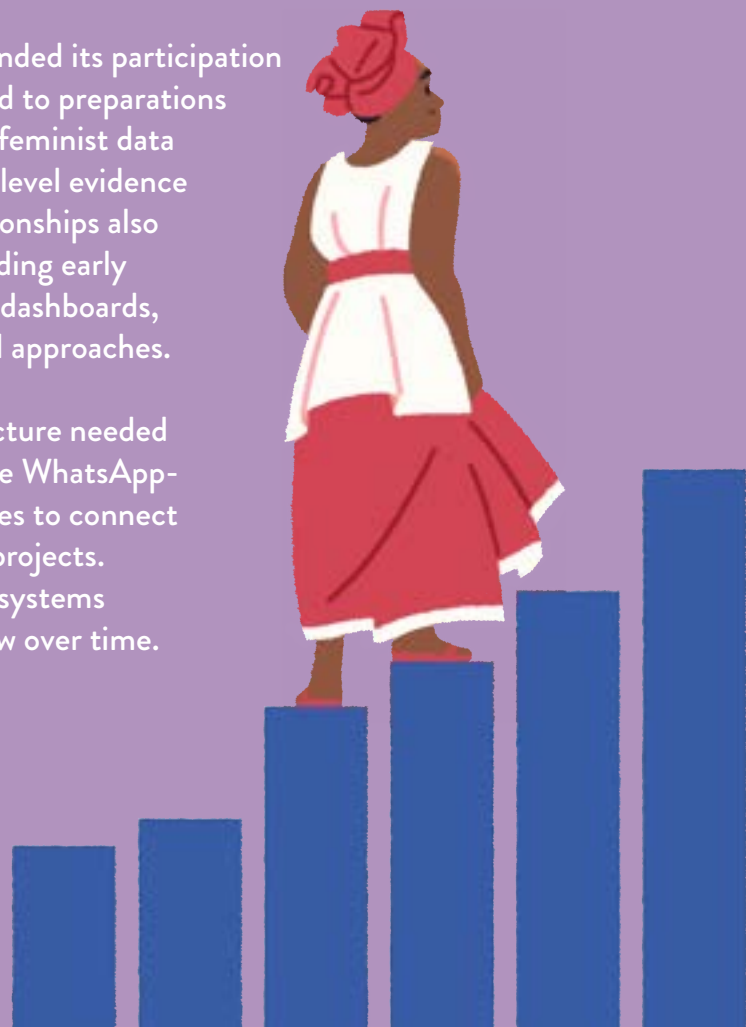
Equal Measures' Data-Driven Advocacy (DDA) curriculum trained 196 advocates across five rounds. One of the most durable institutional outcomes of the partnership was the emergence of a 20-member national advocacy committee drawn from diverse CSOs. The committee has become a standing body that delivers DDA training, presents Index findings to policymakers, monitors SDG commitments, and conducts community outreach. Several organizations that had previously become inactive were re-engaged in national advocacy through the training process.

RSJ also translated global evidence into Senegalese contexts. The organization adapted the Index into a Senegalese national factsheet and campaigned in local languages, making global data accessible to communities, journalists, and local officials. The factsheet became a core advocacy resource shared with CSOs, youth groups, journalists, line ministries, and regional authorities.

Equal Measures' support enabled RSJ to pilot an innovative financing approach for gender equality through the Hackathon model. By combining data evidence, community diagnosis, and private-sector funding, the model contributed to shifting conversations around gender equality financing towards local ownership, sustainability, and the reduction of reliance on external donors.

Through the wider Equal Measures coalition, RSJ expanded its participation in global advocacy spaces. The organization contributed to preparations for CSW67, participated in Twitter Spaces with global feminist data partners, and co-authored blogs that brought country-level evidence to UNGA, CSW, and HLPF processes. Coalition relationships also created opportunities for cross-regional learning, including early exploration with GROOTS Kenya on community data dashboards, connecting two organizations rooted in community-led approaches.

Flexible support enabled RSJ to invest in the infrastructure needed for ongoing collaboration. This included establishing the WhatsApp-based "Data Tracking in Senegal" group, which continues to connect advocates and sustain collaboration beyond individual projects. These investments strengthened the relationships and systems that allow advocacy efforts to continue, adapt, and grow over time.



RSJ translated the SDG Gender Index into Senegalese languages and contexts, producing a national stimulus factsheet that became one of the most widely shared advocacy resources of the partnership. Index data was correlated with national datasets to highlight urgent gaps in health, education and clean energy. Ten radio programmes carried Index findings into communities across the country. Two online campaigns on gender-based violence and gender equality, co-designed with youth, reached between 50,000 and 100,000 people on Facebook and Twitter.

“

Data is very important because it allows us to give credibility to the work we are doing. The data lets us understand the gaps, and the data also strengthens our advocacy arguments. It is not always easy to have data on gender — hence the real importance of the work we are doing to visualise it” - *Fatou Ndiaye Turpin, Executive Director, RSJ*

In October 2024, RSJ led the Senegal national launch of the 2024 SDG Gender Index in Dakar under the theme “A Gender Equal Future in Crisis.” Over 200 participants attended — parliamentarians, mayors, ministry officials from Health, Women and Justice, civil society leaders, journalists and youth activists. The launch translated headline Index findings into concrete commitments: budget commitments for gender-responsive education, and integration of gender perspectives into local government development plans.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

→ **Local authority funding for adolescent health.** RSJ organised several data-driven meetings with the mayors of Dieuppeul-Derklé and Pikine Nord, during which it presented evidence highlighting gaps in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) provision for adolescents. Both mayors committed to allocating municipal funds to projects led by local communities focusing on menstrual hygiene management and the prevention of early pregnancies — projects which are now owned and managed by the local communities.

→ **The private sector is committed to funding initiatives that promote gender equality.** A two-day hackathon brought together community leaders, local councillors, young participants and private companies to carry out a community assessment of adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health using RSJ data tools. Three local companies — none of which had previously funded gender equality programmes — committed to providing financial support for the community projects arising from this assessment.

→ **The Directorate for Gender Equality is incorporating RSJ data into official planning.** Following sustained advocacy work and as part of the GEF process, Senegal’s Directorate for Gender Equity and Equality (DEEG) has committed to promoting and using the SDG Gender Index and the RSJ national factsheet in its own activities. RSJ has been invited to participate in the development of the action plan aimed at implementing the commitments made by Senegal within the GEF Action Coalition and will lead the working group tasked with taking this forward.

→ **Multi-stakeholder working group on gender data.** The Directorate of Economic Policy Planning at the Ministry of the Economy has requested RSJ’s ongoing contribution to national monitoring of the SDGs. A multi-stakeholder working group on gender equality and gender data has been established, bringing together the DEEG, the relevant ministries and civil society organisations around a common evidence base.

→ **Commitments made at ministerial level during the launch of the index in Dakar in 2024.** The ministries responsible for Women, Health and Education committed to creating safe spaces in schools, advancing the implementation of the law on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and strengthening strategies to combat gender-based violence. Budgetary commitments were secured in support of gender-sensitive education at sub-national level.

→ **Discussions on reforming the Family Code.** RSJ took part in national debates on the revision of Senegal’s 1972 Family Code, particularly regarding the unequal minimum age for marriage (16 for girls, 18 for boys) and provisions relating to inheritance and child custody, which continue to disadvantage women.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Building the next generation of Senegalese feminist advocates

One of the most distinctive features of RSJ's EM2030 work has been its sustained investment in young women advocates. Youth trainees from the DDA cohorts moved from training into active policymaker dialogues throughout the GEF process — using data-based arguments to engage Senegal's Directorate of Gender Equality, line ministries and local mayors. RSJ's analysis of the Index data points consistently to one of Senegal's sharpest equality gaps: the loss of girls from secondary classrooms. Adolescent girls are a national priority in Senegal and represent a major challenge shared by the state, civil society organisations and international bodies in order to remove gender-related barriers and stimulate the country's development.

#### The major challenges facing adolescent girls in Senegal

To ensure this priority becomes a reality, the country is focusing its efforts on removing several structural barriers:

- **Sexual and reproductive health:** Tackling the high rate of early pregnancies.
- **Gender-based violence:** Breaking the cycle of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)
- **Education and school attendance:** Ensuring girls remain in school beyond primary level.
- **Access to hygiene:** Facilitating safe menstrual hygiene management in schools.

“

“The progress we have seen in primary education falls away at secondary level. Girls become adolescent and face FGM, forced and early marriage, the lack of menstrual hygiene management, the absence of SRH information. The policies we have for women do not always reach these girls. It is time for young people to pick up the torch. Teenage girls must be part of the critical mass that is needed to help this country develop.” -Fatou Ndiaye Turpin, Executive Director, RSJ



Senegal scored 55.2 on the 2022 SDG Gender Index — ranked 113 out of 144 countries globally and 10 of 36 in sub-Saharan Africa — but was among the top 10 fastest-moving countries overall, with progress of nearly 5 points since 2015. The 2024 Index now provides a sharper picture: where parity in parliament coexists with very poor scores on workplace equality, banking access, and women's ministerial roles. RSJ is using the 2024 Index to push for adolescent-girl-focused investment, Family Code reform, and digitalization of gender-disaggregated data — the gap Fatou Ndiaye Turpin sees as the next frontier.

RSJ's trajectory — from Beijing 1995 to Dakar 2024 — is one of the clearest demonstrations in the EM2030 coalition of what sustained, locally rooted feminist advocacy can do when paired with rigorous data: turn a strong legal framework into measurable change in women's lives. As Fatou Ndiaye Turpin puts it, *“we can't do this alone — it takes a strategy based on collaboration that is built up over many years.”*

Learn more about RSJ's work:



# Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres

Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres is one of Colombia's most significant feminist peace movements. For 30 years, spanning the length of Colombia's 50-year armed conflict and into the fragile post-agreement era, Ruta Pacífica has worked to protect women's rights, document the gendered costs of war, and demand that peace be built with women at the table. It operates as a movement: 300+ women's organisations across 13 departments, connected by a shared commitment to non-violent, feminist resistance.

Ruta Pacífica joined Equal Measures 2030 in 2017, shortly after the signing of the Colombian Peace Agreement. Making the timing of this partnership as significant as the partnership itself. Equal Measures gave Ruta Pacífica a new tool at precisely the moment they needed to shift from bearing witness to the conflict to holding government accountable for implementing its gender commitments.

**400+**

policymakers directly  
reached with SDG  
Gender Index data

**10**

women appointed to  
departmental and  
municipal positions

**39**

municipal development  
plans influenced

## A movement built in the shadow of conflict

Colombia's 50-year armed conflict did not end for women when the 2016 Peace Agreement was signed. In regions like Chocó, armed groups continue to impose their control through extortion, massacre, and forced displacement. Women, particularly Indigenous and Afro-descendant women, remain among the most vulnerable. Ruta Pacífica's existence has always been a response to this reality.

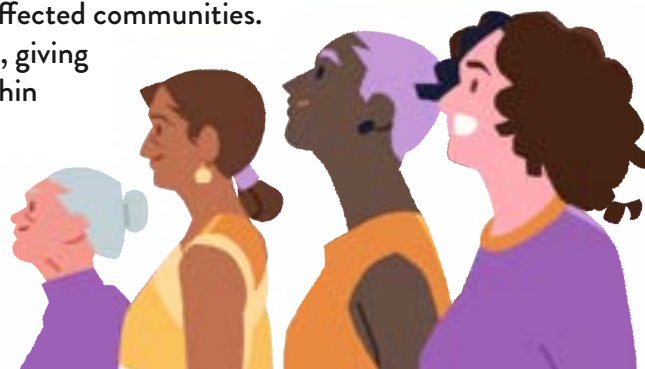
What changed with the Peace Agreement was the terrain of struggle. Suddenly there were monitoring mechanisms, implementation commitments, and formal spaces for civil society engagement. But holding governments accountable for gendered peace commitments requires a different kind of evidence than bearing witness to violence. It requires data.

“

“Thanks to the Equal Measures 2030 project, we reinforced our skills around data-driven advocacy. It helped us to understand the importance of data and evidence to ask for accountability for women's rights — to go beyond reading data only as numbers but as a political tool.” - *Regional Coordinator, Ruta Pacífica, Quindío region*

Ruta Pacífica had historically built its power on qualitative evidence: the testimonies of survivors, the documentation of different forms of violence, the voices of women from conflict-affected communities.

The Equal Measures partnership did not replace that. It extended it, giving Ruta Pacífica the quantitative tools to place Colombia's failures within a global framework of SDG accountability, and to demand more from a government that had signed international commitments it was not meeting.



## THE JOURNEY

When Ruta Pacífica joined Equal Measures in 2017, the partnership's first task was to build data skills across a decentralized movement. Staff across all 13 regional offices received training in collecting, analyzing, and using data, embedding a data-driven culture into an organization that had previously relied almost entirely on qualitative advocacy. This was not a light lift for a movement operating across conflict-affected territories with limited infrastructure.

The SDG Gender Index became Ruta Pacífica's primary external evidence tool. From 2018, Ruta Pacífica developed a series of annual infographic reports linking the implementation of the Peace Agreement's gender commitments to SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) positioning this peace building plan not as a political negotiation but as a binding development commitment. These reports directly reached approximately 300 public officials.

“

“Incorporating the policy recommendations of the Gender Index to accelerate gender equality in Colombia is possible, and this is where the advocacy of women's organizations using data is indispensable and strategic. Investing in processes with women, enacting legislative reforms that guarantee women's rights, promoting female leadership, supporting the work of women's organizations and expanding their spaces for dialogue, among other actions, will result—as the Index indicates—in improved living conditions for women and the entire community.” - *Former Programme Coordinator Shima Pardo Bohórquez*

The scale of that engagement was extraordinary. In 2020–2021 alone, Ruta Pacífica participated in approximately 470 meetings related to development plan formulation and submitted around 500 evidence-based proposals. Its advocacy influenced 8 departmental development plans and 39 municipal development plans, introducing women's agendas systematically into formal planning processes at a scale few civil society organizations anywhere in the world have achieved.

Equal Measures 2030 also provided targeted technical support, including a locally-based data expert to help Ruta Pacífica navigate Colombia's complex data access landscape — including Freedom of Information processes that sometimes took six months or more to yield gender-disaggregated data on violence.

Ruta Pacífica also participated in Equal Measures' 2023 Data Journalism Fellowship. Former Programme Coordinator Shima Pardo Bohórquez produced research on peacebuilding across Ruta's member organizations, analyzing the factors behind their success and their contribution to the SDGs.

[Read more: Equal Measures Data Journalism Fellows 2023](#)



# THE COALITION EFFECT

Equal Measures 2030's contribution to Ruta Pacífica has been both technical and structural. As Cecilia García, Equal Measures 2030's LAC regional lead, reflected: "Our partnership with Ruta Pacífica and our impact in the work they do around the implementation of Peace Agreement exemplifies a collaboration model with a broad and diverse women's movement, rather than a traditional national-level CSO."

→ **The SDG Gender Index gave Ruta Pacífica a globally credible, internationally recognised framework to connect Colombia's Peace Accord to global development commitments.** — positioning gender equality not as an ideological demand but as a measurable obligation Colombia had signed up to. DDA training across all 13 regional offices embedded data skills throughout the movement, enabling Ruta Pacífica to shift from narrative-based advocacy to evidence-based political argumentation at every level from village to national government. Dedicated local technical support, including a locally based data expert, helped Ruta Pacífica navigate Colombia's complex data access landscape and build tools tailored to their specific territorial and ethnic contexts.

→ **Budgets doubled for women's rights.** Ruta Pacífica's data-backed advocacy in Medellín and Antioquia produced some of the most concrete financial wins in the Equal Measures portfolio. The Women's Secretariat budget in Medellín increased from 52 billion to nearly 99 billion pesos. In Antioquia, the Women's Secretariat budget doubled annually. In Quibdó, Ruta Pacífica successfully advocated to increase the Women's Secretary budget from 52 billion to 98 billion pesos over four years. These are rare, tangible examples of feminist data advocacy producing real financial change.

→ **Co-architect of Colombia's National Action Plan for Resolution 1325.** Working with 13 national women's organisations through the Alliance 1325, Ruta Pacífica played a central role in shaping Colombia's first National Action Plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, ensuring the plan included specific budgets, clear responsibilities, and four pillars fully grounded in the lived realities of women in conflict-affected regions.

→ **Peace Agreement monitoring influencing national institutions.** Ruta Pacífica's annual monitoring reports on the Peace Agreement's gender commitments have been used by the Truth Commission, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), and the Peace Agreement Implementation Unit, which publicly acknowledged Ruta Pacífica's contributions. Ruta Pacífica's National Coordinator was appointed to the Truth Commission's post-report monitoring committee.

→ **39 municipal development plans shaped by women's agendas.** Across its territories, Ruta Pacífica submitted data-based proposals to local and departmental planning processes, influencing 39 municipal and 8 departmental development plans. In Turbaco, all of Ruta Pacífica's recommendations — covering income generation, GBV services, peacebuilding, and rights for conflict-affected women — were incorporated. In Candelaria, Ruta Pacífica's analysis led to the creation of the first ever public policy on women and gender, with resources allocated for its implementation.

→ **10 women appointed to positions of power.** DDA training translated directly into political participation. At least 10 women trained through the Equal Measures partnership were appointed to departmental or municipal positions. In Cauca, three young Indigenous women joined the municipal youth council using data-based analysis. Women moved into roles as mayors, councillors, assembly members, and gender policy advisers. Carrying the tools of data-driven accountability into formal decision-making spaces.



→ **Colombia's National Development Plan shaped by Ruta Pacífica's advocacy.** Through the government's "Binding Dialogues" citizen engagement process, Ruta Pacífica influenced the inclusion of measures to reduce gender gaps and combat discrimination in Colombia's National Development Plan — one of the most significant policy instruments in the country.

→ **The Violence Observatory.** Alison Holder, Equal Measures 2030's Executive Director, reflected that Ruta Pacífica's development of its own observatory on violence against women may not have taken the form it did without the grounding in data methodology the Equal Measures partnership provided. An example of how DDA investment shapes institutional capacity in ways that extend well beyond any single project.

## When 1,800 women walk into a conflict zone

On 8 March 2024, 1,800 women marched into Istmina, Chocó, one of Colombia's most conflict-affected areas, where armed groups continue to impose control through violence and displacement. Women came from Putumayo, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, and Eje Cafetero, some beginning their journeys on 5 March. They gathered in a territory that rarely sees feminist mobilization of this scale, organized under the framework of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. [Read the full account: Women on the move: feminist mobilisations for peace in Colombia](#)

Ruta Pacífica monitors the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement using data across the 130 gender-related measures embedded within it. The findings are stark: only 14% of these commitments have advanced for women. [As Marina Gallego Zapata explains:](#) "La Ruta monitors, through data, the 130 measures on women's and gender rights included in the Peace Agreement. Only 14% have advanced for women."

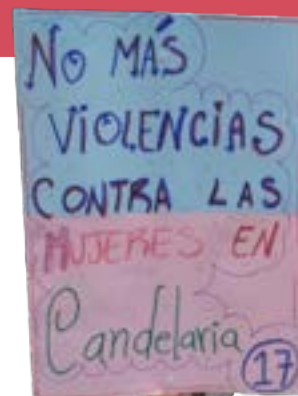
To sustain accountability, Ruta Pacífica operates the Observatorio Mujeres Enrutadas en la Observancia de las Violencias contra las Mujeres y Niñas, tracking violence against women and particularly femicide. By combining data with advocacy, the organization ensures that peace implementation does not erase women's rights from national priorities. "These are ways of putting the issues on the agenda while influencing the advancement of appropriate policies," Marina notes.

All of Ruta Pacífica's mobilizations require a minimum of one year's preparation, including dialogue with local institutions and coordination with regional and national bodies to ensure the safety and visibility of participants. The Chocó march was not a protest. It was a political statement, a protection strategy, and a data-backed demand; that the Peace Agreement's promises to women be kept.

“

“For the life, security, and rights of women, we will continue walking and demanding that these rights be freely exercised by all, for them, for us, and for others — we will keep walking” - *Activist, Ruta Pacífica mobilization, Istmina, March 8, 2024*

This is the coalition effect that goes beyond technical support. Equal Measures 2030's international visibility and the solidarity it represents has become part of the fabric of how Ruta Pacífica presents its work. As Cecilia García noted: coalition members have shared that they feel supported and “somehow protected” when Equal Measures gives visibility to their work. For a movement that walks into conflict zones, that protection is not metaphorical.



## LOOKING AHEAD

Ruta Pacífica's focus going forward is on consolidating the institutional gains made through the Peace Agreement process while continuing to expand women's political participation and budget accountability at the municipal and departmental level. The 2024 launch of the SDG Gender Index in Medellín, co-led by Ruta alongside Equal Measures and CLADEM (Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres), signals a deepening of the regional coalition model.

Ruta Pacífica continues to co-lead Equal Measures' Latin American regional work alongside ASOGEN and CLADEM, including participation in ECLAC's Regional Conference on Women and joint DDA workshops across Mexico, Colombia, and Guatemala. Learn more about Ruta Pacífica's work at:

[equalmeasures2030.org/members/ruta-pacifica](https://equalmeasures2030.org/members/ruta-pacifica)

In a country where the Peace Agreement's promises remain only partially fulfilled, and where women in conflict-affected territories continue to face violence with few protections, Ruta Pacífica's model — feminist movement building, data-driven accountability, and persistent presence in the spaces where decisions are made — is one of the most powerful examples of what sustained feminist organizing can achieve.

“

“I think it's one of the most rewarding partnerships I have experienced. What struck me is the conceptual beauty of combining the empowerment of women candidates with data — data that can power their campaigns, their promises, and the issues they want to address. That's a multiplier effect you don't easily find.”

- Albert Motivans, Head of Data & Insights, Equal Measures 2030



Learn more about Ruta Pacífica's work:



[rutapacifica.org.co/](https://rutapacifica.org.co/)



Ruta Pacífica De Las Mujeres



@rutapacificam

SAHAJ is a civil society organization based in Vadodara, Gujarat, that has spent nearly four decades advancing women's health, rights, and equity in India. Its approach is built on evidence: gathering data at the community level, turning it into advocacy, strengthening systems, and facilitating policy dialogues on the issues related to the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2017, SAHAJ became the India partner of the Equal Measures 2030, among the earliest national partners. The partnership connected SAHAJ's health-equity expertise with a global SDG framework and a data-driven advocacy methodology, enabling the organization to move beyond the health sector and take on wider gender equality issues across health, education, political participation, economic empowerment, and policy reform.

33k

views of SDG-focused  
civil servant training  
content

129+

Gender advocates trained  
in data-driven advocacy

6

Elected Women Representatives  
trained in five states

Equal Measures 2030's methodology approved for India's national gender measurement framework & SDG Gender Index integrated into policy briefs

## Building accountability from the ground up

SAHAJ's founding insight is simple but radical: marginalized people are not beneficiaries; they are rights-holders. A woman who knows she is entitled to comprehensive antenatal care, not just an iron tablet and a promise, becomes a potent force for social accountability. A community that knows what it should receive, and what to do when it doesn't, is far harder to ignore.

“

“Partnering with Equal Measures has strengthened our ability to ground advocacy in robust data. Through our work on gender and SDGs, we tried to elevate the lived experiences of marginalized groups, transforming their everyday challenges into actionable evidence for systemic change.”

- Nilangi Sardeshpande, Project Head, SAHAJ

This philosophy is rooted in SAHAJ's pioneering work on social accountability for maternal health. Long before the SDG era, SAHAJ was doing what Equal Measures calls data-driven advocacy: turning lived realities into evidence, and evidence into pressure for change.



"What drives and inspires us is the pursuit of the utopia that is out there on the horizon."

## STORY OF RUMI BORGOHAIN,

PROGRAM LEAD, SEDO (SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION), DHEMAJI, ASSAM

In 2019, I got the opportunity to attend a maternal health training organised by SAHAJ. That training became the turning point of my professional journey. It inspired me to work in the field of community health, and soon after, I got the opportunity to work with SAHAJ in Dhemaji district.

From 2019 to 2026, I received many trainings from SAHAJ on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Through these trainings, I gained valuable knowledge on male and female reproductive systems, menstruation and menstrual hygiene management, contraception, abortion, maternal health, nutrition, adolescent growth and development, and the role of VHSNCs in strengthening village health systems. These are important yet sensitive topics, and I realized that there was very little discussion and awareness about them in our villages.

I started my journey by working with community in five villages of Dakhin Dhemaji. Today, I am working across eleven villages in the Dakhin Dhemaji and Shubahi areas. This journey has helped me grow not only as a professional but also as a person. The knowledge I gained from SAHAJ supported me during my own pregnancy and post-delivery period, and now I am able to share the same knowledge with communities.

Today, SRHR has become one of my greatest strengths in my professional life.

In 2025, I was recognized as a Resource Person at the Dhemaji District Panchayat Resource Centre (DPRC), where I now contribute to capacity-building programs for women leaders.

The DPRC in-charge recognized my knowledge and entrusted me with conducting sessions on reproductive health during training programs. This recognition has given me great confidence and motivation



When SAHAJ joined Equal Measures in 2017, the hook, as Nilangi describes it, was connecting their health and gender equity expertise with global frameworks like the SDGs, with data at the center. Before the partnership, SAHAJ's work sat primarily within health-focused data and qualitative insights. The Equal Measures collaboration enabled them to expand: to look at health in relation to education, political participation, economic inclusion, and the full spectrum of gender equality issues tracked in the SDG Gender Index.

## THE JOURNEY

SAHAJ's journey with Equal Measures has been one of expansion. What began as capacity building for grassroots advocates in Gujarat and Assam grew into engagement with national policymakers, universities, civil servants, and regional and global platforms.

A key early shift was the development of state-level SDG Gender Index report cards for Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab. Translating global data into granular, locally relevant evidence that SAHAJ could use to influence state and sub-national level policymakers. Alongside this, SAHAJ developed a grassroots SDG training manual to bring the global framework down to the community level and built DDA skills across 129 local advocates and partner organizations.

The DDA training produced measurable outcomes that outlasted the workshops. An LGBTIQ partner organization, Forum Foundation, used its training to conduct surveys during COVID-19 lockdowns about transgender people and successfully advocated with district officials to allow alternative forms of identification for accessing food ration kits. A SARTHI participant used their new data skills to identify the exclusion of Dalit and migrant adolescents from national sexual and reproductive health programmes, and successfully advocated for their inclusion.



“People are sometimes wary of numbers and mathematics, but the workshops helped participants push past this and sharpen their advocacy based on hard evidence”

- Nilangi Sardeshpande, Project Head, SAHAJ

SAHAJ also invested heavily in what Equal Measures 2030 describes as “socializing and localizing the SDGs” embedding gender equality frameworks into spaces that shape the next generation of decision-makers. An academy responsible for training and examining civil servants in India produced instructional content using SDG Gender Index to teach future bureaucrats about the SDGs and gender equality. That content has been viewed over 33,000 times. SAHAJ also co-developed an online self-paced course on SDGs and Gender Equality with the Feminist Policy Collective.

In 2023, SAHAJ authored an academic chapter, [“How Far Are We from Achieving Gender Equality within the SDGs Framework?”](#), published in Transforming Unequal Gender Relations in India and Beyond. The chapter draws directly on SDG Gender Index data, placing India’s gender equality performance within a global comparative framework. It was showcased at the Asia Pacific Population Conference and the Bodoland International Knowledge Fest in Assam in 2023.



## NITI AAYOG: ADVOCACY THAT OPENS DOORS

A significant and instructive episode in SAHAJ’s journey with Equal Measures was its engagement with [NITI Aayog](#), India’s apex public policy think tank responsible for SDG tracking and implementation.

SAHAJ was recognized as a gender data expert and invited to co-advise on the development of a national Gender Index for India, contributing technical input on indicators and methodology, drawing on the Equal Measures’ SDG Gender Index. The Equal Measures methodology was approved for inclusion in India’s national monitoring framework. A significant institutional outcome. SAHAJ also contributed to Voluntary National Review processes as an active member of the Feminist Policy Collective.



## THE COALITION EFFECT

Equal Measures 2030’s role has been to connect SAHAJ’s deep local expertise to a global framework and evidence base that opens doors that were previously closed. As Aarushi Khanna, Equal Measures 2030’s Asia Pacific Regional Lead, reflected: “They really own the tool. They talk about the Index in all the convening spaces they’re part of — and they go further, doing additional analysis on their own to substantiate the data-driven messages coming from the Index and provide nuance and context.”

→ **National gender measurement framework.** SAHAJ’s technical collaboration with IWWAGE and NITI Aayog resulted in Equal Measures methodology being approved for inclusion in India’s national SDG gender monitoring framework — a significant step toward institutionalizing gender data in national policy.

→ **33,000+ views of SDG civil servant training content.** Using SAHAJ resources, a major training academy for India’s would-be civil servants produced instructional content on the SDGs and gender equality. That content reached over 33,000 views — embedding gender equality principles in the next generation of India’s policy administrators.

- **Online course on gender and SDGs.** SAHAJ co-developed a credit course on SDGs and Gender Equality with the Feminist Policy Collective, with the Index as a core tool. The SDG framework is now embedded in academic curricula reaching future researchers, policymakers, and advocates.
- **Grassroots advocacy wins from DDA training.** 129+ advocates trained in data-driven advocacy have used their skills to secure concrete outcomes: transgender community members gained access to food rations during lockdown; Dalit and migrant adolescents secured inclusion in the national health programme; village-level health monitoring was strengthened using SDG-informed indicators.
- **Elected Women Representatives trained in one state.** SAHAJ is currently training Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) — women who hold reserved governance seats at village level but have historically been sidelined by male relatives — in SDG frameworks and gender equality data. The goal is to build their agency to make real decisions on budgets, services, and community priorities.
- **Pre-budget consultations influencing Union Budget advocacy.** SAHAJ contributed data on contraceptive program gaps to the Feminist Policy Collective's advocacy on the 2021–22 Union Budget for India, generating follow-up engagement from the Ministry of Women and Child Development on gender-responsive financing.
- **Global Advocacy and Visibility.** Equal Measures 2030's regional platform connected SAHAJ to Asia-Pacific processes including ICPD30, the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, and C20/G20 engagements, amplifying India's lessons within wider feminist coalitions. Ongoing WHO dialogue: SAHAJ has been engaged in a sustained series of conversations with the WHO Director-General on the relationship between civil society, gender data, and health policymaking.
- **Flexible funding.** Equal Measures' subgrants provided sustained resourcing for SAHAJ's advocacy work, including through the severe disruptions of COVID-19 and FCRA licensing constraints.
- **SAHAJ's representative, Dr. Nilangi Sardeshpande serves on Equal Measures 2030's Steering Group** contributing to coalition governance and co-shaping the shared DDA curriculum and community of practice.

## Adapting when traditional advocacy becomes impossible

SAHAJ adapted its advocacy approaches by deepening community-rooted organizing, strengthening evidence generation, and expanding the use of data-driven advocacy. Working through academia and institutions, embedding gender equality and SDG frameworks into university curricula, entry-level bureaucrat training, and civil servant education. The logic is long-term: shape the thinking of decision-makers before they take up positions of power.

During COVID-19, SAHAJ mobilized USD 23,000 for emergency relief, distributed over 1,000 food kits to vulnerable households — including LGBTQI members — and provided 500+ sanitation kits to frontline community workers. The organization's grassroots presence and close partnerships with community networks made this possible when government systems struggled to reach the most marginalized.



## LOOKING AHEAD

SAHAJ's work is increasingly focused on what Equal Measures refers to as “sub-national granularity” bringing the SDG Gender Index down from the national level to states, districts, and communities where governance decisions are made. Their work with Elected Women Representatives is the clearest expression of this: it aims to close the gap between women who formally hold power and women who can use it.

SAHAJ is also expanding its qualitative work on women in India's informal and unorganized sector producing the kinds of contextualized narratives that complement Index data and make the numbers speak. Read Equal Measures 2030's blog on gender equality and the G20, co-authored by SAHAJ: [How can the G20 agenda help advance progress on gender equality?](#)

In a political environment where feminist advocacy faces sustained pressure, SAHAJ's model, embedding gender data into institutions, building grassroots accountability, and patiently cultivating spaces for change, is a demonstration of what it means to do this work for the long term.

“

“We need to lean in, to go deeper and to nurture a creative young generation that will, finally, sweep these barriers away” — Nilangi Sardeshpande, Project Head, SAHAJ

Learn more about SAHAJ's work:



[sahaj.org.in/](https://sahaj.org.in/)



Sahaj Vadodara



@Sahaj.Vadodara