

METIS

ARTS & DÉVELOPPEMENT



Arts & emancipation of women

Creating
her own path



AVEC LE SOUTIEN DE



AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

THE ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN: A GOAL STILL A LONG WAY OFF

Women's unequal access to economic resources is a barrier to gender equality: it limits their ability to exercise their rights (housing, healthcare, security, etc.) and undermines their capacity to lead independent and dignified lives.

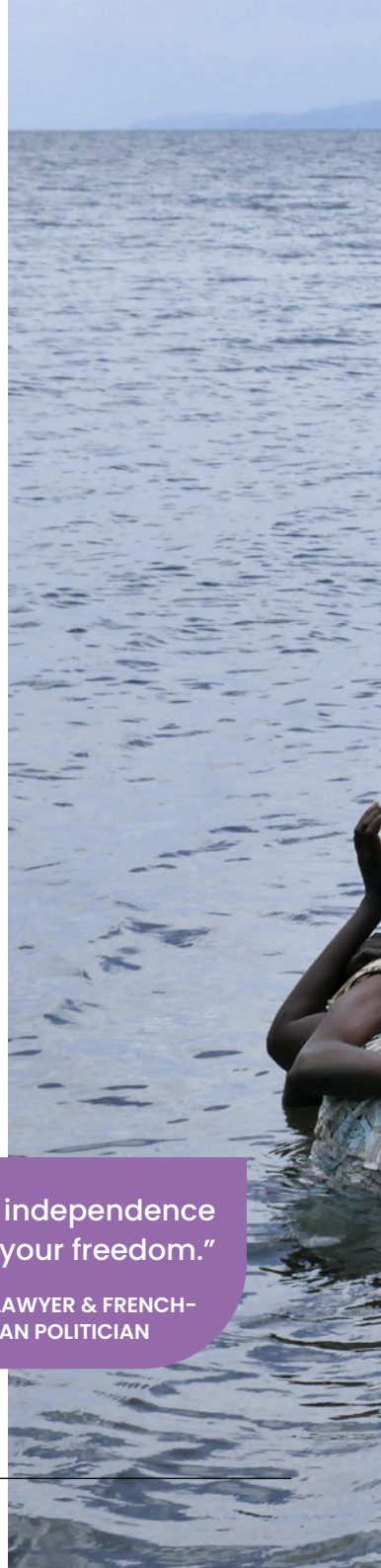
Beyond being a moral imperative, the economic empowerment of women also represents a key driver of development since these inequalities hinder directly innovation, job creation and sustainable growth.

Yet, everywhere and at every stage of their lives, women remain disproportionately exposed and affected by poverty and discrimination. These realities are driven by structural inequalities, but also by social norms and gender stereotypes that influence self-confidence and constrain life aspirations and opportunities.

Despite the progress made, and the solutions put forward by many stakeholders, the UN estimates that at the current rate, it would take another 300 years to achieve equality between women and men.

"Your financial independence is the key to your freedom."

GISÈLE HALIMI, LAWYER & FRENCH-TUNISIAN POLITICIAN





INVESTING IN THE POWER OF THE ARTS TO OVERCOME THE INVISIBLE BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

To make progress towards genuine equality, it is essential to address the blind spots in conventional technical and financial approaches. We propose to harness the power of the arts to tackle the psycho-emotional barriers that impede sustainable change.

Artists, development practitioners, economic actors, local communities... we invite these stakeholders to come together to co-create works that promote women's economic empowerment and strengthen public policies in support of equality.

"We know that culture is not only a reflection of our societies but also a driving force for transformation and more inclusive, peaceful development."

**ERNESTO OTTONE RAMIREZ,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR CULTURE, UNESCO**



OUR PROGRAM 'ARTS AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT — CREATING YOUR OWN PATH'

The Metis Fund is launching this program and is committing to two phases of action over a three-year period:

PHASE 1

Working in local communities to make a local impact

- ◆ Through 12 socio-artistic initiatives carried out around the world.

PHASE 2

Scaling up to make a broader impact

- ◆ Through capacity building for stakeholders (2 workshops and 4 peer exchanges).
- ◆ Through the organisation of events and the creation of artistic productions designed to inspire a wider audience



ACTING IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO MAKE A LOCAL IMPACT: 12 SOCIO-ARTISTIC INITIATIVES

Twelve initiatives bring together a local female artist, a group of local residents and a development organization (a school, a cooperative, an NGO, etc.) in twelve local communities.

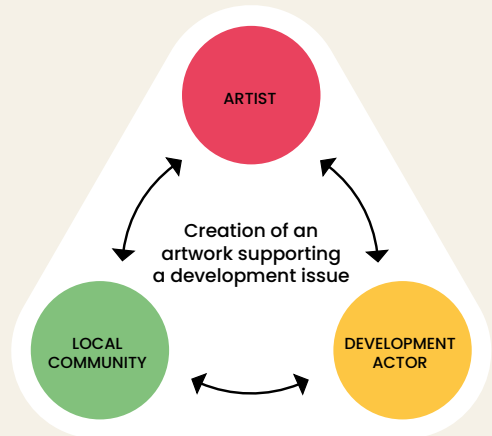
Over several weeks, these three stakeholders are invited to exchange ideas and create together around a local theme linked to women's living conditions. Artistic practice becomes a medium for questioning, learning, sharing and collectively imagining a shared future... culminating in the creation of an original work of art that embodies their perspective. This work is then presented, first locally and then more widely.

The barriers to women's economic empowerment are reduced.



Engineering that makes an impact

Every initiative is developed locally. Local stakeholders identify the issue to be addressed, the artist and the artistic discipline involved.





POTENTIAL AREAS
FOR IMPLEMENTING INITIATIVES

Strategic territories selected collectively

The selection of countries and territories for intervention is based on the following criteria:

- expert advice,
- geographical diversity,
- the views of financial partners and local operators.



MADAGASCAR 2026

'EXTRA!ORDINARY'

*Women entrepreneurs tell their stories
in words and pictures!*

CONTEXT

4.4 %

of women aged
between 15 and
49 have a bank
account.



**Partners: Madagascar Entreprises
Développement (MED)** assists
and supports groups, cooperatives
and associations for women's
entrepreneurship in the Analamanga
region to ensure the sustainability
of their activities.



INITIATIVE

The Vav'y slam poetry collective and photographer Fidisoa Ramanahadray have joined forces with MED to run writing and photography workshops for female entrepreneurs. These workshops have given rise to an artistic performance that engages with the participants' visual and literary creations. This introduction to creativity helps to reinforce the work carried out by those on the ground by creating spaces for learning, exchange and building confidence, where women can acquire new skills.

TO AMPLIFY OUR IMPACT

In addition to our local initiatives, we are committed to extending and amplifying our impact at every level.

Building the capacity of 80 grassroots actors

A single initiative is not enough if it remains isolated. That is why we also focus on wider ecosystems of actors.

◆ 2 capacity-building workshops

These training sessions, aimed at the cultural ecosystem and stakeholders and leaders engaged in the economic empowerment of women locally, will be organised in two countries covered by the program. It enables stakeholders to design their own initiatives, using art as a tool for development.

◆ 4 South-South artist residencies

These exchanges between artists of the program contribute to their professional development. Collaborative creation is a source of inspiration for new local solutions to support the economic empowerment of women.

FOCUS ON... the impacts

Building confidence and recognition Access to training
Skills development
Sector structuring
Changing perceptions
Sisterhood Dialogue and mutual understanding
Women's leadership Networks of solidarity and mutual support

Disseminating and scaling up impactful artistic productions

Whilst local initiatives transform communities, it is when they are brought into dialogue with one another and given greater visibility that they also influence decision-makers.

◆ An artistic production tracing the entire program

To amplify the impact and enable these stories to reach beyond their local communities, a cross-cutting work recounts and connects the program's initiatives.

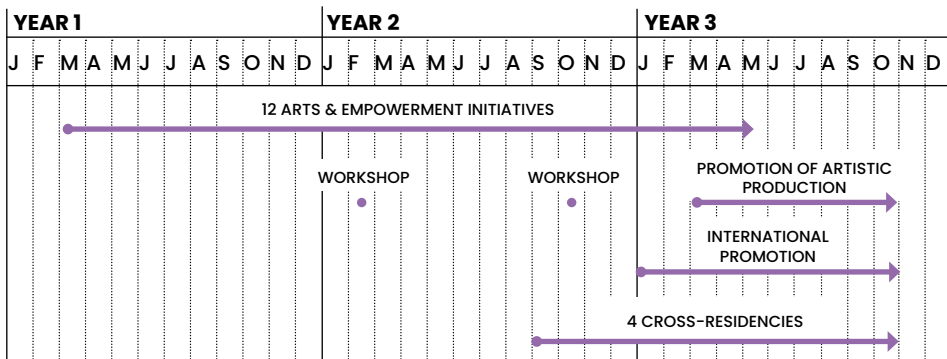
◆ Promoting the program to decision-makers

Metis draws on its network of stakeholders (technical and financial) working in development and culture to amplify the voices of its local partners. An opportunity both to inform the relevant decision-makers and to highlight the power of art as a lever for women's economic empowerment





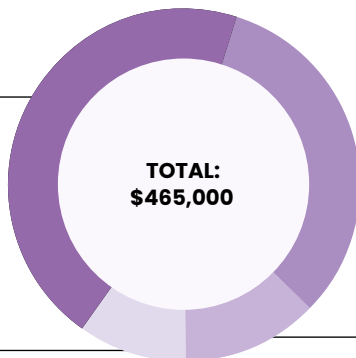
PROGRAM SCHEDULE



PROGRAM BUDGET

12 INITIATIVES
ON WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT
\$210,000

CAPACITY
BUILDING
\$45,000



CROSS-CUTTING
PRODUCTION
AND CAPITALISATION
\$150,000

MANAGEMENT
AND COMMUNICATION
\$60,000

THE METIS FUND, AN EXPERIENCED PARTNER

◆ An innovative and well-structured public-private initiative.

Metis is an organization offering a robust management framework and strong operational consistency. Structured as an endowment fund, it benefits from legal and financial autonomy. This enables our private partners to claim tax reductions on their donations.

Metis is also hosted by the French Development Agency. This reinforces our management standards. It gives us access to an extensive network of trusted partners across the regions and to in-depth knowledge of the contexts in which we operate.

◆ A partnership-based approach rooted in local communities

Our hallmark lies in listening carefully to the needs and visions of our financial partners. We adopt a collaborative approach to design tailor-made projects, adapted to their ambitions and the realities of the local areas.

This partnership-based approach is put into practice on the ground. Attentive to the specificities of each context, Metis engages in daily dialogue with its local partners. They share their challenges with us and we present our framework for action. On this basis, we support them in defining and implementing the concrete actions they wish to undertake to address the challenges they face, following a logic of co-creation and sustainable impact.

◆ A proven methodology that drives transformation

Since its creation in 2021, Metis has been implementing a specific project management approach designed to maximize the impact of its investments for the benefit of its partners. This innovative methodology has demonstrated its transformative power at both the individual and collective levels. Our impacts are documented and analyzed. We carry out regular evaluations to report on our activities and draw lessons that are invaluable in guiding our future actions.

An impact assessment will analyse the economic empowerment of participants: skills development, educational and career guidance, and the strengthening of their independence...

A PROGRAM WITH A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Our work brings new narratives to the fore and contributes to women's economic empowerment.

A transformative framework for all local stakeholders...

The conditions for full economic empowerment take shape.



For technical stakeholders:

- ◆ A better understanding of local gender equality issues, leading to better-designed and more effective initiatives.
- ◆ Recognition of their professions and an opportunity to build team cohesion.



For participants:

- ◆ The development of new skills, self-confidence and the ability to plan for the future.
- ◆ Strengthening community ties and connections forged with local stakeholders.



For the artists:

- ◆ Funding for a unique and socially engaged artistic creation.
- ◆ Promotion of their work at a local level, but also internationally, thanks to the Metis network.



... which drives global dynamics

- ◆ Training and empowering local stakeholders opens up new practices and perspectives
- ◆ By promoting initiatives, advocating for action that incorporates the arts as a lever for empowerment.
- ◆ Public and private initiatives for the economic empowerment of women that are more effective, sustainable and participatory.
- ◆ Through the emergence of new narratives and imaginaries, a better understanding of an inclusive social and economic landscape.

Creating her own path in figures

1,500 women

**BETTER ECONOMICALLY
INTEGRATED**

12 works of art

**THAT ENHANCE THE
ATTRACTIVENESS OF LOCAL AREAS
AND SHAPE NEW IMAGINARIES**

50 stakeholders

**WITH ENHANCED TECHNICAL
AND CULTURAL CAPACITIES**

20 artists

**MORE ENGAGED
IN THEIR LOCAL AREAS**





By supporting Metis, you can back one or more initiatives that are important to you and become part of a movement that turns creativity into concrete action, serving people, nature and culture. Help creativity become a true catalyst for change. Our team is here to work with you to identify the most suitable forms of support and the most meaningful partnerships.

◆ **Tiphaine de Mombynes**

Director of the Metis Fund
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◆ **Barbara Winkelried Queab**

Partnerships Officer
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Your financial support is channelled through our endowment fund. Depending on your tax situation, you may be able to explore tax-efficient options, both in France and abroad.

