

A cross-cutting and lifecycle approach

Cultural and structural factors contribute to unequal access to economic opportunities. Women's access to economic opportunities depends on their access to education and professional training, to sexual and reproductive health and rights, their right to decide when to marry and have children, the distribution of domestic and family responsibilities, etc. Therefore, France understands gender issues as cross-cutting and all-encompassing, and encourages a lifecycle approach, centered on specific need and age categories. Young girls and adolescents deserve special attention as they face particular challenges that can increase their vulnerability, such as unequal access to education, child marriage and early pregnancy.

Engaging men and boys

Gender equality cannot be achieved without the involvement of men and boys. They play a critical role in terms of improved health outcomes, fighting gender-based violence and promoting the elimination of harmful stereotypes and practices. Young men and boys are targeted through programmes that focus on youth and adolescent sexual and reproductive health, such as the French Muskoka Fund, implemented in eight West and Central African countries.

Example of a French flagship programme aimed at improving women's economic empowerment

AFD and TSKB's project for female-friendly companies in Turkey

In 2017, AFD and the Turkish Development Bank (TSKB) launched a programme to foster women's economic empowerment, with the aim of improving occupational health and safety conditions, and promoting women's employment in Turkey.

Thanks to a €100,000,000 loan from AFD, TSKB will dedicate a credit line to fund Turkish companies' investments in these areas to encourage female-friendly companies.

TSKB will raise companies' awareness of issues concerning women's employment and professional equality by giving them training and tools on topics such as equal treatment in labour relations and salaries, specific economic rights such as maternity leave and gender-based violence.



French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves le Drian's speech on International Women's Day, March 8th, Paris.
Credit: Frédéric de la Mure (French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs)