

WORKSHOP ON THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF DATA ON WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP	
Workshop date	February 21, 2025
Participants	<p>Marame CISSE, EGE/IPAR project coordinator</p> <p>Cheikh FAYE Statistical engineer, member of the EGE/IPAR project team</p> <p>Isaac MINGOU, Statistical engineer at IPAR</p> <p>Ndeye Arame GUEYE, IPAR inter</p> <p>Zeynab kaba DIAKHATE, IPAR inter</p> <p>Mbissane NGOM, IPAR research assistant</p> <p>Djibril DIALLO, IPAR</p> <p>Zakaria SAMBAKHE, IPAR</p> <p>Mamadou Moustapha CAMARA FNPEF representative</p> <p>Abdoulaye SECK, FNPEF representative</p> <p>Demba BA, CEPsi/MFS representative</p> <p>Mamadou DIEYE, DAEF/MFS representative</p> <p>Mariam BASSOUM, DAPSA representative</p> <p>Soda MBODJ, ANSD representative</p> <p>Fatou Thiam LEYE, ANPEJ representative</p> <p>Sadio KANOUTE, DEEG/MFS representative</p>
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the project (context, objectives, impacts, approach to data use) • Presentation of the methodology, data mapping grids with structures and services involved) • Discussion, exchange with participants on the project (key players/existing databases and platforms) • Collection of participants' recommendations • Elaboration of next steps
Time (start-finish)	10:00 am - 1:30 pm
Program/project entity	SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT IN SENEGAL (EGE PROJECT)

As part of the Synthesis of evidence to strengthen women's entrepreneurship and empowerment in Senegal (Project EGE), IPAR organized an internal workshop aimed at identifying relevant data needs and existing databases to improve decision-making in favor of women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

The workshop began with words of welcome from the IPAR team, followed by a round table of participants representing a key ministry or technical department. The IPAR team gave a brief introduction to the project, and emphasized the important role of this workshop in the data synthesis process. The context, relevance of the project, objectives, impacts, approach and methodology were presented. Emphasis was placed on the importance of collaboration and partnership with technical services and ministries. This inclusive and participatory approach is highly effective for the development of gender-specific policies and initiatives aimed at strengthening women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

The overall methodology of the project was presented, as well as a mapping of actors and data, and the databases available to IPAR in the field of women's empowerment and entrepreneurship. The project team will draw on the available and accessible databases for a quantitative study, which will be complemented by a qualitative analysis. The main targets of the survey are data producers, data intermediaries and decision-makers who use the data.

Comments on the project from participants

Representatives of the structures involved in the project expressed their keen interest and stressed its vital importance. They stressed the need for reliable, disaggregated data to inform decision-making, particularly in the field of women's entrepreneurship. Thus, producing evidence-based data to influence public policy and foster the development of this sector is of major socio-economic importance.

Participants also appreciated the quality of the IPAR team's presentations and the methodology adopted. The inclusive and participatory approach implemented by the project team received very positive feedback from the stakeholders present at the workshop. The importance of working closely with ministries and technical departments was widely emphasized, and participants reaffirmed their commitment to working alongside IPAR. They pledged their technical support to ensure the project's success.

It was also pointed out that many ministries are already involved in women's entrepreneurship and empowerment initiatives. They sometimes have certain data, platforms or information systems on women's or youth entrepreneurship. In this context, the data produced by IPAR will be an essential lever for reinforcing the quality of political strategies, some of which, such as the orientation law for women's empowerment, are currently being drawn up. The data collected can be used in the diagnostic analysis of this law.

Concerns expressed about the project

However, as with any project, certain challenges need to be anticipated to avoid compromising its success. In this respect, participants raised a number of concerns, including:

- The difficulty of accessing data and the lack of information sharing;
- The lack of a data-sharing culture within certain structures;
- The non-involvement of certain key ministries, such as the Ministry of Handicrafts, as well as banking institutions such as Crédit Mutuel. The latter play an essential role in

rural areas, where many women entrepreneurs take out loans to finance their activities, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Questions/Answers

During the workshop, participants put a number of questions to the IPAR project team, including:

- **Question:** Does the agricultural sector targeted in this project refer to agriculture in the broadest sense or in a more restricted framework? Why did you choose this sector among so many others?
- **Answer from the IPAR team:** The project concerns the agricultural sector in the broadest sense. This choice is not arbitrary, as agriculture is at the heart of IPAR's mission. It represents a key lever of systemic transformation and benefits from a strong dynamic with numerous projects oriented towards this sector.
- **Question:** What does EGE stand for and what is the reference year for the survey?
- **IPAR team response:** EGE stands for Evidence for Gender Equity. The time frame of the database research is based on a ten-year chronological perspective. Thus, all structures, departments and ministries that have produced data on gender in the women's entrepreneurship sector during this period are potential targets for the survey.

Some concluding remarks

To enhance the project's effectiveness and maximize its impact, several recommendations were made:

- Involve key structures such as the Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Microfinance to ensure a more integrated approach.
- Develop an effective strategy to facilitate access to data from different structures. This could include identifying a ministerial department to play a facilitating role in enabling IPAR to access relevant data.
- Approach the Regional Development Agency (ARD), which has evidence-based data that can greatly contribute to the success of the project.
- Produce in-depth disaggregated data to ensure more accurate and effective decision-making in favor of women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.
- Organize special meetings to identify the specific data needs of the structures, particularly in relation to policy laws.
- Collaborate with CRES (Consortium for Economic and Social Research), which is currently conducting a study on gender, to pool efforts and capitalize on existing work.
- Integrate all value chains in the agricultural sector, from production to processing to marketing, when collecting data, so as to include all categories of players.

Next step:

Another workshop is scheduled for February 28, during which each representative of a key ministry or technical department will give a brief presentation on the data available on women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.