



# Gender & Inclusivity

A PROJECT OF THE SCIENCE GRANTING COUNCILS INITIATIVE



## DIRECTION DU FINANCEMENT DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT TECHNOLOGIQUE, SENEGAL

Tafsir Babacar; Ndèye Sine; Daouda Diouf; Ndèye yaba Fall.

The Gender & Inclusivity Project, a component of the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI), is led by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa in partnership with Gender at Work (G@W), Jive Media Africa and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). G@W's unique methodology, Gender Action Learning (GAL), together with the Targeted Technical Assistance (TTA) process designed by the HSRC, supports a unique participatory process that responds to councils' needs, builds partnerships and encourages ownership of the change process.

## Building a united front for women's leadership in scientific research activities

There is a paradox presented by the academic success of girls in primary and secondary education and their downward levelling in universities – a contradiction that speaks to the need for change.



Tafsir Babacar



Ndèye Sine



Daouda Diouf



Ndèye yaba Fall



Despite efforts over time, only 10% of researchers in Senegal are women and women continue to be underrepresented in basic scientific research and at decision-making levels in universities. Faced with this situation, Africa must resolutely engage in education and training of young people, especially girls, in science and technology skills, to ensure the emergence of equality.

### Three key areas

Although not its only areas of concern, the Direction du Financement de la Recherche scientifique et du Développement Technologique (DFRSDT) Gender & Inclusivity Project change team undertook to focus on gender, youth and disability as three essential and insufficiently addressed elements.

The council works closely with the Support Project for the Promotion of Women Researchers in Senegal (PAPES), a fund exclusively dedicated to women researchers and teachers. Together,

the council advocates for legal parity for women and other marginalised groups, the installation of gender units in all ministerial departments and the appointment of women to senior positions in society.

### Successes

The DFRSDT has participated in the modernisation of the system of calls for applications for the funding of research projects. Within the framework of the PAPES, the council can count 107 grant beneficiaries, including 72 female teacher-researchers and 35 female doctoral students.

In partnership with the SGCI, the council has launched nine projects, two of which are led by women researchers. This support has enabled some female doctoral students to complete their theses. Others have been able to continue their studies or carry out research activities in specific areas.

