

# WOMEN TAKE



# Centre STAGE

## Jigeen Ñi Academie Musique

Despite women's historical influence in Senegal's socio-economic and cultural development, they remain underrepresented in the country's cultural sector, particularly in music. Limited access to education, training, and economic resources are among the factors that have hindered women's involvement. However, the Jigeen Ñi Academie Musique (JAM) is a ground-breaking project dedicated to the professional development of women.

Along with practical music skills, the academy provides training in leadership and cultural entrepreneurship to enhance income and employment opportunities for women in the music industry. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) supported the academy as part of the project Cultural and Creative Industries.

# REVOlUTIONISING

In Senegal, the Jigeen Ñi Music Orchestra has been making waves as a successful all-female music group. Their impact does not end with their powerful performances, however.

Driven by a desire to empower women in the music industry, the orchestra has taken a bold step in establishing the Jigeen Ñi Academie Musique (JAM) - the first professional music academy for women only.

## **JAMming for Equality**

The all-female academy was set up in collaboration with the National School of Arts, the first state-recognised public art school in Senegal.

The partnership has been critical to the academy's success, as its training is now certified by the **Ministry of Culture and Higher Education**. This recognition brings with it a level of prestige that can help graduates improve their chances of finding a job.

The curriculum for the training was developed jointly with the **National School of Arts**.

In 2022, a group of 15 female musicians, including 10 women from the Jigeen Ñi Music Orchestra, were trained to become trainers.

Today, the academy offers training in music practice, leadership and cultural entrepreneurship to 25 female students each year.

At the end of the six-month training programme, the students receive certificates from the National School of Arts.

## **New Instruments, New Opportunities**

GIZ supported the academy in the training of trainers and the purchase of new musical instruments to ensure that students have adequate practice equipment.

Public interest in the academy and its graduates has been high.

To further raise awareness of **gender equality** in music, the academy, with support of GIZ, organised three roundtables with industry professionals.



**What sets the JAM approach apart is its sustainability:** the partnership with a public institution allows for a broader and lasting impact. Involving the **Jigeen Ñi Music Orchestra** as teachers also boosted morale and gave students role models to look up to.

# MUSIC EDUCATION

# Learnings



**Advocacy:** Empowering women in music changes mindsets. Before the academy was founded, people doubted that an all-female music school could work.

**Equipment:** Access to instruments remains a challenge, despite project support and partnership with the National School of Arts. Delays in procurement exacerbate the problem.

# ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project Cultural and Creative Industries is jointly implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Goethe-Institut on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

It improves employment and income opportunities for creative professionals in six partner countries; Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa and operates mainly in the music, fashion, design and animation sectors. In addition to promoting the development of entrepreneurial, digital, creative and technical skills through training programmes, the project aims to strengthen the framework conditions and the ecosystem of the cultural and creative industries.

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