



AFRICAN  
WOMEN'S  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

## LEADING FROM THE SOUTH

A Fund To Resource Women's Human Rights Activism In The Global South

AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT FUND

Call For Proposals From Africa And The Middle East

APPLICATION GUIDANCE

January 2017

[www.awdf.org](http://www.awdf.org)

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# I. FUND RATIONALE, OBJECTIVES AND THEMES

**The African Women's Development Fund** was established in 2000, as an Africa-wide philanthropic, grant making initiative to support the realisation and fulfilment of African women's rights through funding of autonomous women's organisations on the continent. AWDF works towards the creation of healthy, just and inclusive societies framed by equality, peace and respect for women's rights. Since its founding, AWDF has awarded more than US\$30 million in grants.

Looking at the history of change, we know that women's organisations, and the movements that they are part of, are central actors in crafting this just world. AWDF invests in women's rights organisations as leaders in advancing women's rights, and as a core force for demanding accountability and respect, protection and fulfilment of rights for all women from duty bearers at all levels. We know that women's organisations and movements not only keep gender equality on the agenda but also push for laws and policies to be comprehensive, progressive and inclusive of the concerns of diverse groups of women.

AWDF is one of four Women's Funds from the Global South managing *Leading from the South* - a funding initiative created to resource women's rights activism in the global South over 4 years. The fund was initiated with support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of their commitment to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5. It supports activism devised, implemented, and led by women's rights organisations in the global South. The LfS fund is being implemented by four women's funds: Three are Regional Funds: **African Women's Development Fund** (Africa and the Middle East Region), **Fondo Mujeres del Sur** (Latin America and the Caribbean) and South Asia Women Fund (Asia); and one global fund **AYNI – the Indigenous Women's Fund**.

AWDF is mandated to fund in all 54 African countries. Under the *Leading from the South initiative* AWDF has expanded its grantmaking mandate to include selected countries in the Middle East.

## **Through *Leading from the South*, AWDF will award grants that advance the following three impact areas:**

1. Eliminate violence against women and girls & sustain respect for women's bodily integrity and autonomy
2. Protect full economic rights and justice for women
3. Expand democratic space; sustain inclusive governance and equal political participation of women

These three impact level goals relate directly to **Sustainable Development Goal 5** objectives of working towards gender equality through empowering women and girls.

**Within the objectives above, priority will be given to groups and organisations that seek to achieve the following:**

**1. Eliminate violence against women and girls & sustain respect for women's bodily integrity and autonomy**

- Build women's knowledge and agency around their right to bodily integrity, autonomy and freedom from violence
- Create the needed accessible support and services for women and girls that respect their diverse needs and identities in respect of women's bodily integrity
- Increase public support for ending violence against women in all forms
- Facilitate the passage and implementation of laws and policies that will help prevent and respond to different forms of VAW
- Strengthen the evidence base around needs, methods and effective approaches

**2. Protect full economic rights and justice for women**

- Promote women's labour and economic rights
- Support women's organising in formal and informal economies
- Build knowledge and support among key stakeholders and influencers for the recognition of women's economic contributions and rights
- Facilitate the passage of better policies and laws to protect women's economic rights such as decent work, food security and land and property rights

**3. Expand democratic space; sustain inclusive governance and equal political participation of women**

- Help increase the participation of diverse women in policy and decision-making processes at all levels and in diverse settings
- Create uninhibited operating space for women's rights organisations and defenders
- Ensure stronger and better implementation of laws and policies regarding women's political rights and participation
- Strengthen the evidence base around needs, methods and effective approaches

**A focus on women's leadership for change**

AWDF is committed to supporting women's leadership and will only fund groups that are women led in board/staff and have advancing women's rights/gender equality as a priority

and an explicit part of their mandate.

AWDF supports organisations and initiatives advancing the rights of women facing multiple discriminations. This includes young women; differently-abled women; women living with HIV, economically marginalised rural and urban women; sex workers and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women. We will encourage applications from initiatives led by and/or including the participation and agendas of these constituencies.

## II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE & LANGUAGE:

**Applications** are accepted for women's groups registered in the following countries in Africa and the Middle East:

**Africa:** Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Middle East:** Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Yemen

Funded programmes may be implemented in any of the above countries, as well as in Sudan, South Sudan, Iran and Syria.

Applications will be accepted in English or French. Once a grant is awarded, technical support will be available in English and French with additional support in Arabic.

### III. GRANT TYPE AND SIZE

Grants will be awarded in the range of US\$20,000 to US\$ 500,000 a year, in line with the following three categories:

Yala! grants	Ananse grants	Pamoja grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size: US\$20,000 to US\$ 50,000 a year for up to 2 years</li> <li>• Geographic scope: Local and national</li> <li>• Grant size limit: An applicant organisation cannot apply for more than 50% of the organisation's annual income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size:US\$ 51,000 to US\$ 199,000 a year for up to 2 years</li> <li>• Geographic scope: National, transnational (across 2 or more countries), regional.</li> <li>• Grant size limit: An applicant organisation cannot apply for more than 50% of the organisation's/ combined network or consortium's annual income.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size: US\$ 200,000 to US\$ 500,000 a year for up to 2 years</li> <li>• Geographic scope: National, transnational (across 2 or more countries), regional, international. Grant size limit:An applicant organisation cannot apply for more than 50% of the organisation's or combined network/ consortium's annual income in the past financial year.</li> </ul>

Please note that it is expected to be a highly competitive application process.

Successful applicants will also be eligible for additional organisational capacity building support from AWDF.

### IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### Who can apply?

- AWDF accepts applications from women's rights organisations registered and working in DAC recipient countries in Africa and the Middle East (see country list in section II).
- AWDF funds women-led, women's rights organisations as a priority. Organisations must have:
  - a track record of work on women's rights,
  - a woman as organisational director/lead
  - a majority of women staff

- at least 70% women involved in the governing board/body
- a stated commitment to women's rights/gender equality in the organisational mission/vision/values
- At least 70% of programmatic resources must be dedicated to direct programming on women's rights;
- the project applied for will be managed by a woman
- For Ananse and Pamoja grants, we will also consider applications from networks/coalitions formed by three or more women's groups. In this case applications will be made by one lead organisation who will be responsible for administering and reporting on use of funds. Funds can only be distributed by the lead to a maximum of 4 named partner/network members who must also be based in the two regions.
- Organisations must demonstrate their capacity and financial management systems to effectively implement and account for grant funding and programme delivery.
- Organisations must have registration status that enables them to receive funds from foreign sources.
- Organisations must have been in existence for at least 3 years.

*Political parties, religious institutions, government bodies, for-profit organisations and individuals are not eligible for funding either independently or as part of a consortium.*

## Eligible activities

### Activities to be considered for funding:

- Advocacy and campaigning- including engaging local, national, regional and international legal and policy bodies
- Training and leadership development to build core advocacy/social change skills
- Media and communications
- Action-research and knowledge production with an advocacy focus
- Alliance and movement-building
- Service provision with an advocacy component
- Strategic litigation

### Activities not eligible for funding:

- Direct service provision without advocacy component
- Political campaigning
- Activities aimed at proselytizing/religious conversion

- Scholarships
- Construction and purchase of buildings and land
- Profit and income generating activities and microfinance
- Grantmaking (*Note that grantmaking activities will not be eligible; however funded networks or consortia will be eligible to disburse funds within their network /consortium for up to 4 partners for programmatic activities*).

## V. REVIEW AND DECISION MAKING PROCESS

1. For **Yala!** and **Ananse** grants applications must be submitted to AWDF by **13 February 2017**. AWDF will acknowledge receipt by email for all applications received.
2. For **Pamoja** grants applications must be submitted to AWDF by **3 March 2017**. AWDF will acknowledge receipt by email for all applications received.
3. Applications will be reviewed by AWDF's experienced Programme Officers and managers and the final decision for the grants made by the AWDF board with contributions from technical advisors.
4. Short-listing, review and selection process will take approximately 12 weeks from the submission deadline. Successful applicants will be contacted by 15 May 2017.