

AFRICA WOMEN'S RIGHTS FUNDS



**URGENT
ACTION
FUND +
AFRICA**

FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS





WHO WE ARE...

Africa Women's Funds Chapter of the International Network of Women's Funds (INWF) is a consortium of 7 Africa based women grant makers; Women's Fund Tanzania (WFT), African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), The Mediterranean Women's Fund (MWF), Wheat Trust, Global Fund for Women (GFW-Sub Saharan Africa), Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaise (FFC) and Urgent Action Fund-Africa (UAF-Africa). These organisations are driven by women with in-depth knowledge on the African socio-political, economic and environmental context which impact on women's rights. Collectively, the grant making sister organisations are organising, mobilising, strategizing, communicating, advocating, advancing, financing, strengthening and elevating women's voices, capacities and visibility in Africa and beyond. The sister Funds operate at local, national, regional and international levels as an effective, deliberate and proven mechanism of connecting women's priorities from the grassroots to the highest echelons of power, decision and policy making.

WHAT WE DO

Grant making

As a chapter, we systematize the working experience of our members by sharpening our resource mobilisation strategies and focusing on grant making in order to effect the change we seek to achieve through supporting women as agents of change. We build structures for financial sustainability while influencing debates, discourses and decisions on funding for women's rights. Through our collaborative efforts, we are able to support and create feminist philanthropic practices at local, regional and international levels. As a chapter, we continuously engage concerted efforts to widen the base of our resources including fundraising in Africa and at community level. With more secure, bigger, core funded multi-year grants we are able to strengthen the network and our grantee partners as well as deepen, scale up and accelerate their impact in their areas of work.

Collectively, our thematic areas of intervention are:

- Fight against multiple forms of violence against women (especially sexual violence)
- Fight against growing insecurities (fundamentalisms-religious, cultural etc.)
- Governance & political processes (constitutional/electoral/security reforms etc.)
- Women & economic justice (participation in macro-economic activities e.g. land acquisition and rights, agriculture, mining and fishing rights)
- Protection of women's human rights defenders
- Environmental justice & climate change (challenging land grabbing exercises, extractive industry malpractices, deforestation, climate change mitigation & adaptation etc.)
- Women's leadership (in all the above areas)

Capacity development

As African Women's Funds, we regard capacity development as a continuous natural process to stay relevant in rapidly and continually changing circumstances. Through our network, we have learning spaces for our members to discuss the issues affecting Women's Funds, and mobilize around bigger resources for women's rights across the continent. We encourage and support exchange programs for learning, support and collaboration given



contextual, historical, political and cultural differences. Though our capacities as individual organisations are at different levels, we continue to strengthen our own capacities to function at the highest performance level for the benefit of our grantees whom we also provide capacity development.

Advocacy

Our collective advocacy activities build links amongst like-minded women's Funds committed to promoting the advancement of women's rights across the continent and beyond. As a chapter, we support the strategic alliances and linkages between women's rights organizations, women's movements and activists by mobilizing, organizing, and advocating around joint actions. Our strategic and diverse partnership helps maximize our impact, and enables us to incorporate broad spectrum of strategies.

Recording our results...

In just over a decade we have disbursed over USD\$65 million to 4200 women's rights initiatives, with grants ranging from USD\$2,000-100,000 in hard to reach corners of 55 African countries. Through systematic provision of funding, intelligence and technical expertise to women's groups intervening to advance women's rights and protect women's rights defenders who are being persecuted for who they are and what they do; we have succeeded to sustain the women's movement's resolve and momentum in questioning the status quo, shifting unequal power relations while opening up new governance, social and economic discourses and spaces previously closed to women; where they influence, shape and implement policies, development frameworks and legislations thereby enabling a critical mass of women to participate and directly benefit in the struggle for social justice.

As a collective group of grant makers we have contributed towards:

- Engendering of constitution reform processes in Tanzania, Tunisia, Kenya, South Sudan, Egypt and Zimbabwe.
- Engendering processes such as electoral, disaster response and conflict management in Liberia, Zimbabwe, Egypt, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Mali, Benin and Niger.
- Leadership- enhanced African women's leadership and active citizenry at national and regional processes such as various AU consultative meetings, post 2015 MDG discussions, UN Summits, transitional justice, Truth and Reconciliation processes in Liberia, Kenya, Rwanda, Mali, Sierra Leone and South Africa.
- Strengthening & elevating women's voices and visibility by supporting feminist forums in Algeria, Congo Brazzaville, Nigeria, Burundi, Uganda and Zimbabwe.
- Supported women's active participation in macro-economic policy making and implementation through provision of capacity development, business planning skills, start-up capital injection throughout Africa.
- Supported women's strategic litigation in land grabbing, challenging extractive industries' practices, irrigation rights, inheritance matters, LGBTQI repealing of draconian laws, sex workers rights etc.
- Policy, development and amplifying African women's voices particularly around legislations such as; Domestic Violence laws in Ghana, Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia and



Kenya, Family Status Law in Egypt, Land and Devolvement in Kenya, HIV&AIDS bills in Angola, Togo, Niger, Liberia and DRC, Electoral Law in DRC, Legislations on early child marriages in Cameroon, Nigeria, Malawi and Morocco and ratification of the Maputo Protocol in Cameroon.

- Provided support for women human rights defenders championing political, civil and economic rights thereby upsetting corrupt and irregular interpretation of the law and religion across the continent.
- Supported strengthening of individual and organisational capacities, inclusion and security of minorities such as LGBTQI, sex workers, indigenous people, people living with disabilities & albinism, people living with HIV & AIDs and refugees in Somalia, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, South Africa.

Our call to Action to Funders

The challenging environments in which African Women's Funds operate are well known. The growing demand for resources to deliver on women's priorities are enormous but not insurmountable. It is unquestionable how effectively the Funds have delivered against their commitments and added value to the broader African human rights agenda on the continent. Collectively we have risen to most challenges put in our way; decreasing numbers of female genital mutilation victims, sharp drop in HIV&AIDS incidence rates, vigilant advocacy on violence against women, zero tolerance on sexual crimes, high levels of girl child school enrolment, growing numbers and quality participation of women in political and social processes. With more resources of USD\$200 million per annum awarded to African Women Funds, we commit to reaching women and girls in harder to access areas, effect change in more sustainable ways, treble our rate of enhancing women's leadership capacities, support women to be more self -sufficient, feed their families and actively participate as equal citizens in processes that impact their lives and that of their children and communities.

The Call for Action

African Women's Funds = Increased Resources!

To learn more about the Funds please visit:

<http://www.wft.or.tz/> • <http://www.awdf.org/> • <http://www.medwomensfund.org/>
<http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/> • <http://wheattrust.co.za/>
<http://urgentactionfund-africa.or.ke/>

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