

Frequently Asked Questions – Cycle 49 Applicants

Who is AWDF?

1. The [African Women's Development Fund](#) is a Pan-African grant-making organisation that supports the realization and fulfilment of African women's rights through funding of autonomous women's organisations on the continent¹. AWDF supports work to advance women's rights under three strategic themes: [Body and Health Rights](#), [Women's Economic Security and Justice](#), and [Leadership Participation and Peace](#). Each year, there are two opportunities for organisations who meet all our eligibility criteria to apply for grants

Type of Grants

There are two type of grants that you can apply for

1. **Main grants** are for work that responds to AWDF's three thematic areas and being implemented in Africa. If you are applying for a Main grant, **you can apply for up to USD50,000 for up to 12 months if working in one country. If working in two or more countries, you can apply for up to USD100,000 for 12 months**

2. **Main Grants-Kasa** for women led organisations registered and operating in Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal and working on sexual violence issues.

The Kasa grant is specifically for work around sexual violence. The Sexual Violence Research Initiative defines sexual violence here <https://www.svri.org/research-methods/definitions>.

Sexual violence/abuse refers to any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act, or unwanted sexual comments or acts to traffic, that are directed against a person's sexuality using coercion by anyone, regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including at home and at work

3. How many applications can I submit in this call for proposals?

If you are registered in and working in Ghana, Nigeria or Senegal you can submit one application for the main grants and one other application for the Kasa! Grant. If you are **not** registered in Ghana, Nigeria or Senegal you can only apply for the AWDF main grants.

¹ Under the Leading From the South Initiative, AWDF also supports work in five countries in the Middle East – Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq and Yemen.

Eligibility Criteria

4. Does AWDF fund organisations that are registered and/or have their headquarters outside Africa (or an eligible LFS Middle East country)?

AWDF does not fund organisations that are not based and headquartered in Africa and/or organisations that are not led by African women (senior staff and Board)

5. Does AWDF support organisations where the ED/CEO and/or Chair of the Board is male?

AWDF will also only consider applications from organisations where the Director of the organisation and Chair of the Board identify as female and where a majority, **(at least 70%), of all board and staff** identify as female.

6. Does AWDF fund organisations that have been registered for less than 3 years?

AWDF doesn't generally accept applications from organisations that haven't been registered for at least 3 years. In extremely rare circumstances however, AWDF will consider applications from organisations that have been registered for less than three years. Some examples are organisations led by and focused on particularly marginalised groups of women and girls, including women and girls living with disabilities, LBTQI+ women and girls, sex workers, refugees and migrant women, women living with HIV/AIDS, young feminists and other imposed marginalities.

7. Does AWDF support community-based organisations (CBOs)?

Yes, AWDF does consider applications from CBOs if they meet all our eligibility criteria

8. Does AWDF consider applications from profit making entities eligible to apply?

AWDF does not fund profit making entities or organisations

9. Does AWDF support faith-based organisations?

Organisations with a mission to proselytize are not eligible to apply to AWDF. This is because AWDF only supports women led civil society organisations that are non-political and non-religious and meets all the AWDF eligibility criteria.

Current and/or previously AWDF funded organisations

9. If I have a current grant from AWDF, can I submit an application to the 22nd of February 2022 deadline?

If your current grant ends **before 30th June 2022**, you can submit an application. If your current grant ends **after 30th June 2022**, we are not able to consider your application in this call for proposals and advise you to apply when we open our next grant cycle **in June of 2022**. AWDF will consider applications for completed projects for which the funding applied is for a continuation of that previous work.

11. My organisation has previously had a grant and/or has a current grant from AWDF – can we apply?

If the previous grant from AWDF has ended and there are no outstanding contractual obligations, you can apply. If you have a live grant that ends **before 30th June 2022**, you can apply. If you have a current grant that ends after **June 30th 2022**, you are not able to apply to this call for proposals but will be **eligible for our second call** for proposals in June 2022.

12. My organisation was previously funded under Main Grants, or my organisation was previously funded for one type of LFS support, can we apply for a different type, or if my organisation was previously funded under one thematic area, can we apply for work under a different one?

Yes, you can submit an application for one of any of the types of grants as long as you meet the criteria (women led, fit to AWDF thematic priorities, proportion of previous annual income, geographical coverage, etc.). You can submit an application under a different theme from any previously funded AWDF project.

13. Can AWDF support us with a reference letter if it has funded our work previously or do we send the name of and address of our contact in AWDF?

We don't accept recommendation letters from AWDF staff as we would consider it a conflict of interest. We only accept independent referees external to AWDF

Consortia and/or multi country applications

14. Does AWDF accept applications from organisations working in partnership/consortia, coalitions?

AWDF welcomes applications that are for work delivered by more than one partner as long as the application is from one partner and both of them and all the named partners meet all the eligibility criteria, etc. If you are submitting an application for a consortium project or more than two organisations, we will consider the eligibility and income of only the applicant organisation and not the combined income of all the proposed partners. We do also accept organisations that are not working with partners.

15. Will AWDF consider multi country applications?

AWDF will consider multi country applications as long as the rationale for working across more than one country is clear and strategic with well-defined and measurable impact in each country.

16. Can an organisation working in two or more countries, apply to work in a single country or has to necessarily apply to work in multiple countries?

Such an organisation can apply to work in either a single country or multiple countries. For this round of call for applications, organisations working in multiple countries can apply for a maximum of USD100,000 a year while organisations working in single countries can apply for a maximum of USD50,000 a year.

17. Can we have multiple profiles on the AWDF online platform or does only one person register for this and only access one profile for the whole organisation or partnership?

For data security reasons, we would recommend that each organisation have only one profile for the organisation on the on-line platform.

18. Does the main grant support proposals from movements, considering the fact that movements do not have the conventional structure of an organisation and they are mostly not registered?

AWDF does fund movement work and over the years has funded a number of movement activities. However, a women's rights organisation will have to apply on behalf of the movement since we do not currently fund unregistered organisations. Such applications will have to follow our usual application process

Financial Information

19. When AWDF says you can apply for up to 50% of your organisational income, what do you mean?

We are looking to understand the total income for the whole organisation (not individual projects) from any source (not just AWDF and not just grant funding) over the last three years. We have requested information on your last three years total income as we recognise the impact that COVID 19 had on the income of African women-led organisations. As such, we will consider applications representing no more than 50% of your average income over the last three years.

20. Are there additional guidelines available regarding the budget (ie. rules concerning direct/indirect costs, eligible and ineligible costs)?

Yes, there is guidance in the salesforce system around the specific budget categories such as direct and indirect cost. The guidance to the budget can be found on the first sheet of the budget template

21. What type of activities and costs will AWDF fund under institutional development?

Under Institutional Development, we are looking at operational expenses such as but not limited to staff development, remuneration, utilities, internet, repairs and maintenance cost. The budget template comes with eligible budget lines that can guide you.

22. Does AWDF only accept audited accounts?

AWDF will accept **either** audited accounts **or** unaudited accounts signed by management. If your 2021 accounts have yet to be audited or independently verified, we will accept your 2020 audited accounts.

23. Does AWDF transfer funds to all countries in Africa? Sudan, Somali, etc.

Because of bank transfer restrictions by the Government of Ghana imposed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and others, AWDF is unable to transfer funds to Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Iraq. Women's Rights Organisations in these countries can consider entering into agreement with other Women's Rights Organisations in eligible countries to act as fiscal sponsors for their grant, if successful.

Call schedule and application timeline

24. What are the dates for this call for proposals?

AWDF call for proposals was launched on **25th January 2022** and will be open until the deadline on **22nd February 2022**.

25. What is the process and how long does it take from submitting an application to having a grant approved?

AWDF typically receives over 1000 applications to each funding cycle and we have a robust process to consider each one. All applications that meet our eligibility criteria and respond most closely to our thematic priorities are assessed by our Programmes Department, where necessary, with input from our expert Regional Advisers. Following assessment of shortlisted applications, we request references on applicants, and compile reports on all shortlisted applications which our Board considers and makes the final decision on. Applications submitted **to the 22nd February 2022 deadline** cycle will be considered by the AWDF Board in May 2022, with successful applicants receiving **notification by end of June 2022**.

Issues relating to Cycle 49 Call for Proposals

26. Can an organisation with a 2021 annual budget of USD 200.000 apply for this call for proposal?

In this call for proposals, applicants with a budget of USD200,000 or more can apply for multi country projects to a maximum of USD100,000 per year. However, organisations with a 2021 income of USD100,000 or less can only apply for a maximum of USD50,000 per year, if their budget can support that amount.

27. Can organisations supporting women entrepreneurs apply for the main grant?

AWDF does support women working on social enterprise interventions to improve women's entrepreneurship skills. AWDF however, does not support for profit interventions.

28. What is the age group of young women?

AWDF considers young women to be between 18-24 years