

AWDF 2022 World AIDS Day Grant

Theme *“Employing technology to reduce HIV-related stigma and new infections among young women”*.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, young women aged 15-24 are eight times more likely to be living with HIV than men and boys of the same age.¹ Some of the drivers include gender norms and traditions, violence against women and girls, and the stigma and discrimination, and marginalisation of HIV positive women. This often means they don't have support circles, or knowledge of and access to services and treatment. Recent events, including the emergence of and response to the COVID 19 pandemic, have revealed the potential of technology to contribute to the response to HIV. Some examples include the expansion of knowledge on HIV and access to treatment, online organising to champion the rights of young women and girls, and the rights of women living with HIV to good quality treatment, care, and support.

For World AIDS Day 2022, AWDF will support work under the theme of *“Employing technology to reduce HIV-related stigma and new infections among young women”*.

To contribute to the creation of safe, accessible digital spaces, AWDF invites applications from women-led organisations and women's groups for work using digital technologies such as mobile phones, social media and online apps to address stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV, and to facilitate access to treatment and services. We will prioritise work that is creative and which employs innovative approaches to raising awareness on and increasing public support for HIV prevention and stigma reduction; contribute to positive changes in social norms that underpin stigma and discrimination which increase the vulnerability of young women and girls to HIV.

AWDF particularly encourages organisations led by marginalised and vulnerable groups of women, women living with HIV, and young feminists. This call for proposals for small grants of no more than \$2000 is open to African women led organisations with budgets of under USD100,000.

¹ African Commission on Human and the Peoples' Rights General Comment 1 on Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol