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## Frequently Asked Questions – Cycle 50 Applicant Webinars

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Please ensure that you read the application guidance, which can be found on the website and is also accessible on the on-line platform before you complete the on-line application form.

### **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 continent<sup>1</sup>. 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 funding.

### **Type of Grants**

#### **2. Which grant should I apply for – Leading from the South (LFS)?**

- A. For this Call for Applications, the only grant type available is the Leading from the South grant. **The Leading from the South grants** are to support projects in Africa and across five eligible countries in the Middle East. Applications to LFS should focus on advocacy though you are able to include costs for service delivery as long as they represent less than 20% of your total budget. If you are applying for work in an eligible country in the Middle East region you can only apply under LFS - the eligible countries in the Middle East are Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq and Yemen. There are three types of LFS grants – you can only apply for one:
  - Pamoja: you can apply for a maximum of US\$500,000 per annum for up to 24 months
  - Ananse: you can apply for a maximum of US\$200,000 per annum for up to 24 months
  - Yalla: you can apply for a maximum of US\$50,000 per annum for up to 36 months

#### **3. How many applications can I submit to this call for proposals?**

AWDF will accept one application for one project per organisation for any LFS grant (Pamoja, Ananse or Yalla). If one organisation submits more than one application, we won't be able to consider either.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

#### **4. Does ADWF fund organisations that are registered and/or have their headquarters outside Africa (or an eligible LFS 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)

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

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

No. 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 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 three 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

**Current and/or previously AWDF funded organisations**

**9. If I have a current grant from AWDF, can I submit an application to the July 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 deadline?**

If your current grant ends **before** 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, you can submit an application. If your current grant ends **after** 31<sup>st</sup> December 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 January/February 2023. AWDF will consider applications for completed projects for which the funding applied is for a continuation of that previous work.

**10. 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 December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022, you can apply. If you have a current grant that ends after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022, you are not able to apply to this call for proposals but will be eligible for our first call for proposals in 2023.

**11. My organisation was previously funded under Main Grants, can I apply for an LFS grant, 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 grant 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.

**Consortia and/or multi country applications**

**12. Does AWDF accept applications from organisations working in partnership/ consortia, coalitions, etc.?**

AWDF welcomes applications that are for work delivered by more than one partner as long as the application is from one partner and both 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.

**13. 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.

**14. Which countries constitute the horn of Africa for this call for proposals?**

AWDF will be prioritising applications from Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti

**15. 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.

**Financial Information**

**16. 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.

**17. 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 accounts.

**18. Please explain what you mean by independently verified for the financial accounts:**

Ideally the financial statement should be audited where an Independent Auditor gives an opinion on the accounts and signs it off. In instances where the organisation does not have an audited account or the most recent one is not available, the management account should be signed off by the Accountant and the CEO/ED or where possible, the Board Chair.

**19. 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.

**20. Can an organisation apply if it has been registered for the last 3 years but no funding?**

Per AWDF's current policies, we can only provide grants that represent 50% of the applicant's previous year's income. Therefore, we currently cannot support an organisation which has never had an income. However, AWDF is currently developing a new strategic plan and it is possible for some of our policies to change.

**21. Does AWDF accept in kind donations as income?** Due to the subjectivity in valuing in kind donations, AWDF considers income to be cash donations. However, if you have a fair basis of valuing and documenting in kind donations, we can consider that together with cash donations received in previous years.

**22. What is institutional development?** Institutional development refers to all non-project related expenses that strengthen the organisation's ability to deliver on its core mission including operational expenses, governance cost, audit, resource mobilisation, staff development, strategic communications, staff salaries among others. AWDF allows an applicant to assign up to 50% of the project budget to institutional development related cost.

**23. In case we are working in Partnership, Does the 50% of the income mean the Audited account of the Lead partner?** The Lead Partners Audited Financial Statements is the principal document that would be used in determining the maximum amount that could be awarded to the Partnership. However, all other partners are expected to submit their audited Financial Statements to help in the assessment of the Partnership.

**24. If the 50% of an organisation's 2021 income is less than the minimum grant AWDF provides, does that mean the organisation will automatically be ineligible?**

AWDF has different grant types. Each of the grant types has the minimum amount that AWDF can award. For this particular cycle 50 call for proposals which is within the Leading from the South programme, the minimum amount to be awarded is USD20,000. We advise that all applicants check the criteria that are provided on a call for proposal to guide them in the application process.

### **Call schedule and application timeline**

**25. What are the dates for this call for proposals?**

AWDF call for proposals was launched on **14<sup>th</sup> June 2022** and will be open until the deadline on **19<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**26. 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. If your application is considered ineligible, you will be notified by 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022. If your application is not shortlisted for assessment, we will notify you by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. Applications submitted to the July 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 deadline cycle will be considered by the AWDF Board in November 2022, with successful and unsuccessful applicants receiving notification by December 16<sup>th</sup> 2022.