



AFRICAN
WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT
FUND



**Making
Connections:**

THE
2014
ACTIVITY
REPORT

CONTENTS

3
Introduction to
the 2014
Report

6 - 7
A Snapshot of
AWDF's 2014
Grant Making

18 - 20
AWDF's
Emergency
Response in
Action

27
Knowledge
Management

31 - 33
Communications

34
An African &
Feminist
Philanthropy

4
Our Institutional
Donors

8
AWDF Gears
Up Support in
Francophone
Africa

21-24
Capacity
Building

28 - 29
Advocacy &
Outreach

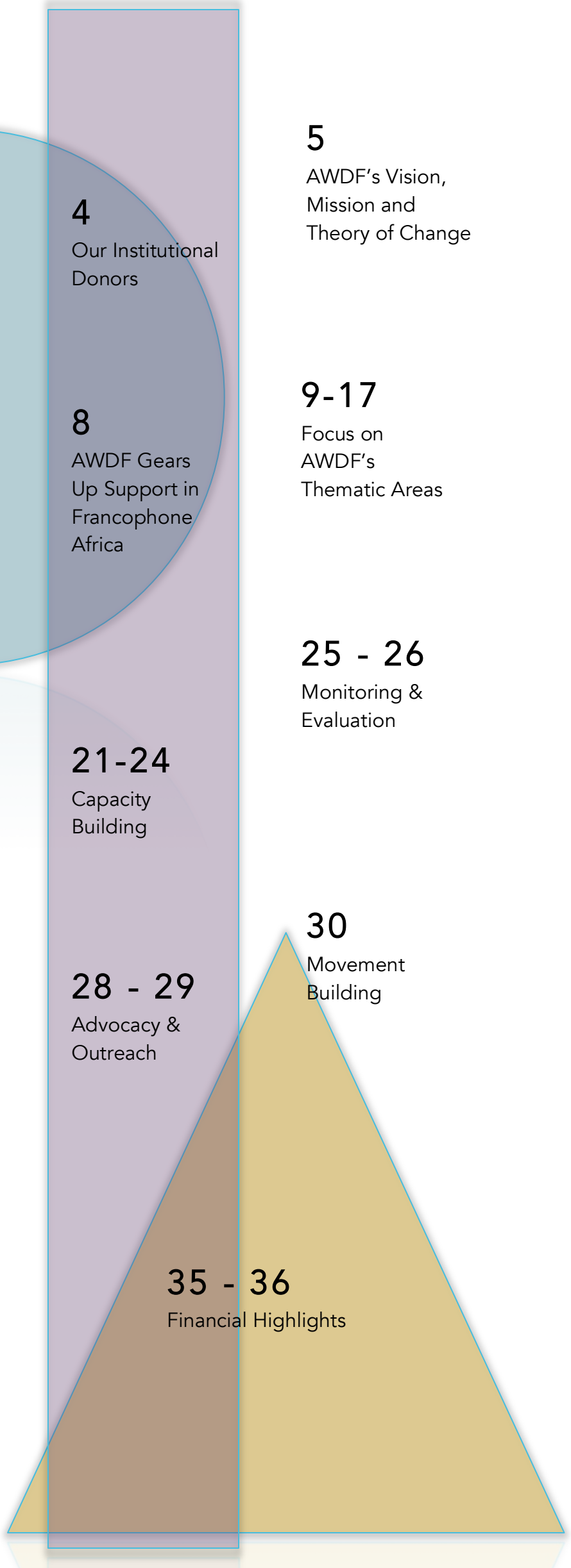
35 - 36
Financial Highlights

5
AWDF's Vision,
Mission and
Theory of Change

9-17
Focus on
AWDF's
Thematic Areas

25 - 26
Monitoring &
Evaluation

30
Movement
Building



INTRODUCTION TO THE 2014 REPORT

For many women's rights activists and organisations in Africa, 2014 was a hard year.

However, through a variety of lived experiences, African women continue to stand strong, ensuring that the gains won by their grandmothers, aunts, sisters don't diminish.

We had to weather the storms of the ebola virus, watching the infections and deaths rise, especially for women, in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. We were forced to observe how the fear and panic that accompanied the EVD outbreak eroded a range of other women's rights in those countries.

We were horrified as the abductions of the Chibok schoolgirls highlighted the ongoing kidnap, harassment and killing of so many of our sisters and daughters in Northern Nigeria. We tried hard to stand in solidarity with women's human rights defenders who were imprisoned in Egypt, murdered in Libya or had their centres forcibly closed down in Somalia. We were furious and humiliated as women on the streets of Kenya and Zimbabwe were stripped in public simply for choosing to wear clothes that some men decided they did not agree with.

And in the midst of all this, the hope that we harboured for an AIDS free future started to be threatened by a roll back in funding and by an increasingly medicalised approach to AIDS which put further strain on women who had always had to deal not only with the medical impacts of AIDS, but the social, economic and political.

A lot of things happened to make 2014 a bad year to be a women's rights activist in Africa and to make us question whether we were seeing the gains made over the past 20 years beginning to be rolled back. Yet, 2014 was a year also which continually refreshed our belief at AWDF in the resilience, the strength, the courage, the ingenuity and the determination of African women's rights activists.

We witnessed the strength of spirit as women in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea fought back against ebola with little in the way of financial resources but huge amounts in the way of spirit, courage, invention and determination as they struggled to prop up a dysfunctional health system, cope with disrupted families and counter multiple social, economic and cultural rights violations. We saw that same spirit reflected in the women of Northern Nigeria who fought back against extremists that would close down the rights of girls in their communities, launching #Bringbackourgirls and setting up a range of community responses.

AWDF works with individuals and organisations to support sustained social change and justice for African women and their communities. Over the past fourteen years, AWDF has invested in an expanding movement towards the full recognition of women's rights and the active participation of women in local, regional, national and continental decision-making spaces. Through our work, we are connected to the activities and dreams of African women's movements. AWDF leverages this link as an effective responder, bonding critical resources to organizations that can implement the best solutions, and strengthening women's leadership.

With these and other interventions, AWDF stays connected to the needs of our grantee partners on the ground. Through site visits and regular reporting periods, we offer firsthand technical assistance to grantee organizations. We also organize capacity building trainings, 6-10 month coaching and mentoring programs, and pro bono legal and financial assistance as ways to build leadership development, organizational accountability, protocols, systems and structures.

As a fundraiser and grant maker, AWDF is in a key position to understand and respond to multiple perspectives at once.

As a team builder, we engage with a spectrum of different stakeholders, bringing donors face-to-face with African women leaders and their communities, engaging staff and grantee partners in site visits and capacity building programs, and introducing sister networks to incredible African feminists to extend support for their work.

We contribute to the sustainable growth of women's organisations in 42 countries on the continent. With this record, AWDF has shown a deep commitment to helping women's organisations to scale up their professional and organisational capacity then replicate their strategies, messaging, resources, services and networks to larger audiences. Ground in community experiences, AWDF works with individuals and groups on the ground to create and sustain viable projects that have roots. As a trusted connector, we share the stories of everyday women making real breakthroughs in their communities through collective and organised action.

Over the past fourteen years, AWDF has invested in an expanding movement towards the full recognition of women's rights and the active participation of women in local, regional, national and continental decision-making spaces. Through our work, we are connected to the practices and dreams of the African women's movement. AWDF exhibits this link as an effective community responder, bonding critical resources to organizations that can implement the best solutions, and building the capacity of women to be leaders, making decisions that constructively shape their communities.

We answered the call through emergency response funding, contributing more than half a million U.S. dollars to fast-track women-innovated interventions to the ebola and Chibok Girls crises.

AWDF connected up with the 16 Days of Activism campaign, featuring writings of solidarity and analysis of gender based violence, sexual trauma, HIV/AIDS stigmatization and discrimination, as well as a compendium of creative hope for the women human rights defenders unjustly imprisoned in Egypt.

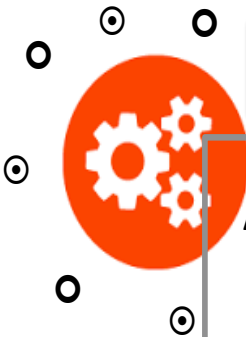
2014 also marked AWDF's first time providing 3-year multiyear grants to women's organisations. Through these strategic grants, AWDF is able to ensure the very survival and effectiveness of some women's rights organisations that are providing critical services to women on the continent. We intend to strengthen this integral part of our work in the coming years.

CONNECT UP

In July 2014, AWDF was recognised as the only human rights funder from the Global South in a list of the top 20 human rights funders in the world, released by the International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG). AWDF also received an invitation to join AmplifyChange, a consortium managed by Mannion Daniels, that will mobilise more than 2 million euros in grants to organizations worldwide for innovative, strategic and core support of sexual health and reproductive rights advocacy.


This report focuses on AWDF's Strategic Goal 1: *To support the African women's movement through grant making, capacity building and movement building.*

What you will find are a conglomeration of high-impact activities that AWDF, as an organisation, embarked on in 2014. The report demonstrates AWDF's activities in 2014 connected through the inter-relational lens of the woman individual, the organisation, and larger community (local, regional, national levels).



2014 Institutional Donors

African Capacity Building Foundation	
AJG Foundation	
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Heyman Family Foundation
Carnegie Foundation	Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health
Comic Relief	Levi Strauss Foundation
Ford Foundation West Africa	MacArthur Foundation
Global Fund for Women	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
	Stephen Lewis Foundation



OUR SINCERE THANKS

to corporate and individual donors, grantee partners, sister networks and other supporters.

We look forward to achieving even more in 2015, when we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the African Women's Development Fund.



AWDF staff, board members and grantee partners at the 3rd CEO Forum in Nairobi, June 2014.



ZOHRA OPOKU and SENA AHADJI, two visual artists showcasing original works during AWDF's celebration of International Women's Day 2014 at Alliance d'Accra.

AWDF's Vision & Mission

The **vision** of AWDF is for women to live in a world where there is social justice, equality and respect for women's human rights.

To this end, our **mission** is to mobilise financial, human and material resources to support African women and the work of the African women's movement to advance women's rights and gender equality in Africa.



THEORY OF CHANGE

We believe that if women and women's organisations are empowered with skills, information, sustainable livelihoods, opportunities to fulfill their potential, plus the capacity and space to make transformational choices, then we will have vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities.

A Special 2014 Focus on Young Women, Leadership, Smallholder Farmers + Climate Change

A part of our grant making activities in 2014 was informed by a passionate focus on developing the capacity of young women, investing in the leadership of African women and supporting smallholder women farmers and those women groups on the frontline of climate change issues.

With 65% of the continent's population under 35 years of age (*Youth and the African Union Commission*), **girls and young women** form an integral part of the equation and are the best placed to affect change today and tomorrow.

AWDF's CEO Forum develops the relationship between the mind, body and soul of an organisation and her leaders. This forum provides a creative and relaxing space for grantee partners to share experiences, lessons, strategies and harness skills in **leadership**, governance, communications and human resources.

Our **climate change and smallholder farmer** strategies are responsive to the emerging needs and trends of African women across the continent, whom face daily challenges with land rights, food security, agricultural inflation, border trade harassment and governmental neglect.

AWDF GRANT MAKING IN NUMBERS

AWDF provides grants in 6 key thematic areas:

Arts, Culture and Sports (ACS)

Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods (EEL)

Governance, Peace and Security (GPS)

Health and Reproductive Rights (HRR)

HIV/AIDS

Women's Human Rights (WHR)

Countries with the highest number of applications:

UGANDA	158
KENYA	105
GHANA	60
NIGERIA	54
DRC	50
TANZANIA	47

2014 GRANTS At A Glance

54%

Increase in applications received since 2013

818

Applications received from women's organizations

145

Grants awarded to women's organizations

\$22,197,731

Total amount requested

\$2,383,400

Total grants awarded

16

Multiyear grants provided to women's organizations

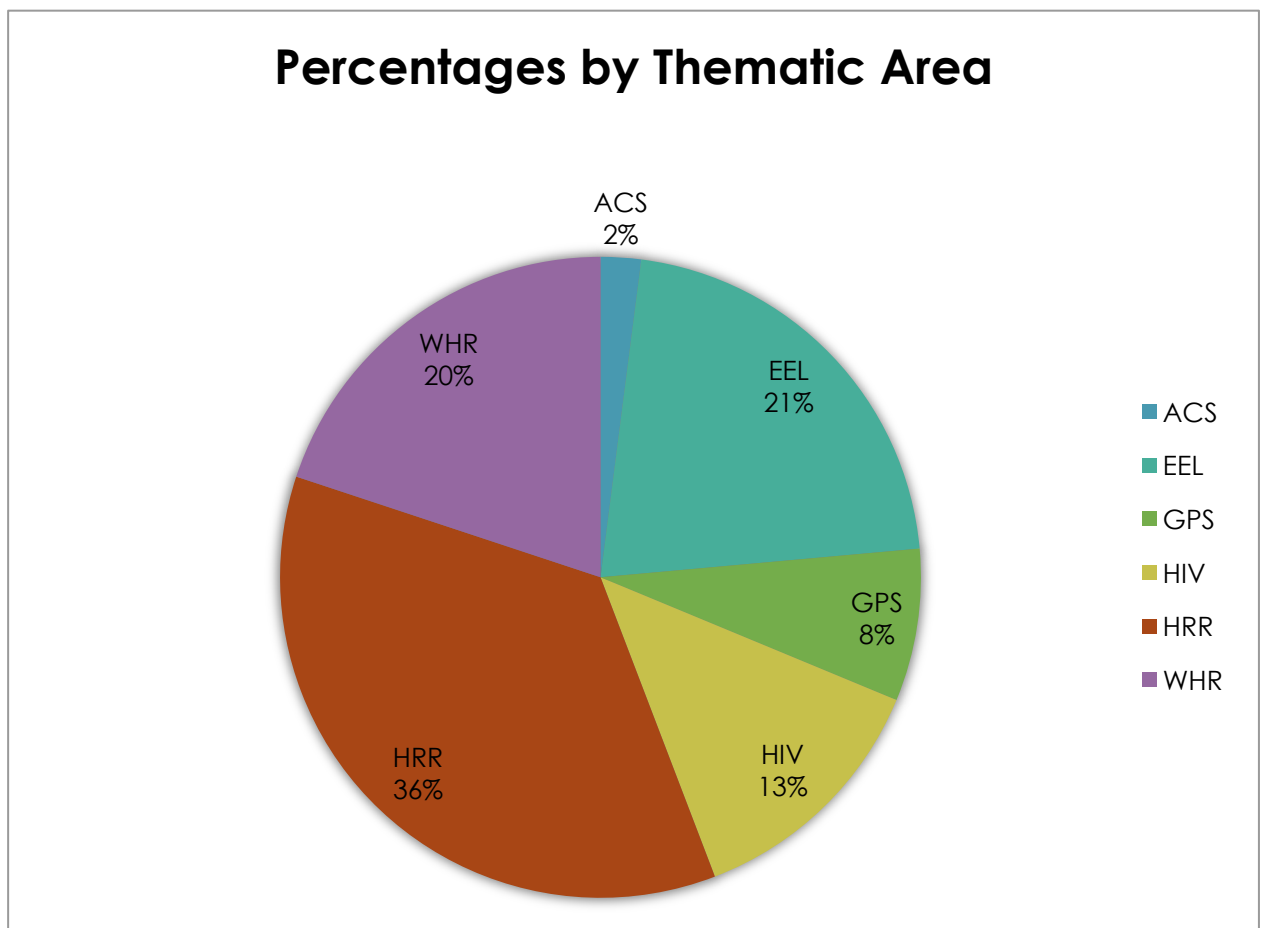
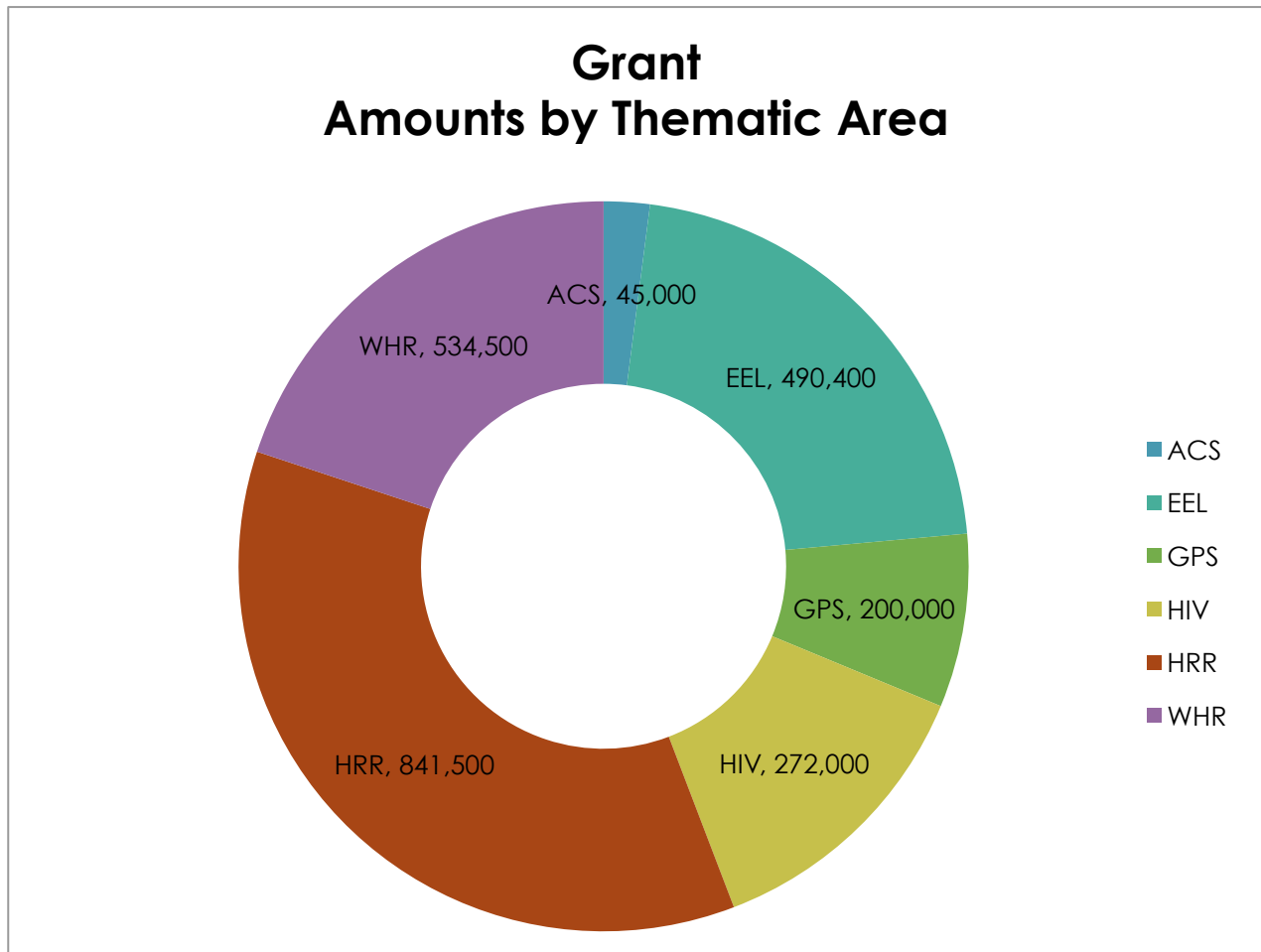
TOTALING \$676,000

16

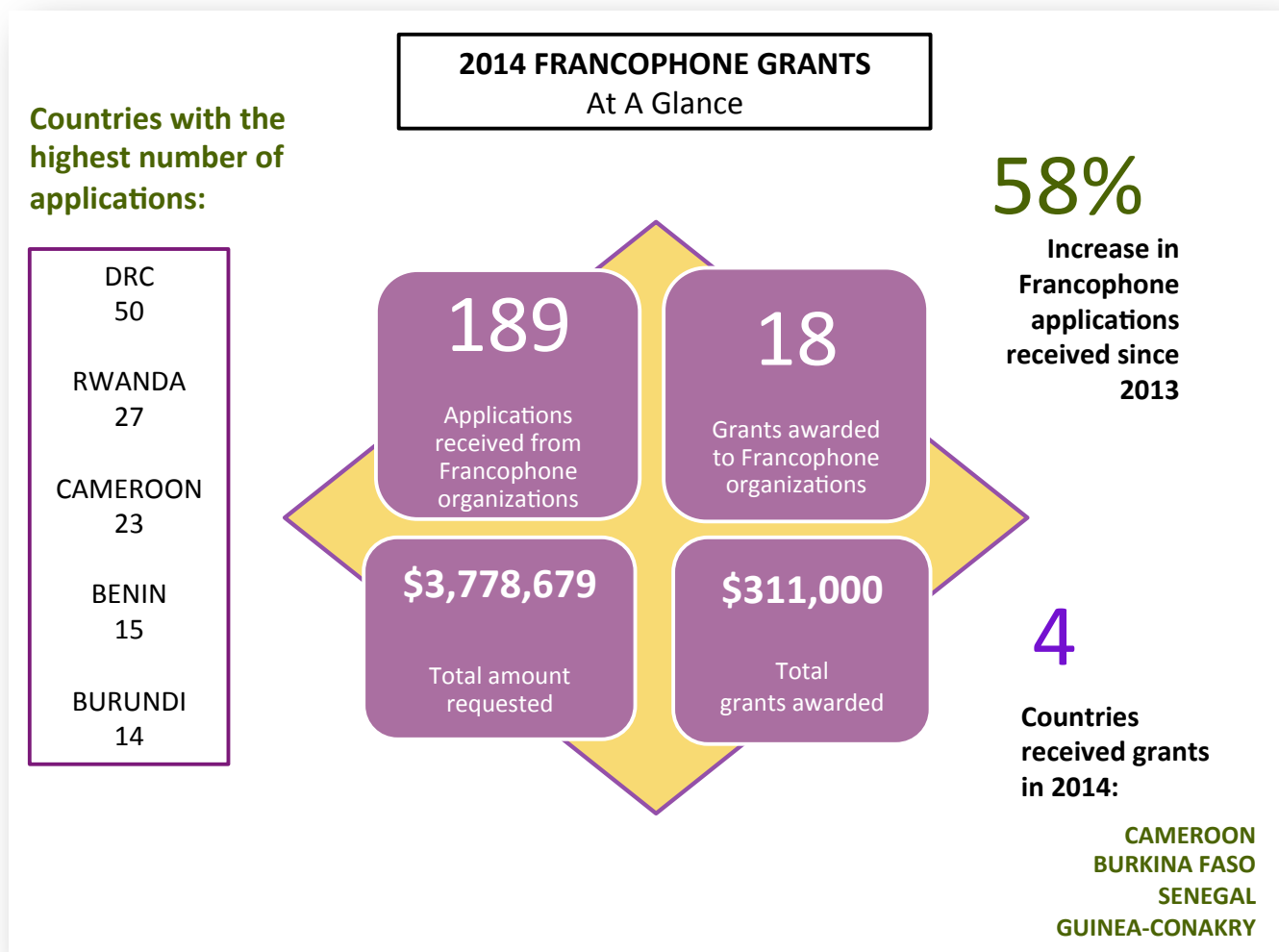
Countries received grants in 2014

Since beginning operations in 2000, AWDF has been established as a credible, feminist philanthropic organisation in Africa, providing more than **USD26 million dollars to nearly 1,300 organisations in 42 countries.**

2014 AWDF GRANT MAKING BY THEMATIC AREA



AWDF IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA



2014 marks the first year AWDF was able to provide multiyear grants to Francophone African women's organisations.

Scaling Up AWDF's Presence in Francophone Countries.

A key focus for grant making in 2014 is to scale up our activity in Francophone countries. This is necessary to secure an integrated African women's movement between Anglophone African countries and Francophone African countries, particularly in West and Central Africa, where strategic cooperation can be impacted by language barriers. As a pan-African organisation, it is critical that AWDF stay tuned in to the particular needs of non-English speaking African women.

During monitoring and evaluation visits to Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Togo and Benin in 2012, AWDF staff members met with a number of organisations that were not aware of our fund. Grantees were asked to pass on information to other organisations in their networks. Since that time, we've received more than a 60% increase in the number of applications from Francophone countries. **Subsequently, our grants have increased 35% since 2012.**

CONNECT UP

AWDF participates in the Francophone Women's Forum online discussion on a monthly basis. This platform allows members to share pertinent information with other French-speaking women across the globe. The French Embassy au Ghana also partnered with AWDF to create links with other women organisations represented at the Paris Forum.

HEALTH & REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (HRR)

2014 AWDF GRANTS



Projects
Supported:

63



Countries
Targeted:

9



Direct
Beneficiaries:

150,615



Indirect
Beneficiaries:

1,241,192

WOMEN + INFORMATION = POWER

Yao Ajoua, technical advisor to the Mayor of N'Djebonoua in Cote d'Ivoire, attests that since her tenure began in 1996, she has not witnessed another organisation carry out trainings like our grantee partner, **Genre Développement et Droits Humains (GDDH)**. Yao was so inspired by what she learned during an AWDF-supported training, that she organised training programs for three groups of young women in her community.

GDDH develops advocacy strategies to implement women's rights treaties and laws. A majority of the women GDDH works with are farmers who use traditional and low cost agricultural methods, so there is little time and money to care for their own health. AWDF assisted GDDH with funding to train 25 peer educators in women's sexual and reproductive health and to create awareness among the general public on the importance of family planning and routine checkups.

"I did not know that I ever had to go for a HIV screening or a medical checkup," says Kouassi Clementine, a participant in the training. Twenty three-year-old peer educator Koffi Christiane also shares of the training,

"Many of the women have no idea. I bring together women in my community to tell them about family planning. I personally showed interest in a certain woman because she has 14 children and her health had deteriorated. Though it was hard to get her to buy into the family planning idea because of prejudices, she finally agreed. Now I can see she's faring much better."

This project won the recognition of the Mayor of N'Djebonoua. He shared with the organisation that during the time of conflict within the country, the province suffered much social fracture. According to the Mayor, it was women who kept the municipality alive, informed and safeguarded through a community communication system. The small town hosted a number of exiled persons and women maintained protection for the displaced even to the point of violence and rape by assaulters. As a result of this, gender has become an agenda priority for the mayor.

Women are the best decision makers about their bodies. AWDF's focus on HRR comprehensively addresses the relationship between a woman and her body beyond sexual and reproductive health to also include mental health, cancer, TB and other health issues. Without wellness, women are unable to meet the challenges necessary to fully function and advocate for their rights and choices. AWDF expands awareness of HRR by working with grantee partners to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates, promote family planning and facilitate breast cancer prevention and management. With targeted messaging and strategies, women and girls are better able to access reproductive health services and informed youth adopt less risky sexual behaviors. In conjunction with this, traditional birth attendants have been trained through AWDF support to engage health authorities to support maternal health needs by identifying well-staffed medical clinics for childbirth to take place.

Under this theme, a Ghana project was supported by AWDF to educate community stakeholders in nine (9) Accra communities on socio-cultural practices that promote early motherhood and the associated health and economic challenges. The project has reached 1,000 youth and created a dynamic support channel for addressing sexual health and reproductive rights (SHRR) challenges in those communities. A platform for young women and girls to access SHRR information has also been created. This provides a safe space for conversation among peers, identification of avenues for external and specialised support, as well as active physical and online peer networking on SHRR issues.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOODS (EEL)

2014 AWDF GRANTS



Projects
Supported:

23



Countries
Targeted:

9



Direct
Beneficiaries:

3800



Indirect
Beneficiaries:

19,000

CHANGE: ONE STEP AT A TIME

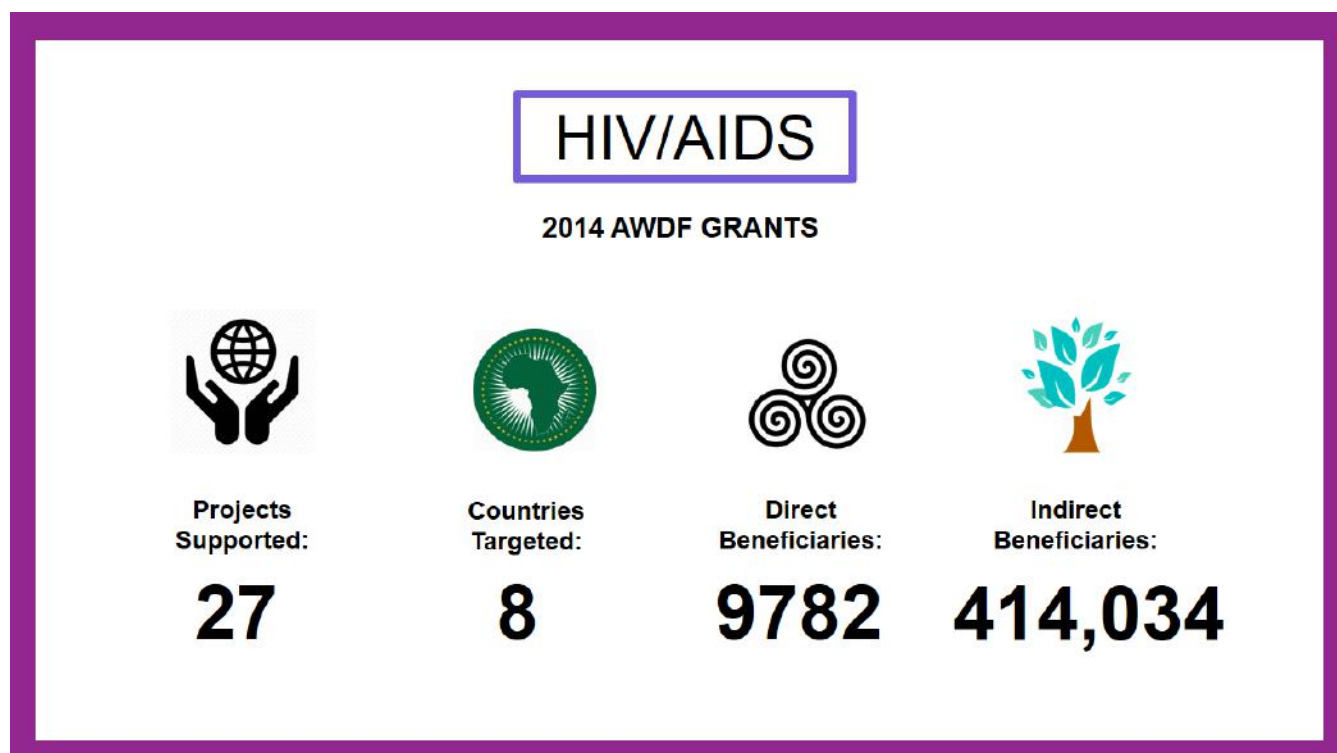
Agnes Filimoni is a 34-year-old mother of four who had her first child at 18. Agnes was forced into marriage to escape poverty and sexual abuse by her stepfather. With only a primary school education, Agnes had no skill to help her earn a living and by having more children, she had no free time to explore her own desires. Agnes lives in the Mtembo village (Chitera) in Chiraduku District, Malawi, which has a high number of child marriages and, consequently, young mothers. After having her first child, Agnes started experiencing abuse from her husband who then took a second wife. Life became worse. Her husband was rarely home and neglected her and their children. With no source of help, she endured years of marital abuse. Her first child dropped out of school because she could not provide him breakfast each morning. As Agnes shares,

“Life was hard because I was relying on my husband for everything and he could not meet our basic needs. In fact, I had to beg my husband for everything including coins to buy salt.”

After attending a community awareness program on the rights of women organised by **Girls Empowerment Network (GENET)**, Agnes took a bold step to join the group. Over time her leadership qualities developed and the network encouraged her to set up a GENET network in her village and train other women in business management, life skills and leadership development. Currently, she is the chair of Tikondane Women's Group, consisting of 18 members. With increased income and improved confidence, Agnes is now able to support her two children through school. According to Agnes, her children “feel better, have soap and pomade to use, food, they dress better and are happier.” Agnes' husband was once very unsupportive, but since Agnes began working, he has become a chief supporter, sometimes even helping her with the trade. She smiles, “Now I am a source of attraction to my husband. Now my husband stays at home more because he realises the improvement in our economic situation.”

As a result of the obvious improvement in Agnes' life, work, assertiveness, and leadership skills, she has been invited to be a member of the Village Development Committee (VDC) in the position of Secretary. Through passion and advocacy work, especially against child marriage and teenage pregnancy, Agnes has also been made the chair of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) committee in the village. Due to GENET's work with other regional civil society organisations, the Chitera traditional authority has banned marriages for those aged 20 and below. Agnes declares of her 4-year-old daughter,

“As long as I am alive, I'll not allow my daughter to marry early. She will have to finish school and earn income first. I have been through hell. Within one year, my life has been transformed.”



In 2014, HIV/AIDS was the leading cause of death for women in their reproductive years (15-49) across the globe. UNAIDS estimates that African women make up 58% of all cases of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. To counter this phenomenon, AWDF partnered with grantees to address stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS (WLHA), boost the economic independence for WLHA, and reinforce HIV prevention education and mitigation responses in 27 communities. The key populations we work with are Women Living with HIV/AIDS; Female Sex Workers (FSW); widows; young women; duty bearers; and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs).

AWDF grants also enable women's organisations to confront deeply embedded stigma against women living with HIV/AIDS by testing a diverse set of strategies. In 2014, the **Forum for the Rights of Women (FOROW) Liberia** undertook an anti-HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination advocacy project using creative methodologies such as town criers and drama sketches for community education, billboard campaigns, and discussions on community radio to reimagine WLHA through vivid personal encounters. This project led to a better understanding of HIV transmission modes and three families took back relatives who had been expelled from home.

Grantee partner, **The Women's Legal Resource Centre (WOLREC)** in Malawi, has established STAR circles (using the *Society Tackling AIDS through Rights* approach) in 30 villages to help women to speak out against harmful cultural practices that double women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. The circle trainings focus on a greater scope of issues related to HIV/AIDS and help shift communal and government perceptions. Some communities have even developed by-laws to regulate how people practice cultural rituals.

Free access to health information, medication and health monitoring provides what these women need to stay alive. With support for self-help groups for WLHA, women build motivation through sharing common experiences and strategies for survival. AWDF support to grantees ensures help with testing, medicine therapy, nutrition, training of peer educators, community awareness, door-to-door sensitisation exercises, and the reintegration of displaced WLHA with their families. As Wangrawa Bibata, a widowed fruit seller in Burkina Faso details,

“The support from AWDF has gone a long way to improve not only my wellbeing and that of my children but I have come to realize that HIV is not a disability. I can continue to live a decent life.”

Such projects build the capacity of WLHA support groups to fight self-defeat and social stigma. New messaging around HIV/AIDS helps to demystify the disease and lead to greater social acceptance. Greater legislation is also needed to support people living with HIV/AIDS like an AWDF-supported project in Nigeria that is tirelessly lobbying state agencies in Akwa Ibom State to implement the recently passed anti-HIV stigma law.

ARTS, CULTURE, SPORTS (ACS)

In a world where women make up less than 10% of directors and only 15% of screenwriters internationally, it's a struggle to tell the story of any woman, especially an African woman. The simple fact that we've achieved our goal in making this documentary with support from AWDF is a testament to the power of African women to change attitudes by celebrating our heroines.

"The Art of Ama Ata Aidoo" has broken new ground by creating a filmed portrait of an iconic African woman writer. In time this fact alone will have a profound effect and show that it's possible to make high quality documentary films funded by African feminists for a national and international audience. Supported by the international women's movement, this film can be used by women's writing groups throughout Africa, to inspire women in the creative arts.

Yaba Badoe
Filmmaker

This grant focus targets projects that use arts, culture and sports to promote women's rights as well as to recognise the work of women in arts, culture and sports industries. The theme emphasises socially conscious artworks and sports initiatives by and about African women. In addition to supporting women's organisations in this category, AWDF funded several writer master classes and a writers residency to raise publicity, promote women's rights issues and generate constructive, full-fledged representations of African women.

AWDF also provided funding to **Fadoa Films** for the completion of a documentary on the life and work of Ghanaian author, playwright and activist, Ama Ata Aidoo. In October 2014, the film won an award for Best Feature Documentary at the Silicon Valley African Film Festival. *The Art of Ama Ata Aidoo* was also screened at Film Africa in London, the 4th Africa International Film Festival in Calabar and The Ake Book & Arts Festival in Nigeria. The documentary is scheduled for release dates in Berlin and New Jersey (U.S.) in March 2015 with consideration for additional screenings at festivals in Africa, U.S., Sweden, France and Spain. In fact, two U.S. distributors, California Newsreel and Collective Eye, have expressed an interest in distributing the film in the U.S. and Fireworks Media in South Africa have requested to distribute it in Africa.

This award-winning documentary enables more women-centered films to be told and shared throughout the world. The film is a testament to the tremendous capacity of the women's movement in Africa and women networks globally. Most importantly the documentary will stand as a lasting testament to Ama Ata Aidoo, one of the greatest pioneers of African writing. It's important to celebrate our activists and icons while they are still living.

ARTS, CULTURE, SPORTS (ACS)

2014 AWDF GRANTS



Projects
Supported:

3



Countries
Targeted:

3



Direct
Beneficiaries:

75



Indirect
Beneficiaries:

30,000

ARTS, CULTURE, SPORTS (ACS)

Participants acquired knowledge that will change the quality of their lives forever, turning them into strong, independent, and compassionate young women. Pre and post survey responses show that curriculum participants were in a better position to exercise their rights and be in a safe, gender equitable relationship.

In addition, graduates demonstrated knowledge of the risks regarding older sexual partners and unprotected sex. During the program, girls demonstrated self-efficacy in resisting unwanted sex and negotiating safe sex practices.

Dube Primrose Sethule
Operations Manager
Grassroots Soccer Zimbabwe



SPORTS OFFERS GIRLS FRESH PERSPECTIVES ON LIFE

Grassroots Soccer Zimbabwe, launched SKILLZ Street, a sports intervention that creates a safe space for girls to play soccer, take human rights action in their communities, and participate in vital conversations about making healthy life choices. SKILLZ Street creates soccer leagues for young women ages 13-15. The organisation transcends barriers for girls' participation in sports through a focus on capacity building and gender-specific issues linked to the spread of HIV. The program reduces the likelihood that girls will be exposed to and affected by high-risk sexual situations. SKILLZ Street also enhances bodily security, inner confidence and negotiation skills of young women in the program. So far, nearly 700 girls have graduated from the program.

SKILLZ Street is delivered in an after-school facility as a supplement to the international Grassroots Soccer (GRS) curriculum. The program trained ten (10) women coaches as community role models and devised interactive learning activities on puberty changes, menstruation hygiene, pregnancy and family planning. Through soccer leagues, participants and their families were invited to weekly tournaments where free health services such as HIV testing, TB screenings, CD4 count, family planning and counseling were offered. Furthermore, information on available community health services was provided to participants who mapped areas in their community to access these services, such as clinics, hospitals and Childline.

One significant impact is the expanding relationships between coaches and participants. Some of the coaches are HIV positive and SKILLZ Street provides a platform for coaches to share their stories and answer questions from participants about how to stay healthy and sustain supportive relationships with their communities.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOODS (EEL)

SWEET SUSTAINABILITY

AWDF partners with women organisations to increase self-efficiency through income generating activities. With newfound independence, regular contributions to the household, added value to partnerships, improvement in children's hygiene and diet, and better performance of children in school and socially with peers, women are able to explore new and exciting opportunities. AWDF grants under this theme strengthen the economic ventures of smallholder women farmers, create sustainable and reliable sources of credit schemes for women, expand market opportunities for women's economic ventures through cooperatives, and address critical climate change issues. Through AWDF support, women farmers have been trained to adopt farming technology methods, such as post-harvest processing machinery, that will expend less time and human energy. Other projects involve micro-credit schemes that have helped women to set up or expand sustainable businesses. All projects are geared toward increased yield and, therefore, higher incomes. Improved finances have also led to women farmers developing confidence in their work and decision making skills in the home and public sphere.

Ouedraogo Tanga is widow with seven children. She joined the **Association Paix et Solidarite (APS)**, AWDF's grantee partner in Burkina Faso, in a bee farmer's cooperative with 21 other women from Ougadougou and Arbolle. Tanga began beekeeping for the basic needs of her children. "We were a family of nine - me, my husband and seven children. I lost my husband and things became hard for me and the children," says Tanga. Leading her team, Tanga ensures all the honey that is produced is organic and free of fertilizers and chemicals. There is a booming domestic market for organic honey in Burkina Faso for Tanga to tap into. She shares,

"There are so many places within Burkina Faso that I can easily sell honey. I want to make sure my honey is available in every nook and cranny of the country before I look outside."

With a focus on economic empowerment and livelihoods, AWDF grants implement effective communal networking, develop interactive group dynamics, and generate renewable support systems for African women and organizations. Through access to local and global markets, these women can now independently provide for the needs of their families.



Gorret Nafuna, Executive Director of the Community Holistic Development Organization (Uganda) checks the produce in a beneficiary's farm.

GOVERNANCE, PEACE & SECURITY (GPS)

2014 AWDF GRANTS



Projects
Supported:

6



Countries
Targeted:

5



Direct
Beneficiaries:

540



Indirect
Beneficiaries:

11,000

ON THE ROAD TO PEACE + SECURITY FOR AFRICAN WOMEN

2014 demonstrated that many African nations, although diverse in cultures and contexts, are grappling with persistent issues of human rights, security and political participation. Processes of peace building, conflict resolution and defence of communities continue to be male-dominated spaces. This deepens the vulnerability of African women and children to activate their rights and engage in decisions that affect their life outcomes. African women, many who are breadwinners of their families and gatekeepers of their communities, are a highly valuable resource. AWDF recognizes this value by partnering with women's organisations who are the motor for sustainability in their environments, helping to ease conflict tensions, provide for others with little to no resources available and cooperatively create real-time solutions to a myriad of issues faced. Through this work, women together build innovative early warning response mechanisms to crisis as well as devise reconstructive agendas in post-conflict situations.

It is important that African women are recognized as the leaders they are and that women are comprehensively involved in decision-making processes in community, regional and national spaces. As informed citizens, women are in the best position to advocate for their needs and to make comprehensive choices over their lives. To this end, AWDF supported the **Association Wendiyalgde Solidarite et Developpement (AWSD)** in Burkina Faso to acquire birth certificates for 1,000 women and girls. As a result of this action, those of voting age were able to register for voter ID cards and participate in municipal elections in the country. One of the women organisers was even elected advisor to the mayor of the Boni province. Additionally, women traders are now able to travel freely without harassment at borders for proper documentation. This measure allows Burkinabe women to achieve professional business practices and increase their yearly income.

In 2014, AWDF also partnered with women's organisations to facilitate and promote the inclusive participation of women in governance and decision-making spaces by building young women's leadership skills. AWDF supported projects in Nigeria, Togo, and Senegal to train and mentor women groups on human rights protocols, gender issues and advocacy skills to better make demands of elected officials. In Senegal and Uganda, a platform has been created to mentor young women aspiring to key leadership positions. With confident and bright young women leaders who are able to articulate and organise around women's rights, a real shift can be made in electoral processes and legislation applying to women's bodies, property, access and development. By having women leaders who are not afraid to speak out publicly on issues disproportionately affecting women makes the road much easier for other women to contest for electoral positions. With a safe space for women to learn, share lessons and strategies for success, we provide leverage for the personal and institutional development of women and organisations as well as emerging opportunities to scale up and replicate their work.

An example of this is Senegalese feminist Awa Fall-Diop, also a member of the African Feminist Forum and Chair of the **Observatoire pour les Relations Genres au Senegal (ORGENS)**, an AWDF grantee partner. She was supported in a 2014 campaign for mayor in the province of Biscuiterie. Although she did not succeed, Awa shares this of her leadership training through AWDF:

“I strongly believe it is possible to create a congenial environment where women can enjoy their full rights and freedom. Supporting African women's leadership is strategically important to break up stereotypes and gender blind ideas about power, to reinforce women's roles in building democratic and strong societies.”

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS (WHR)

2014 AWDF GRANTS



Projects
Supported:

30



Countries
Targeted:

11



Direct
Beneficiaries:

51,084



Indirect
Beneficiaries:

92,000

ACCESSING RIGHTS FOR AFRICAN WOMEN

Although women's human rights seem to be in crisis across the globe with the African continent being no exception, AWDF continues works with women organisations to raise their resources, capacities and effectiveness to enact community-based solutions.

Approximately 3 million girls in Africa are at risk each year of female genital mutilation (FGM). 14.1 million girls in Africa are child brides, marrying men 2-4 times their age before turning 18. AWDF's 2014 WHR program implemented projects that promote access to justice, fight gender based violence and advocate for women's rights. These projects target girls and young women, disabled women and women in rural communities, as well as farmers and women living with HIV/AIDS.

The following story details how AWDF supports women in this thematic area. One day, three young men took Deriby, a young lady with polio who lives alone in one of the **Malawi Human Rights for Women and Girls with Disabilities (MHRWGD)** communities, carrying her away from her home on their backs. She was placed near a stream that runs close to where MHRWGD hosts many community activities and gang raped there. Some women who were drawing water from the stream found her and told a volunteer about Deriby's case. The volunteer mobilised a few women to bring her to the hospital. Deriby was informed that she had contracted AIDS through the assault. A traditional leader phoned the organisation about Deriby's case and MHRWGD reported it to the Victim Support Section of the police. Through this measure, Deriby was able to identify the culprits. Two perpetrators were apprehended and imprisoned. Following this, Deriby was linked to counseling services to help process what she had experienced and to provide direction for a healthy future. As Deriby details,

"We have been sidelined for a long time. We never had this opportunity to partner with other women to voice our concern that violence against women with disabilities can bring a negative impact to our lives. Without MHRWGD, I would have no contact with the Ministry of Gender for counseling. I would not have an opportunity to let the nation know about my story."

Deriby has been participating in the 16 Days campaign by sharing her story with multiple audiences. This action has encouraged a stronger link between women and government officials in Malawi to prosecute perpetrators.

Had it not been for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence activities, many of us, women living with disability, would have been in marital bondage. The activities opened up several channels to many of us who were enslaved in abusive relationships or self-pity. I will always make sure I am part of 16 Days each year it happens. Thanks for giving me this opportunity to participate in a very important event.

Roda Mbewe

Board Member

Malawi Human Rights for Women and Girls with Disabilities (MHRWGD)

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS (WHR)

Deriby's account demonstrates how women work together to coordinate survival and rescue measures, health and psychosocial treatment, legal aid and self-help groups for better-connected responses between communities and government authorities. Through this powerful example of courage, community and human transformation, the self-confidence and capacity of women to speak out and articulate their needs and those of their communities is being rebuilt from the ground up.

AWDF grantee, the **Morogoro Paralegal Centre (MPLC)** in Tanzania, promotes the legal and human rights of women and children. This is achieved by providing legal aid clinics and education services, monitoring human rights violations, undertaking research on legal and human rights, granting loans to resource-strapped women and children, and developing networking and coalition building. An estimated 1,500 people receive legal aid and counseling services from the organisation each year. 85% of these clients are women. Through AWDF support, a two-day legal sensitisation training was provided for 30 women from the Morogoro region. After the program, a ward committee made up of 6-7 persons was formed to report on any gender based violence (GBV) or child abuse cases in their localities. MPLC also organised four (4) radio programs in Swahili on the marriage act, and rights within marriage on Radio Abood, one of the most popular radio stations in the country.

Following the radio talks, a number of people phoned in to ask questions with many more visiting the office to discuss issues further. The campaign against GBV has also led to a reduction of abusive incidents. More women are now able to access justice as a result of community paralegals trained by MPLC who live and work in the project communities. With intensive and sustained education, women's knowledge in legal issues has dramatically increased, allowing women to be more assertive and better able to fight for justice.



AWDF Staff with grantee partners in Liberia.

AWDF's Emergency Response in Action

African women have long been the first responders to crisis within their homes and communities to both natural and manmade disasters. African women play an integral role as caregivers, healers and health benefactors for their communities. The mobilisation of women's groups during crisis also takes a frontline approach. Women work as collectives to devise straightforward strategies, utilising their networks of communal knowledge, relationships and pivotal influence into nearly every household, in some contexts. This level of access, trust and community expertise is rarely matched. Women's groups exhibit a unique capacity to reach uncommon places and move communities into action through an intricate complex of feeling.

Our dedicated staff responded to African women and organisations grappling with the Chibok Girls crisis and the spread of the ebola virus, by assembling strategic funding to key into action on the ground. We are in persistent communication with our partners in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia to understand their shifting needs and how to best address issues so that communities can properly recover.

Focus on the Chibok Girls

As part of the training of Lay Counselors, three young people who had escaped from Mubi were presented to us for counseling. Mubi had been taken over by insurgents the week before the training and displaced people were still pouring into Yola.

Members of the Adamawa Peacemakers Initiative were informed of our training and one of the members called to say some of the internally displaced persons needed to be counseled. They were all very young. We accepted and they were brought to the training.

Turai A. A. Kadir
CWAE (Nigeria)

The Center for Women and Adolescent Empowerment (CWAE)

is based in Adamawa State, Nigeria. AWDF supported this grantee partner with USD43,500 to set up a support network of feminist activists, medical teams and trauma counseling specialists in Northeastern Nigeria to collaborate regionally and nationally with African feminist groups and organise post-trauma interventions. Additionally, the grant was utilised for weekly trainings over a three-month period, to address the issue of social stigma for affected families and to help the girls reintegrate into their communities upon return. Participants in the trainings ranged from academia, civil society, media, community leaders, health workers, counselors, activists, and young people.

Locally, community members were trained as lay counselors. The capacity of service providers – psychologists, counselors, doctors, nurses and midwives - was also developed with targeted trainings to address the kidnapping and sexual traumas of the crisis. Furthermore, the testimonies of the girls and women abducted are being fully documented for historical and legal purposes as a way to redress the violations. Schools within the project communities are also targeting student peers to increase awareness and accurate accounting of this crime and other forms of conflict and gender based violence.

Furthermore, a partnership has been formed with a Rwandan organisation to exchange experiences and skills on the reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The global

#BringBackOurGirls campaign also presented a rare opportunity to share the stories of girls and women in Northeast Nigeria and to engage new stakeholders on how to secure the rights to safety and protection of girls and women from all forms of social injustice.

CONNECT UP

AWDF's support to CWAE demonstrates a clear understanding of how women's organisations are instrumental in lobbying for the rights of girls and women. Our approach is inclusive and team-centered, providing self-assurance to grantee partners that project activities should be geared towards the needs of beneficiaries. This project is a result of an effective collaboration between CWAE, and a network of organisations and individuals including community leaders in Maiduguri and Konduga (Borno State) and Buni Yadi (Yobe State), other communities that have experienced violence, a trauma center in Kano, health providers, media persons, and activists advocating for the return of the kidnapped girls. Through this project support to CWAE, 300 people were counseled and more than 4,800 people reached with medical assistance, awareness training and psychosocial support services for six (6) affected communities in Northeastern Nigeria.

In 2014, **AWDF partnered with Carnegie Foundation to raise and distribute half a million U.S. dollars of funding** towards the effective acceleration of community ebola responses led by women in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Grantee partners leading the community charge on ebola have taken a wide variety of approaches.

Some of these innovative strategies include:

- Social media campaigns
- Door to door information campaigns
- House surveys
- Community and family support groups
- Video documentation of community experiences with ebola
- Radio talk show awareness
- Collection and documentation of data on the current situations and locations of female survivors and women affected by ebola
- Psychosocial support and reunification with communities
- Town criers, drama and dance as community education
- Training of community watch teams
- Health screenings and trainings of women in the markets
- Cartoon educational materials for mass community campaigns
- Training of women on nutrition, food processing and storage

WOCDAL Makes a Way in Liberia

The Women and Children Development Association of Liberia’s (WOCDAL) credible presence as an advocate for under-resourced women and children since 2004, paved the way for a smooth entry into affected communities, unlike many other NGOs.

Their intricate involvement at the community level, working with local leaders and health teams, led to the organisation receiving a training package from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to mentor six (6) peer educators and WOCDAL staff on ebola prevention techniques and anti-stigmatisation awareness. WOCDAL also supplied counseling to three (3) persons who survived ebola.

The disease has spread to all 15 counties. It is no longer the business of the Liberian government. The virus is covering the entire country. The death rate of women affected by ebola is quite high, particularly among pregnant women as well as children and babies. The increasing spread of ebola is due to people traveling from community to community without taking preventive measures into consideration. At the same time, awareness and prevention messages are yet to reach the most remote communities in the country.

The markets are closed causing the price of commodities to skyrocket. Traveling from one part of Liberia to another has become extremely difficult. The epidemic is devastating the economic fabric of our country.

Bettea S. Monger

Women Solidarity, WSD-Liberia

Unfortunately for us, ebola is still not gone. Women and girls are now facing the stigma as survivors. Many have lost their families, landlords are refusing to rent to them, relatives are shunning them. Most have lost their livelihoods, even young girls who find themselves orphaned cannot find shelter or help. School is opening in March 2015 and many young girls will not be able to afford the fees to re-enter school. The list goes on.

Yvette Chesson-Wureh

Angie Brooks International Centre
Liberia

- Support to women affected by ebola to engage in small businesses
- Publication of IEC materials in Braille
- Production of films with sign language interpretation
- Awareness creation through Bluetooth, WhatsApp and listening center technologies
- Partnerships with tele-centers and cell phone kiosks

Throughout this crisis, there was a high level of collaboration with other women’s organisations to disseminate information and prevention strategies on the virus. Among the activities implemented, WOCDAL hosted a community entry meeting with elders, socially prominent youth, women and men groups, county officials and community health teams to bridge gaps in communication and create a comprehensively coordinated response. T-shirts, banners and other information and education communication (IEC) materials were printed and distributed in particularly vulnerable communities.

A cultural troupe also compelled the attention of community residents with dance, music and drama, informing the public about hygiene and anti-stigma strategies. These exercises also build up community trust, comfort and solidarity.

Focus on Ebola



The New Liberian Women Organisation's (NLWO) reach to secluded women and youth in the country has inspired participation in the fight against ebola through awareness exercises, a transfer of new knowledge and skills, and the social value of being role models within their communities. This project demonstrates that when women are given equal opportunity, encouragement and support, they can meaningfully contribute towards the betterment of their families and communities. The result is a reduction in death cases of the virus and a decrease in new cases reported, which are clear factors of achievement in the time of ebola.

46,625 people have directly benefited from the activities executed by NLWO.

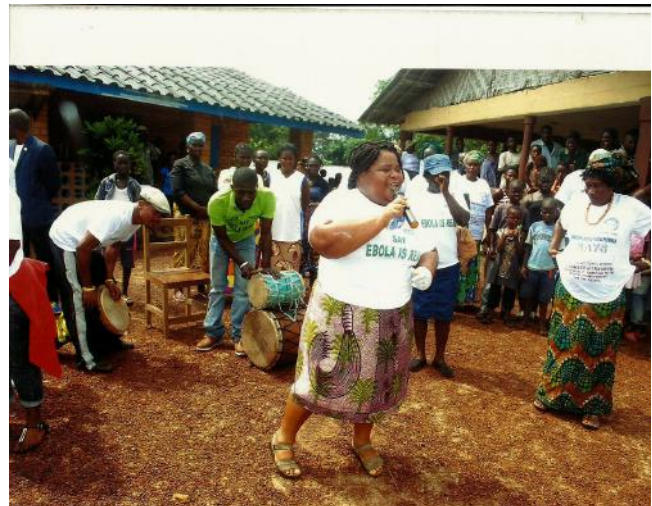
Additionally, an Ebola Rapid Response Team has been created with the capacity to monitor communities and report all cases of ebola, distributing house needs and medical care packages during visits with the infected and survivors. In the coming year, NLWO plans to set up a radio station to broadcast the experiences of women within the context of ebola. These testimonies are crucial. Although women were the first responders to the virus, their voices have largely been muted in the global discourse on ebola.

Photos taken of the ebola awareness exercises by grantee partner, Women and Children Development Association of Liberia (WOCDAL).

We no longer live in normal conditions. Schools are closed. The economy has declined, prices of local and international commodities have increased, hospitals are refusing people who are sick for fear of ebola. We no longer have long hours of work.

Our rights are limited and the future of our children is at stake. It's difficult to find food, women are depressed due to a loss of dignity and financial capacity to take care of their families. Women are especially affected because they tend to be the breadwinners for the family.

Miata Kiazolu Sirleaf
New Liberian Women Organisation
(NLWO)



LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

AWDF is invested in deepening and expanding our learning curve and developmental processes as an organisation. We believe this is the best way to maximise growth and brand identity.

AWDF has three (3) tailored programs towards this purpose: **Capacity Building, Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management.** These specialized departments are critical for understanding our impact as an organisation by helping us translate how *our story* also involves grantees, partners, donors, policymakers and community leaders.

CAPACITY BUILDING

AWDF is passionate about contributing to the personal leadership and organisational development of African women and the women's rights movement. Our Capacity Building program shares key knowledge with grantee partners on a variety of needs. This unit designs and coordinates unique convenings each year for grantee partners to boost their skill sets. These programs includes: The CEO Forum, Resource Mobilization Strategy Bootcamp, Financial Management training and Results Based Programming training. The unit also facilitates other technical assistance including access to pro bono financial management support.

As Nafi Chinery, AWDF's Capacity Building Specialist notes, "our convenings provide safe spaces for women's organizations and feminist activists to share experiences and learn together." Our team explores solutions for expanding human and institutional development and accessing compatible resources for women on the continent. Furthermore, grantee partners participating in these training are engaged actively in national, regional and global development discussions such as #BringBackOurGirls, Beijing +20 and the Post-MDG Agenda.

In the three days, I never had a single moment of being an outsider looking in. It was amazing listening, learning, laughing, crying, comforting and sharing. I learnt that being a "strong African woman" at the expense of my wellbeing is counter-revolutionary to the feminist movement.

It is okay to admit to being tired. To ask for help and admit that I cannot do it all, and most importantly, I am under no obligation to do it all. I learnt that whatever successes one makes, they must be communicated to the people who should know about it. We can set up mentorship programs for young women, a centre for abused women or a workshop for women writers.

If we do not communicate the message to the people who it's set out for – to the public among whom may be a sympathetic audience to help out when needed – then there is a degree of failure.

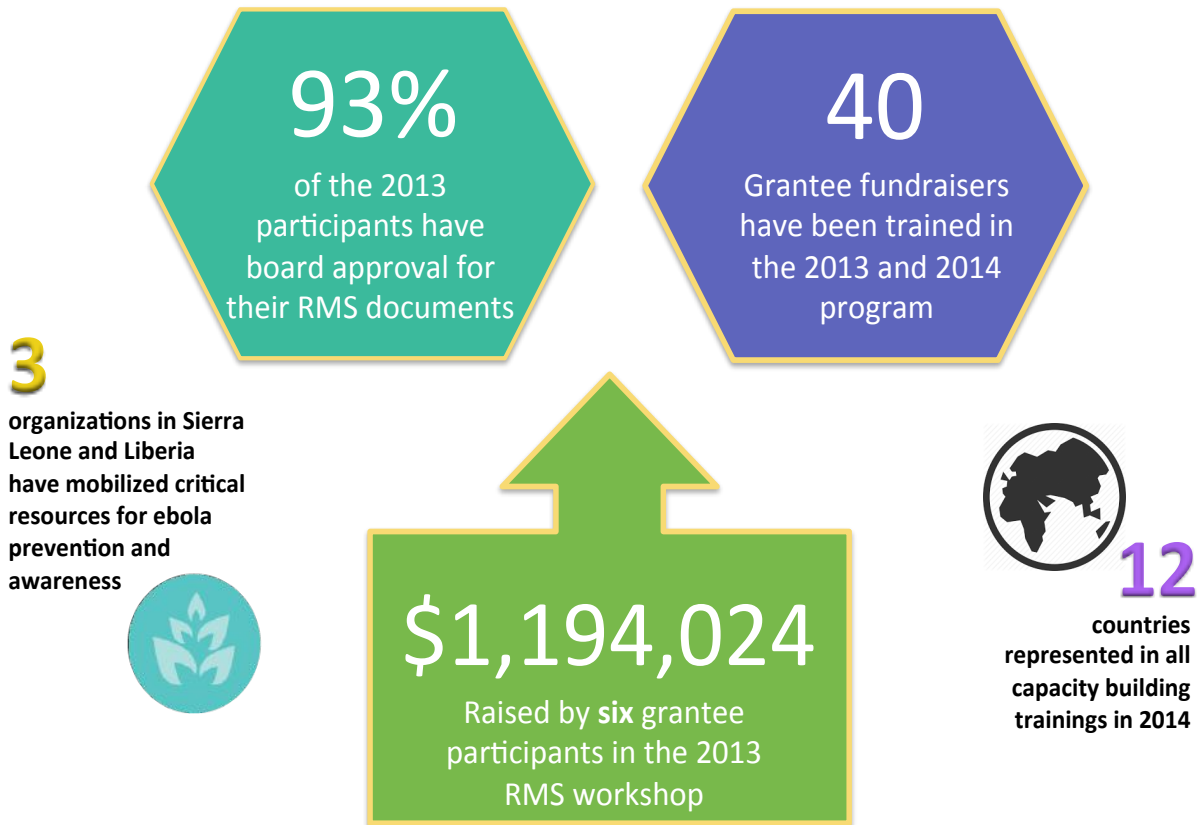
Zakisiwa Wanner
Journalist and Novelist

The CEO Forum.

The third edition of the CEO Forum was held 2-4 June in Nairobi, Kenya, and included 23 leaders from women organisations across the continent. The forum focused on four (4) interweaving themes: leadership, effective governance, communications and self-care. Through this focus, the forum provides a creative space for a diverse group of women executives to renew energy, focus, and leadership while meditating on the import of feminist values for their work. The forum creates a moment of balance for these busy women to consider how to increase their support systems while also paving a path towards transformational leadership.

Following the forum, ten (10) CEOs began a ten-month coaching program on Communications and Leadership to address core issues and implement workable solutions. Two experienced coaches, Hope Chigudu and Paula Fray, have visited eight (8) participants thus far, in their respective countries along with monthly check-ins via Skype and email. The coaching program has extended the support networks for the CEOs to identify and execute agreed goals and to practically improve their skill sets and leadership effectiveness.

Building Capacity: Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) Bootcamps



The Resource Mobilization Bootcamp is a three-day intensive workshop where grantee partners complete a strategic analysis of available resource opportunities within their networks and a plan for accessing these options. The documents are finalised with the help of mentors for participants to take back to their organisations for board approval.

At the close of the first Resource Mobilization Strategy Bootcamp and six-month mentoring program in December 2013, 93% of 26 participants had obtained board approval for their documents. Furthermore, nearly USD1.2 million dollars has been mobilised by six (6) grantee participants. A second convening of the bootcamp was organised on 14-17 April 2014 in Accra for fifteen (15) fundraisers of women’s organisations.

100% of the documents have been finalised with twelve (12) approved by organisational boards.

In fact, two (2) organisations in Sierra Leone and one (1) in Liberia have reported that skills gained from the bootcamp has helped in mobilising resources to launch ebola prevention, awareness and sanitation campaigns. The training has also bolstered their negotiation and networking skills with government, international aid agencies and other CSOs to leverage a coordinated response to the spread of the virus.

CONNECT UP

Between 2013-2014, AWDF trained forty (40) fundraisers in Resource Mobilization and developed critical strategies for the viability of their organizations. A majority of participants have diversified their funding base to include corporations and social enterprise agencies as partners. Grantee feedback indicates that these achievements were due, in large part, to the technical expertise, time, funding and trust invested by AWDF.

This Resource Mobilization Bootcamp has awakened something inside me. I am going to work with my team to ensure we know the language and how to dot the I's and cross the T's. Even when we don't have money, we can get the resources. Not all activities need money. Some just need time.

Doris Brendan
Heal the Land Initiative (Nigeria)



Participants in the RMS training help one another with their strategy plans.



Deborah Ahenkorah, CEO of Golden Baobab, and another participant take a moment to enjoy the CEO Forum in Nairobi, June 2014.

AWDF grant recipients have become continuous and reliable partners with other movement actors and with local, national, and international government actors. They are also visible and stable agents of social change in their communities.

Awino Okech

AWDF External Evaluator
Women's Human Rights (WHR)



Sarah Mukasa, AWDF's Director of Programmes, leads a training at the CEO Forum, June 2014.



The Financial Management Training for Finance Managers and Officers was held in Nairobi from 10-12 February, in collaboration with Orwa & Company Associates, an accounting firm. The three-day training brought together seventeen (17) finance managers and officers from across the continent. Additionally, Orwa & Co. has provided pro-bono financial support services for AWDF grantee participants based in Kenya.

AWDF and Orwa & Co. created customised plans to enhance the financial management capacity of grantee organisations by reviewing existing systems and processes. The training examined organisational needs in relation to budget and cash flow projections, grant management, internal controls, compliance, and reporting, among other topics. Eight (8) grantee organisations have since installed modern accounting software such as QuickBooks and Pastel and are training staff to use these tools.



These are the measures we plan to implement at KENWA following the training: We will involve more staff on work plan and budget development to encourage teamwork in the entire organization. We will work on improving human resource management to ensure staff has signed contracts and to better manage staff exit.

Lastly, we will improve on supporting documentation for payments especially on meeting minutes and procurement committee meeting minutes.

Margaret Muchoki
Kenya Network of Women with AIDS
(KENWA)

CONNECT UP

A second partnership for pro-bono financial management support to grantee partners has been finalised. In 2015, an accountant based in Zambia will work with selected women organisations in the country.



In May 2014, a **Results Based Programming** training was also organised in Nairobi for twenty (20) program directors, managers and officers of grantee organisations. The training supported grantees to think practically and innovatively about ways of capturing and analyzing data to effectively communicate the results of their work to varied stakeholders. Through this training, program reporting and quality of documentation by participants radically improved.

The key emphasis of this training is to develop a culture of documentation for grantee partners as the best means for maintaining healthy relationships with donors and, more importantly, for creating a firm foundation to archive institutional memory.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

Through this program, AWDF stays in immediate touch with our impact as an organisation. Through the development of specific methods and frameworks, we effectively measure the significance of AWDF grants, capacity building trainings and technical assistance for women organisations across Africa. M&E allows us to understand our historical and present impact on the ground, check then balance our approach, and revise and innovate new strategies for supporting the needs of African women and organisations.

AWDF Information Management System (AIMS).

AWDF succeeded in securing an external consultant to develop the AWDF Information Management System (AIMS) for our office as we move from a paper-based to a cloud-based network. The acquisition of this system will create more effective and responsive processes for knowledge transfer, filing and retrieval of data, and sound communication between departments forming a centralised meta-network of information.

Monitoring and Mission Visits.

Between February and August 2014, fifty-six (56) organisations were visited in six (6) countries.

Unfortunately, visits to Sierra Leone, Gambia and Namibia were canceled due to ebola restrictions and visa challenges. Staff teams were happy to discover that all visited organisations utilised the grants judiciously and have appropriate recordkeeping practices. Most organisations have completed their most recent financial audits. All visited organisations are using computerised systems: Excel, QuickBooks and Peachtree for their financial records and management processes.

These visits were also used to provide technical assistance and build stronger relationships with grantee partners. Most importantly, the visits assist AWDF to stay current with grantee partners about the context-specific issues affecting women across Africa.

Results Measurement Framework (RMF).

AWDF has created a Results Measurement Framework for the organisation. Additionally, AWDF is part of the working group that developed the RMF and Theory of Change for the peer-advocacy SHRR fund, AmplifyChange. The RMF is based on AWDF's Strategic Plan II. This framework is continuously improved to better capture results data to determine what works and what does not and why.

Here we are actively fine-tuning our systems for gathering and processing information about our grantees and the work AWDF is accomplishing. This new strategy includes key measurable assessments to guide the implementation of our programs, make midcourse corrections as needed, measure the quantitative impact made and cull lessons learned in the process.

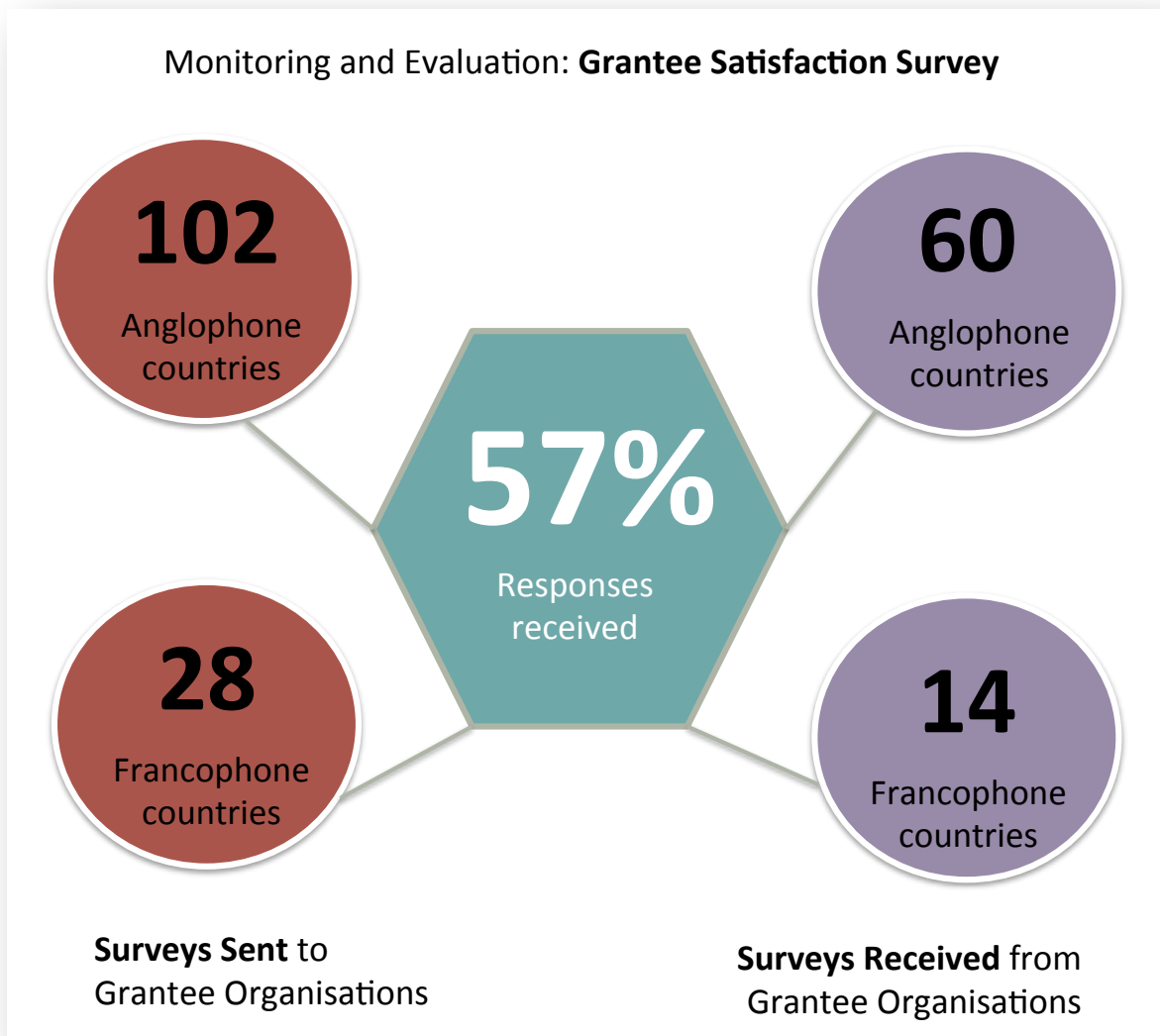
This also helps us to maintain accountability with donors by being keenly aware of AWDF's organisational and operational efficiency.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Mission Visits



Countries Visited in 2014:

BURKINA FASO
COTE D'VOIRE
LIBERIA
MALAWI
MALI
TANZANIA



AWDF conducted a **Grantee Recognition Survey** in May 2014 to collect information on the recognition and influence attained by grantee partners and other stakeholders in Africa as a result of the incredible work they are doing.

What follows are some notable responses from grantee organisations about how AWDF's support has made the difference.

Forum for Community Change and Development (South Sudan):

Through AWDF, this organisation promoted the political participation of women and raised awareness of human rights and democracy issues in selected communities in South Sudan. Awareness exercises were completed through meetings, school visits, radio programs, and training workshops for women leaders. Newsletters were produced each quarter for distribution to area women and women groups. Quarterly radio programs featuring topics relating to the role of women in politics, women's rights and democracy also took place during the project.

Creative Storm (Ghana): With AWDF's support, this company produced films highlighting women's perspectives and experiences on the environment. Creative Storm also facilitated the participation of women presenters at *The State of the Environment Forum* in Ghana. Another festival project expanded public appreciation of women's contributions to the live music industry in Ghana and featured local and internationally acclaimed women musicians in a panel discussion with the audience.

Gbortima Women's Development Association

(Sierra Leone): Through AWDF's assistance, the Board of Directors of the West African Network for Peace Building was impressed with the organisation's performance and asked the coordinator to become a member of the board of the network.

Creative Centre for Communication and Development, CCCD

(Zimbabwe): After providing leadership training to the Director of the CCCD, she was recognised by a network of twenty-five (25) organisations that appointed her to the position of National Coordinator of the group. AWDF's support also enabled the CCCD to continue as a stable force working in mental health and wellness and this resulted in an appointment for the Program Manager as Board Chairperson of United Families Association, an international NGO working with people of different mental capabilities.

National Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Uganda, (NACWOLA, Kasese Branch):

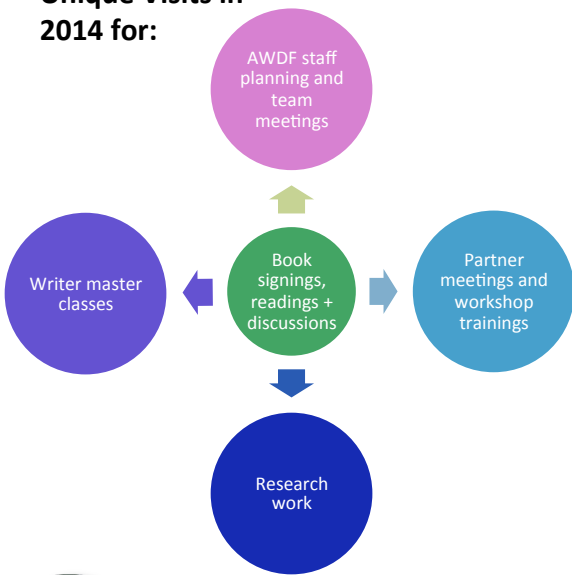
Partnering with AWDF enabled the organisation to undertake projects geared towards training people living with HIV to gain the confidence to disclose their status to members of their communities. This has resulted in the participation of one member taking part in local radio talk shows as well as being selected by the Sub-Country Authority to become a member of the HIV Committee.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

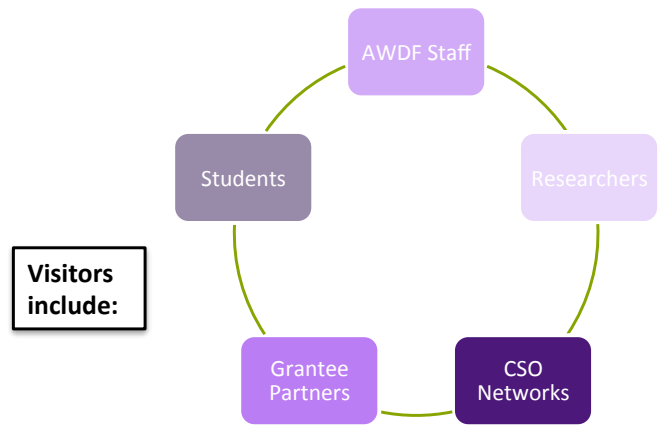
Knowledge Management deepens AWDF’s focus on information gathering and documentation practices by honing in on the qualitative impact of our work with African women and organisations across the continent. This department is invested in the comprehensive story of AWDF and the best ways to archive and preserve institutional memory. In addition to this, the Knowledge Management team develops guidelines and protocols for publishing, writing and conducting research, and also manages AWDF’s Resource Centre and Digital Repository (AfriREP).

232

Unique Visits in 2014 for:



AWDF Resource Centre At A Glance



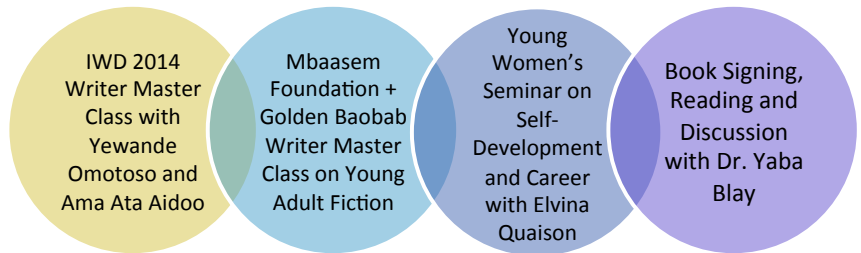
4

main Resource Centre events in 2014:



2,730

Total visits to the AWDF digital repository (AfriRep)



AWDF Resource Centre & AfriREP.

Over the course of 2014, the AWDF Resource Centre has gone through a transformation. New paint, furniture and resource materials have been added to the centre to reinvigorate the space, create a lively atmosphere and provide a comfortable environment for learning, writing, conducting research, and participating in exchanges with other women.

In an effort to make the Resource Centre a full-fledged library system, eight (8) collections have extended to twenty-five (25), encompassing more than 3,000 materials. This amplifies the wealth of resources available for women to freely explore and learn, in a wide range of disciplines.

A similar expansion is happening in AfriREP, AWDF’s digital repository. AfriREP is an open access library featuring a plethora of downloadable articles, handbooks, and other publications by AWDF and partner networks.

Resource Centre Day.

This new initiative began in September to increase staff use of the Resource Centre. Occurring the third Thursday of each month, the Knowledge Management department hosts trainings on media and research applications for staff. Thus far, fourteen (14) members of staff have engaged trainings on Twitter, Google Drive, Dropbox, Storify, Kee Pass and Instagram.

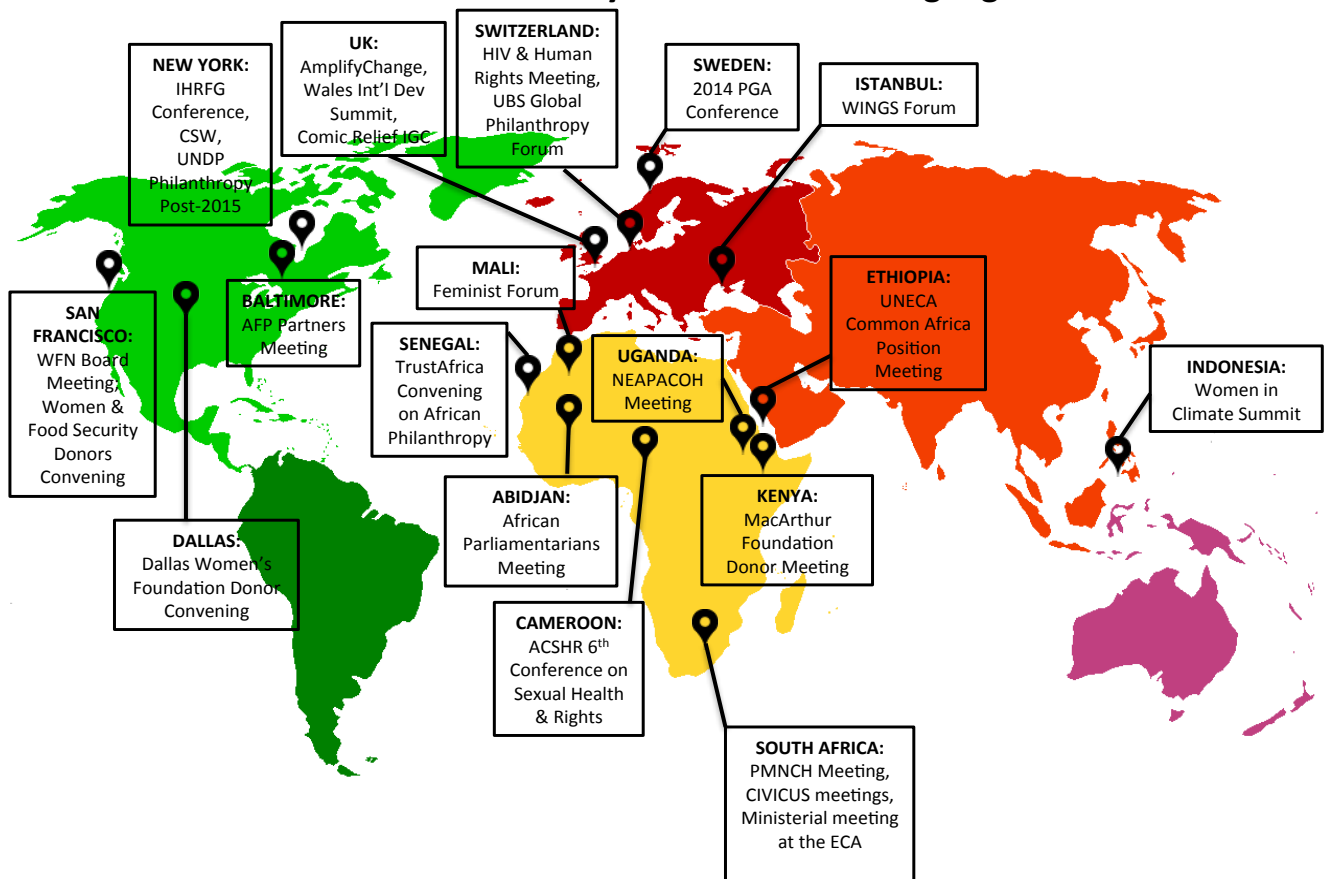
CONNECT UP

2014 saw the launch of two publishing presses by grantee partners and the publication of one book by grantee partner, Amina Salihu, who documents her journey on the election trail in Nigeria. AWDF also published a coffee table book, *Voice, Power and Soul vol. 2*, the second edition of riveting and personal portraits of African feminists across the continent.

AWDF has an extensive network of grantee organisations, partner funds and key donors that are integral to accomplishing our work. Advocacy is the process and practice that uses outreach as a tool to embolden movement building activities. **AWLN** and the **African Feminist Forum** are part of AWDF's movement building practices. Through this, staff members have participated in a range of activities this year including strategic leadership engagements, advocacy presentations, training sessions and input to coordinating actions for international agendas.

In 2014, we connected with international feminist organisations to raise the profile of women's rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We've amplified the visibility of AWDF and the work of our grantees amongst major stakeholders. We've spoken up about gender issues in the debate on LGBTIQ rights to influence mainstream donor strategies for funding. We've widened the scope of philanthropy in Africa and created new partner networks for AWDF and the African Grantmakers Network (AGN). AWDF has also played an instrumental role in organising a conference on Early and Child Marriage in Ghana with Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the Parliament of Ghana for legislative officials across West Africa. Advocacy and outreach allows AWDF to act as a bridge by increasing the profile of African women's issues and amplifying diverse representations as evident through our work.

AWDF's Advocacy in Action: 2014 Highlights



CONNECT UP

Having been invited to join the Women's Programs committee, we facilitated the entrance of several women's rights activists to the forum.

Below are additional advocacy and outreach activities AWDF pursued in 2014.

AWDF CEO Speaks at the Women's Forum.

Theo Sowa, AWDF's CEO, was a featured speaker at the Women's Forum 10th Annual Global Meeting in Deauville, France. She participated in the session, "Women's Empowerment: Bearing Witness to Changes." She and other panelists engaged an energetic discussion with the audience about generational advances made in the global women's rights movement in terms of constitutional rights, reproductive health, access to education and employment. The speakers also conversed about the best ways to increase public platforms for women to speak and share their perspectives and experiences.

Financing for Development (FfD).

AWDF attended a meeting to assess strategies to influence the FfD process and prioritise sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR). Convened by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the meeting brought together a broad network of actors from civil society, academia, the UN and governments, to frame a global advocacy strategy. It became clear that African women's rights groups have engaged minimally on this important issue of FfD. Therefore, AWDF made a commitment to form a partnership with other African women's rights organisations, UNECA and intergovernmental agencies to convene a brief meeting on FfD. The first of multiple meetings took place in November as part of the Beijing +20 review process.

The **African Women Leaders Network for Reproductive Health and Family Planning** (AWLN) is a collective voice of 35 African women leaders from 15 countries. AWLN supports the efforts of African women to improve reproductive health and access to comprehensive family planning.



PHINDILE SITHOLE-SPONG; Time Magazine

CONNECT UP

AWLN members have been championed as vital leaders of a global agenda in women's rights, family planning and reproductive health. **Phindile Sithole-Spong**, one of South Africa's most influential young people, was recognized in a 2014 feature by *Time Magazine*.

The appointment of **Nyaradzayi Gumbodzvanda** as African Union Goodwill Ambassador on Child Marriage is also a significant achievement. This accompanies the appointment of several AWLN members as technical advisors of government delegations to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD).

AWLN in East Africa.

In Kenya, AWLN supplemented ongoing advocacy efforts by engaging with county executives to take advantage of the local authority devolution process and allocate funds for Reproductive Health and Family Planning in their budgets. A commitment was made by county executives to consider budget lines for this action.

In Uganda, family planning advocates persuaded the government to set aside USD6.9 million dollars for Family Planning and Reproductive Health, exceeding the USD5 million dollars earlier pledged. To prevent the misuse of these funds, AWLN amplified the call for government officials to ring-fence the monies. AWLN went a step further to conduct an analysis on the national funding gap of women accessing contraceptives. AWLN members convened a meeting with policymakers to present evidence and brainstorm possible solutions. At this meeting, AWLN obtained a commitment from parliament members to table a question on the floor about how government will bridge the gap in financing and make reproductive health products more accessible to the public.

In Tanzania, AWLN members have noted frequent stock outs and persistent lack of access to family planning products. There is also a low receptor rate of contraceptives in some districts in Zanzibar. An AWLN survey was conducted to determine the causes of these stock outs. The survey results will be used to advocate for mechanisms to enable consumers to have wide and available access to these products. AWLN received a hard-won commitment from the Director of Central Medical Stores who will hold a meeting with District Material Managers and Reproductive and Child Health Coordinators to address challenges of weak information systems, lack of monitoring and poor supervision.

Meeting the Policymakers.

AWDF attended the Advanced Family Planning (AFP) Partners Meeting in Baltimore in June. The meeting reviewed project progress in relation to overall objectives and addressed challenges facing individual partners. At the regional level, the Post-2015 Development Agenda was highlighted as a key process to position family planning advocacy even though the project is on course to devolve activities to the district level. AWLN will identify opportunities in the Post-2015 agenda, Beijing +20 Review, and FfD processes to advocate that Family Planning remains a priority area for engagement.

AWDF and AWLN participated in the 2014 Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) meeting bringing Parliamentary Health committee members and parliamentarians from twelve (12) African countries together in Kampala, Uganda. AFP partner, Partners and Population in Development (PPD), hosted the meeting. AWLN committed to work with parliamentarians in Uganda, who are preparing to debate a National Health Insurance Bill, to ensure that Family Planning and Reproductive Health are included in the provisions of the scheme.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

Movement Building represents the long-term efforts of AWDF to intentionally spark and support sustainable women's activist movements. Through movement building, we address the systemic problems of gender inequality and injustice by promoting a different set of realities for women in Africa.

Through movement building, we focus on interdependence, alignment, and a sophisticated coordination of ideas and strategies towards eradicating misogynistic practices against African women. An inclusive approach allows AWDF to focus on human relationships and stories of transformation by our grantee partners. It is through this alternative vision of leadership and governance that we reimagine and reinvent our world.

National Feminist Forums: Highlights.

The first **Liberian Feminist Forum** took place in Monrovia from 29 July – 1 August. Although AWDF supported the forum, we were unable to attend because of the ebola outbreak in the country. Key issues discussed at the forum were governance and security in the current political and economic context of Liberia. Critical discussions at the forum were engaged on women's leadership and what value the presidency of H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has added to the country and to the African women's movement. These discussions have significant impact on how to address positioning and women's political leadership in future electoral processes.

The Mali Feminist Forum, partly supported by AWDF, challenged gender inequality by engaging women's rights activists on major issues of religious fundamentalism and female genital mutilation (FGM). The forum, coordinated by Femmes et Droits Humains, brought together participants from each region of Mali. The Feminist Charter was adopted at the forum and will be used as a framework for analysis of the political and social state of the country and for further mobilization of women.

CALL TO ACTION

AWDF also provided support to the **Nigerian Feminist Forum** to implement a communications campaign against the resolution by the Senate to alter section 29(a) of the Constitution that stipulates that a woman does not qualify for marriage until she attains 18 years of age.

This act violates Section 21 of the *Child's Rights Act of Nigeria*, Article 18(3) of the *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights*, the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and Article 27 of the *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*.



Participants in the Malian Feminist Forum

African Feminist Forum (AFF) Working Group.

The African Feminist Forum (AFF) Working Group met on 10-11 April to plan the 2015 AFF meeting and prepare a brief for the AFF review. Key themes that were identified for engagement for next year's forum are: fundamentalisms, sexuality, and the sustainability of the women's rights movement, and in particular, civil society organisations that support women's rights. Other current issues raised were women's political participation, leadership and climate change. AFF has also provided learning and information sharing opportunities on issues of women's rights abuse in member countries, particularly Nigeria and Uganda.

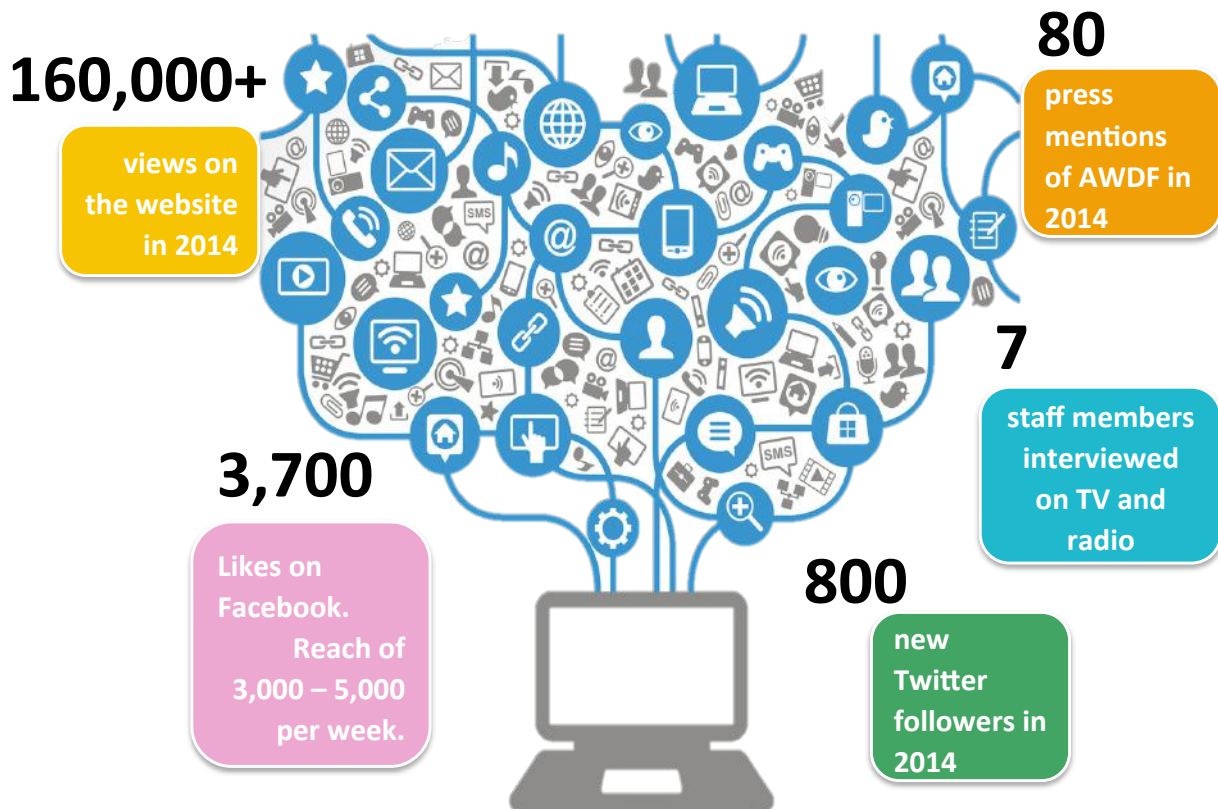
CONNECT UP

Information gathered by AFF has been widely shared on multiple speaking platforms including Brazil, Zanzibar, and the U.S., to make donors and partner networks aware of emerging issues that African feminists are grappling with and why AWDF's intervention strategies make a difference to women's organizations on the continent.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications portfolio over the course of 2014 amplified the visibility of women and their capacity to share their own stories through writer master classes, a blogging campaign advocating women's human rights, the first African Women Writers Residency hosted with grantee partner FEMRITE, and an exciting acceleration of our social media presence.

AWDF Communications At A Glance



International Women's Day 2014.

Commissioned Writing Works.

As part of continuing efforts to amplify African women's voices and to document our stories across multiple platforms, AWDF commissioned more than ten (10) articles by a diverse set of writers in Africa.

For example, an article by Amina Doherty on "Transnational Feminism" directly resulted in an invitation to participate in a conference on "Transborder, Transnation and Transformation" in Mainz, Germany in September 2014.

CONNECT UP: Yewande Omotoso and Ama Ata Aidoo give emerging writers advice at the IWD2014 masterclass. Podcast via Talking Heads.

AWDF partnered with Alliance Française d'Accra and Brand Woman Africa to organise a series of events to mark International Women's Day. This included a visual art exhibition featuring works by Zohra Opoku, Kis Keya and Sena Ahadjji; a "Meet the Writers" discussion session featuring African writers Alba Simprim, Yewande Omotoso, and Boakyewaa Glover; and an AfroFusion concert by Nigerian musician, Diana Bada. IWD2014 attracted approximately 400 people and was a vehicle for AWDF to continue to raise public awareness of our work within the newest grants theme, Arts, Sports and Culture. **The authors sold 95% of their books that evening** with many more requests by attendees about where the books could be bought. This demonstrates a thirst for African women's literature and the need to have regular outlets for these works.

In addition to this event, AWDF in partnership with grantee organisation Mbaasem Foundation, facilitated a one-day writers master class led by award-winning author of *Bom Boy*, Yewande Omotoso and Ama Ata Aidoo. Twenty (20) women writers participated in this workshop. Feedback from participants after the workshop were quite positive with many inspired to commit to writing on a routine basis and devoting more time to honing their skills through workshops, writing groups and research. With the success of this workshop, AWDF grantee partners Mbaasem Foundation and Golden Baobab, hosted a one-day master class with Mamle Wolo for thirteen (13) emerging writers of children's and young adult fiction at AWDF in June.

COMMUNICATIONS

The two weeks spent in the company of inspirational, brave, strong women writers made me remember. It was sisterhood I was mourning – the freedom from the male gaze and the world's judgment. There, in that time and place, we felt invincible but we knew then that the world would try to prove us wrong. With all of you, I feel like the world doesn't stand a chance.

Jennifer Thorpe
Writer (South Africa)



In this place, we don't need permission to be. There is something to be said for a stranger who knows just how to hold you when you cry. These women – the ones who use my name unapologetically, familiarly, calling me Sister and Friend, calling me to be a woman complete in myself – these women have changed my life. You have shown me that I am not alone, I am not crazy, I am powerful, simply by being yourselves. I don't know if I will ever be able to fully comprehend what you have done for me. Thank you for giving me these memories in this place. Thank you for being my sisters.

Olutimehin Adegbeye
Writer (Nigeria)

African Women's Writers Residency #AWW2014

AWDF and grantee partner FEMRITE led the first African Women's Writers Residency on Creative Non-Fiction in Uganda in July. This presented a tangible opportunity for twenty (20) emerging women writers across the continent to scale up their craft, exchange work and writing/research strategies, gain support and constructive feedback from other women, and expose their writing to an expanding, diverse audience. The ten-day workshop featured participants from eleven (11) countries: *Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe*. Authors Yewande Omotoso and Mamle Kabu (shortlisted for 2009's Caine Prize) were the facilitators of the workshop. Award-winning authors Doreen Baingana and Dr. Stella Nyanzi, David Sasaki (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) and Theo Sowa also led different sessions during the residency.

The group provided a critical safe space among other African women writers. A majority of participants discussed how this community was lacking in their home environments and why this served as a deterrent for writing or publishing. The ability to develop sincere camaraderie, share work openly and honestly, shore up emotional support and nurture a sense of wellbeing was a necessary psychic, emotional and creative tool for continuing with the practice of writing.

Two writers participating in the residency were from grantee organizations AWDF supports. The inclusion of Ritah Atwongyeire, in particular, was a significant outcome. Ritah is an accountant by profession working with Better HAG Uganda. She actualized her desire to become a writer during the workshop and published her first piece, "I Am Not Your Punching Bag," on FeministsSA.

CONNECT UP

Participants were involved in peer training sessions on social media tools to activate writing including blogging, digital storytelling, Twitter, Storify and Tumblr. A blog has been created for the group to share new works easily. Group members utilize new media tools to communicate and publish works including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr and WhatsApp. A google group for the writers is active daily with information shared on new writing resources, publication and funding opportunities, and literature sharing. #AWW14 writings also focused on how AWDF grantee partners recognized global human rights campaigns such as 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, World AIDS Day, Breast Cancer Awareness, Disabilities Awareness and Ebola Prevention.

In 2014, the #AWW14 participants created 110 articles and were featured in 13 interviews.

One participant will release her first book with Penguin South Africa in early 2016.

In Solidarity: 16 Days of Activism Compendium of Writing.

In recognition of 16 Days of Activism, AWDF coordinated an intensive writing campaign covering each day of the period between 25 November – 10 December. The campaign was featured on the African Feminist Forum (AFF) website with intermittent articles also running on the AWDF website. The writings reflect a series of opinion pieces, letters, poems, prayers, and words of solidarity to sisters working daily to defend the rights of African women. The diverse contributions of African feminists across the continent together weaves a powerful web of words that show the many ways that we can love, protect and support one another.

As Amina Doherty, AWDF's Communication Consultant and lead organiser of the series shares,

“What this collection represents is the coming together of strong, fierce African women’s voices. The words shared here highlight our unrelenting commitment to our continent, our communities, our families, and ultimately to each other. The words contributed in this collection show an unwillingness to give up, to stay silent, to forget. They showcase the resilient spirits of African women.”

The compendium was widely received by feminists, human right advocates and other stakeholders across the globe. This has encouraged AWDF to continue this writing practice, in some form, as a part of our annual calendar.

Launch of *The Art of Ama Ata Aidoo*.

Here we celebrate one of our icons – an African leader who pushes for social justice and change. She has done so much for all of us. She’s marked by a love for her people today and forever. Using an evocative and magical medium, Yaba and Amina have helped us to understand this phenomenon in our world. She is representative of African women who are strong, agile, and flexible and have been leaders on our continent for ages. Her words will continue as a model for younger generations.

Theo Sowa
AWDF's CEO at
the Film Launch



Yaba Badoe and Ama Ata Aidoo at the 2nd African Women in Film Forum (AWIFF), September 2013.

On 17 September, AWDF launched *The Art of Ama Ata Aidoo*, a documentary on the life and work of critically acclaimed Ghanaian author, Ama Ata Aidoo, at the British Council in Accra. The documentary was directed and produced by Yaba Badoe and co-produced by Amina Mama for **Fadoo Films**. This film follows AWDF's support of Badoe's 2010 documentary, *The Witches of Gambaga*.

She has labored to write while being an African woman – also mother, grandmother, daughter, caregiver, teacher and philanthropist. Her life is situated within a community of women writers, academics and filmmakers.

In many ways, this documentary is a coming together of African women creators.

Kinna Likimani
Daughter of Ama Ata Aidoo
& Programs Director,
Mbaasem Foundation

The event provided an opportunity to publicly recognise the life achievements of Aidoo and her influence over writers and thespians across the world, including Chimamanda Adichie. The launch also provided greater insights to Aidoo's motivations and intentions as a novelist, playwright and activist.

The event was filled to capacity and included an active conversation between the audience, Aidoo, Sarah Mukasa (AWDF's Director of Programmes), and the filmmakers about financing for women's films as well as the cultural import of Aidoo's work. This conversation sparked a fundraising call to boost AWDF's support of women organisations in Arts, Culture and Sports. DVDs of the film were then auctioned and pledges were made by multiple audience members, totaling more than 11,000 GHC (approximately USD4,000).

AWDF contributed 40% funding for the project with the remaining 60% accumulated through crowdsourcing on IndieGogo .

AN AFRICAN & FEMINIST PHILANTHROPY

Africans are challenging the notion that Africa is purely a 'donor recipient' continent and instead are pointing to the rich traditions of giving and philanthropic practice in Africa – which in many instances have been the mainstay of entire communities.

As 50% of the global population and as contributors to the wealth created on a global scale, women have a right to an equitable share of development resources. We are challenging the dominant development narrative that depicts us as passive recipients of external aid to one in which we are the active agents of the change we envision. We are putting our money where our hearts are.

Sarah Mukasa

AWDF's Director of Programmes

"African Women and Philanthropy: The Importance of Funding Our Own Movements"

AWDF has sound and effective structures in place to work with organisations in 42 countries. We are able to connect up to their work, understand the context in which they work as a means for identifying challenges, opportunities, strengths and needs of African women and organisations. This has allowed us to develop a women-centered set of interventions that direct our programmes.

There's a dignity in influencing your own destiny. For so long, people have had negative stereotypes of African women and I think that AWDF is a really important part of turning that stereotype around and saying to people, 'Open your eyes and see our strengths.'

The three founders developed an ethos 'as African women, we are strong, we have knowledge, we have been fuelling social change for a very long time' – so everyone at AWDF has learned to own a certain level of power.

Theo Sowa

AWDF CEO

Interview, Alliance Magazine (1 September 2013)

AWDF also works with a number of women's funds, networks and organisations across the continent and world where we share lessons and strategies for sustainability. As Chair of the **African Grantmakers Network** (AGN), AWDF's CEO works to keep us ahead of the curve and our eye on the ball. Following postponement of the AGN Assembly in West Africa, as a result of the EVD outbreak, AWDF will co-host the next AGN meeting to convene on 1-3 July in Arusha, Tanzania under the theme, *People, Policy and Practice*. We also collaborate with a diverse field of human rights organisations and other groups working toward social justice, peace, equality and a vision for a world where women are viable partners in community building and decision making spaces.

Our philanthropy is bolstered through a focus on providing flexible, core funding, a set of diverse capacity building activities and technical assistance on organisational viability, support for women to access high-influence spaces across the globe to advance their agendas, publications and other resource materials, and a digital repository of works for organisational development. Finally, we've supported the creation of artistic and historical works that help to shift the narrative of African women from passive recipients of aid to active and passionate change makers making a way for their communities. It is through this work that our mission and vision come alive.

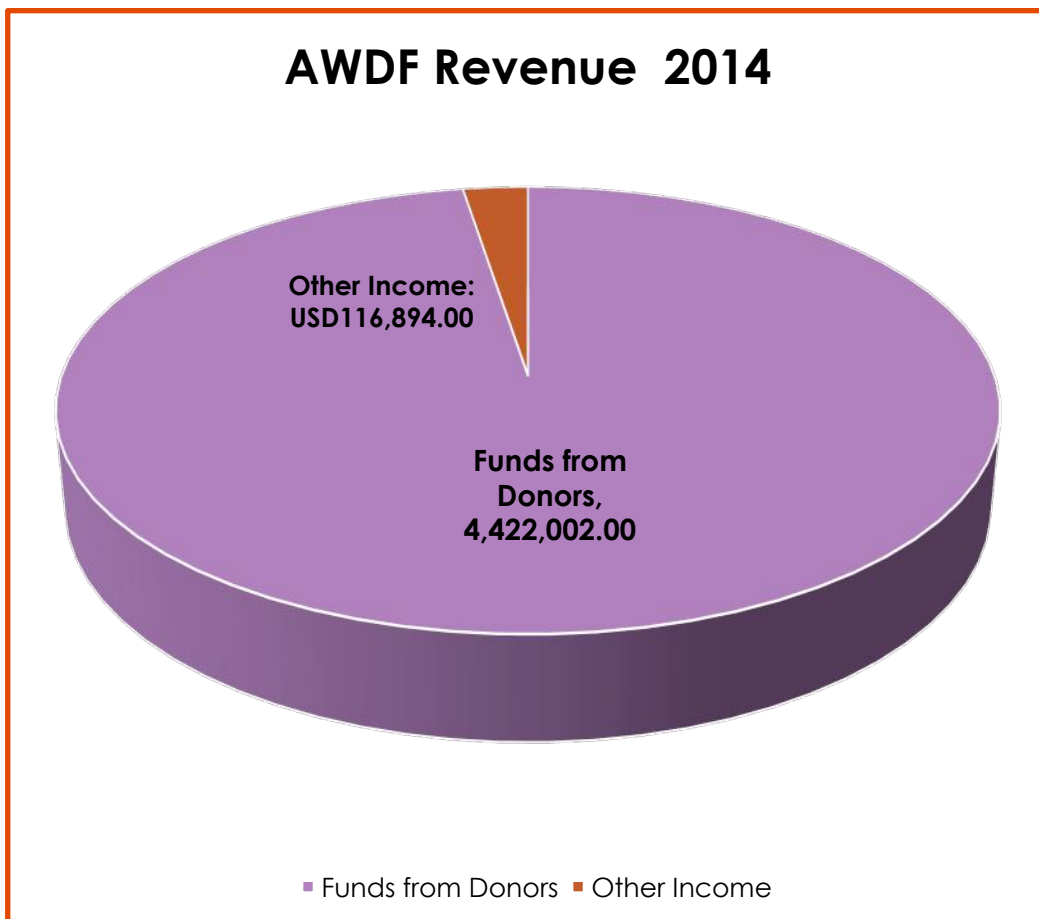
Through the relationships we have built with African women and organisations over the past fourteen years, we are motivated to continue along this path for many more years to come.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For the financial year of January 2014 to December 2014, AWDF was able to raise a total of **USD5.4million** for programme and non-programme activities. This amount of **USD5.4million** represents a marginal increase of **3%** over the 2013 funds raised totalling **USD5.25 million**.

Of the total funds raised from institutional donors, **USD4.4 million** was for activities in 2014 with the balance carried over for **2015 activities**. Total reported revenue from donations for 2014 amounted to **USD4.42 million** (up from 2013: **USD4.15 million**).

Other earned income mainly from the endowment fund investments for the year 2014 totaled **USD116,894** (up from 2013: **USD107,291**).

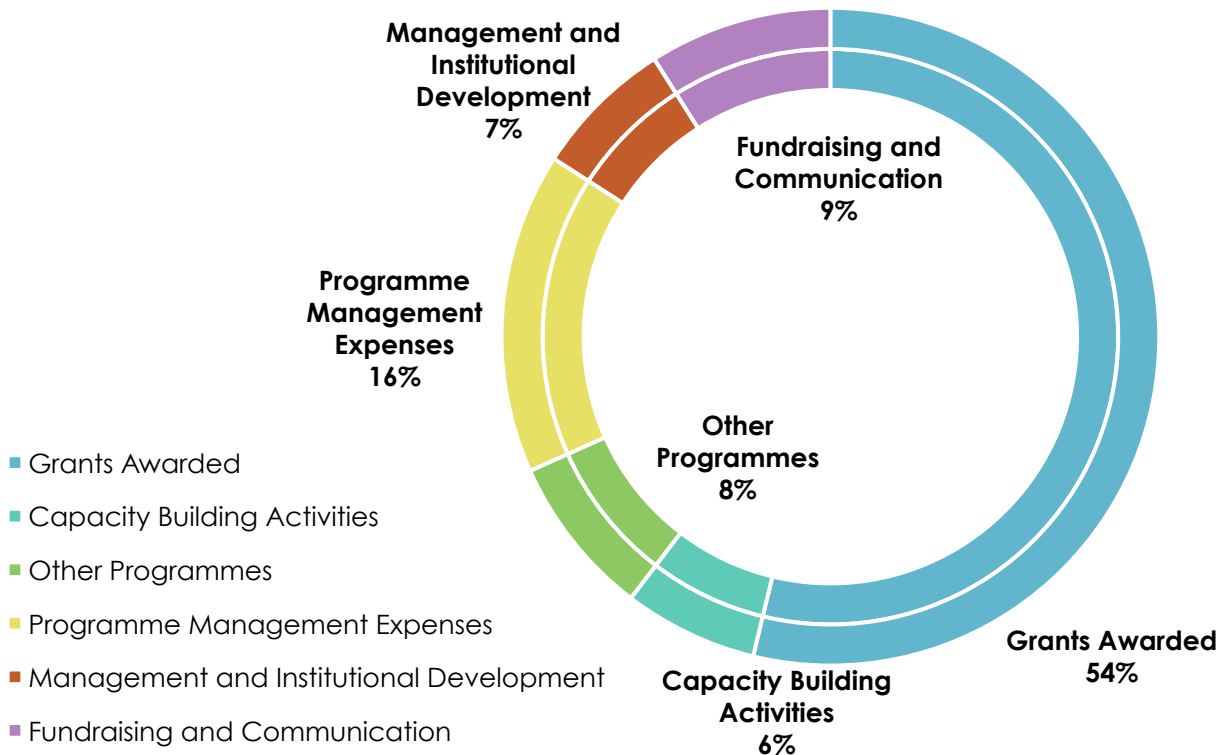


Total operating expenses for 2014 amounted to **USD4.33 million** compared to **USD4.18 million** in 2013. This represents an increase of **6%** compared to 2013 expenses.

Out of the total of **USD4.33 million** expenses in 2014, **USD3.70 million**, representing an **85%** allocation, was committed to programme activities, while fundraising and institutional development costs constituted **15%**.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

AWDF 2014 EXPENSES



AWDF FINANCIAL Highlights

\$26,173,031

Total grants given since 2001

Grants Awarded by AWDF

2012: 2,176,500

2013: 2.2 MILLION

2014: 2,383,400

9.5%

Increase in grant making between 2012 and 2014

3.5%

Growth of AWDF Endowment Fund in 2014



\$5.1 million

Total Funds Raised in 2014