



AFRICAN
WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT
FUND



2015
ACTIVITY
REPORT

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Billie McTernan, Zemdana Abebe, Sylvia Vollenhoven and Amba Mpoke-Bigg at the 2nd African Women Writers Workshop in Uganda, Aug 2015.



THEO SOWA, AWDF CEO

FIFTEEN YEARS: BY, FOR, AND WITH AFRICAN WOMEN 2000 - 2015

More than fifteen years ago, three African women came together to design and ignite a vision of African women's solidarity and resourcing that would become the **African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)**.

In the late 1990's, Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Joana Foster and Hilda Tadria, leading global experts in the fields of women's rights, governance and law, and active African feminists decided to join forces. They aligned their passion for social justice with a deep understanding of how flexible, thoughtful and substantive resourcing of African women's rights organisations, based on solidarity rather than preconceived notions of what African women need, could and would lead to transformation of women's lives and greater equity in our nations and on the African continent.

The result of this vision, AWDF, an Africa-wide women's rights grant making foundation, was registered in Accra in 2000 and started operations in 2001. So at AWDF, we are celebrating our 15th anniversary for a good two years!

2015 has seen AWDF celebrate not only our own achievements, but more importantly, the achievements of African women, feminist activism and African women's rights organisations. AWDF and our partners and stakeholders continue to heed the call for social justice. We persist in lighting that feminist fire and championing rights for equality, for visibility and for acknowledgement and respect for the value of contributions of African women in the world.

Even as the world continues to fight physical and ideological wars on women's bodies, AWDF's grantee partners are on the frontline - challenging restrictive dress codes; responding to violence against women that take sexual, physical, spiritual and emotional forms; protesting the imprisonment, torture, abduction and murders of women human rights defenders; fighting the terrorisation of LGBTIQ peoples; and spotlighting a two-year failure to return to their homes the kidnapped Chibok girls and so many other abducted children in Northern Nigeria.

Yet we dance: we cheer for the women's rights organisations who led the way in post-ebola affected countries, Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. It is through the efforts of women like these - who advocate for the prevention and eradication of EVD with their very lives - that their countries are now on the road to a more stable future. We dance with women's organisations who work diligently to provide routes of access and opportunity for other women. We applaud women who make a way out of nothing, who fight to live their dreams and desires, and creatively launch a range of new enterprises that push the boundaries of rights achievement.

It is through these stories of celebration that we stay energised on this journey to justice. In this 2015 activity report, we share stories of hope, triumph, solidarity, invention and impact that signify the spirit of AWDF and African women's activism. We celebrate our 15th anniversary and thank the many friends, allies and partners whose actions have helped AWDF to grow and thrive: past and present staff, board members, grantee partners, sister organisations and networks, donors and other stakeholders.

“Liberation is a man. Freedom is a woman.”

Freedom Nyamubaya
Zimbabwean Poet, Activist and former Freedom Fighter

**A special THANK YOU to AWDF's
Board of Directors
and Donor Partners:**

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Joana Foster (Founder)

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Here are some ways that AWDF has made the difference in the lives of women over the last fifteen years.



AWDF is a connector to women's organisations at different scales of operation (community, national and regional). **Sixty percent of the organisations we support are located in remote communities.** If this support didn't exist, many community-based, small and medium scale organisations would have collapsed.

To date, we've provided **USD 28 million to 1,294 women's rights organisations in 42 countries.** In the last five years, we've supported more than 45,000 women in 263 organisations under our Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods thematic area.

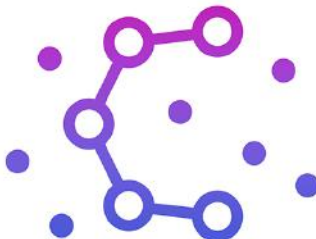


FEMINIST CHARTER

The production and dissemination of the Feminist Charter has been a critical tool for mobilising women towards exercising their full human rights. The charter has been translated into multiple languages and has been used to draft **human rights and women's rights protocols in India and Korea.**

As the largest pan-African fund on the continent supporting women's rights,

AWDF has been a leading voice on global issues affecting women. We bring the different perspectives of African women into focus at a range of decision-making spaces including Beijing +20, Finance for Development, CSW, UN and African Union initiatives, and the African Philanthropy Network.

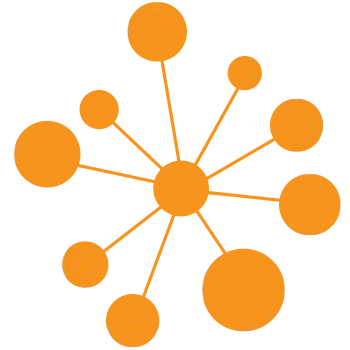


Between 2010 - 2015, **757 women from 303 organisations in 22 countries** have taken part in twenty-five (25) AWDF Capacity Building programmes.



In 2010, we opened the AWDF Resource Centre in Accra, **housing more than 3,000 resources on the African women's movement.** Since 2000, we've created and archived more than 100 original publications on women's rights and capacity development for online public use (awdflibrary.org).

Our donor base has increased over the years in exciting ways and we've been able to deepen and expand the scope of our work. **We've diversified our donor pool to include 59 institutional donors and a growing base of individual donors.** Considering the overall value of all grants received, the average length of institutional support received from donors is three (3) years.



When in need, AWDF responds to emergencies on the continent by providing fundamental support to women working on real-time solutions to address crises such as the Liberia peace process and women's mobilisation efforts to end the war and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In solidarity with women's organisations in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, **AWDF mobilised more than half a million dollars in financial and technical assistance to support women-led strategies** in communities grappling through the Chibok Girl kidnappings and the ebola outbreak.

Adding our voices to global philanthropy practices, AWDF has formed strategic partnerships with women's organisations and funds worldwide including the **International Network of Women's Funds, Grant Makers Without Borders and the African Grantmakers Affinity Group.** As partner, AWDF played a prominent role in setting up the African Philanthropy Network (APN).



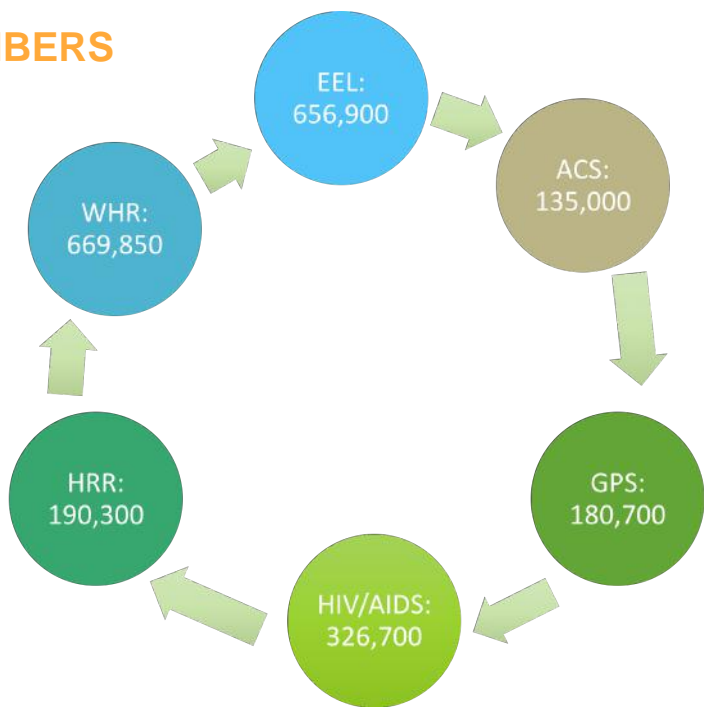
NEW LOGO, NEW WEBSITE!

We celebrated our anniversary by launching a fresh and colourful website and revamping our logo.

www.awdf.org

2015 GRANTMAKING IN NUMBERS

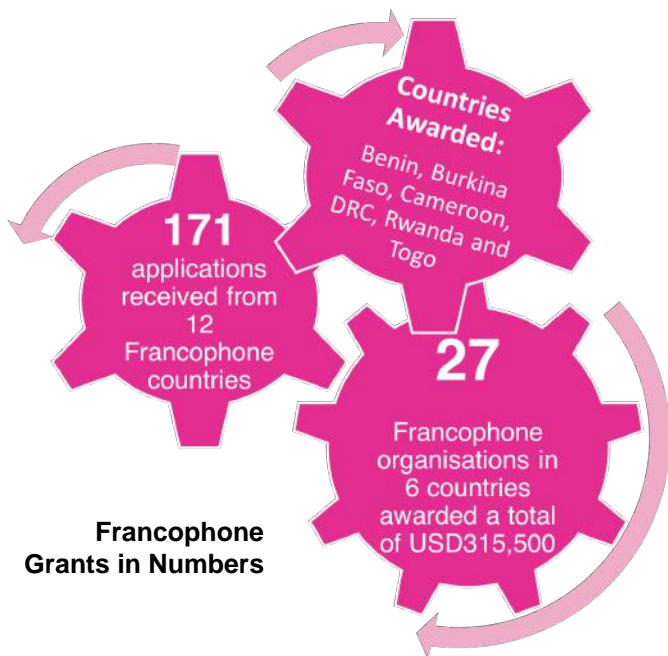
Grant Totals By Thematic Area (USD)



AWDF provides support to African women's organisations in six (6) 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**)

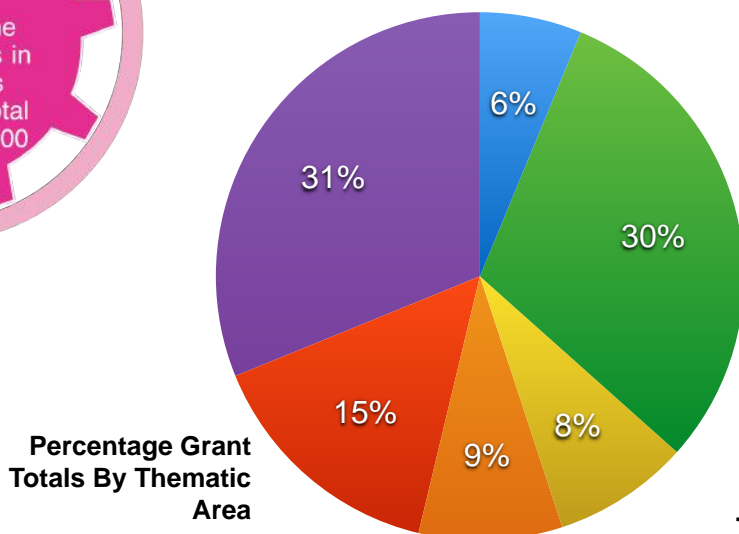
In 2015, AWDF awarded grants totalling **USD 2,159,450** to 178 organisations in 19 African countries



Francophone Grants in Numbers

*A majority of Francophone applications proposed projects in the areas of **women's rights, HIV/AIDS and economic security***

● ACS ● EEL ● GPS
● HRR ● HIV/AIDS ● WHR



Percentage Grant Totals By Thematic Area

“Although it is normally seen as a male-dominated sport, boxing is a tool we use to tackle issues affecting girls and young women in our communities. We promote girl-friendly boxing to boost self-confidence and break down stereotypes. Boxing is used as a metaphor to challenge sexual violence, to grow their voices and capacities to come up with collective strategies and solutions. The process may be hard but, you learn to punch through the difficult issues affecting your life, punch through your fears and achieve your dreams.”

Cynthia Coredo
Program Director, BoxGirls Kenya

For the last 7 years, **BoxGirls Kenya** has been avidly working with girls and young women in the urban outskirts communities of Nairobi - specifically Kariobangi, Korogocho, Mathare, Kayole, Huruma and Babadogo. Their program approach is community-based, direct and captivating – teaching weekly boxing and life skill education skills to young women (ages 8 – 23), as a strategy for leadership, sustainability and self-defense.

In addition to this focus, BoxGirls Kenya offers young women mentorship trainings, a coaching programme, job opportunities, a Kid’s Parliament to understand governance and the political process, as well as financial, literacy and digital media skills workshops. Girls are identified and selected through community outreach programmes, neighborhood drives and an open call at a cluster of area schools. BoxGirls has developed the capacity of 2,000 young women thus far. Eight-hundred (800) young women partake in BoxGirls’ activities each week.

AWDF supported BoxGirls with a grant to expand and scale up their sports programme from Nairobi to the rural areas of Kakamega and Kisi. BoxGirls created zonal outreach activities by engaging five (5) coaches for a year to conduct sessions on boxing and life skills weekly trainings. So far, these coaches have coordinated and led forty (40) sessions and reach 1,017 girls and young women. Furthermore, two (2) boxing instructors took part in a national tournament and one of the BoxGirl coaches, Sarah Achieng, was recently crowned a continental champion in boxing.

The grant also promotes the capacity development of girls and young women in sports leadership by providing a safe, knowledgeable and affirming spaces to discuss and share sexual and reproductive health matters. The ethos of the organisation is spreading community-wide with many requests from neighbourhood residents and civic groups for boxing and life skills trainings each week and the presence of more than 1,000 people at a community boxing tournament that BoxGirls organised in Kakamega County.

BoxGirls also leads entrepreneurship trainings for girls on budgeting and savings and the importance of documenting, archiving and sharing women’s success stories. As a result of the AWDF project, three (3) girls were able pay it forward by starting boxing zones in their own neighbourhoods.



Stories of Change

"I'm in love with the organisation because it creates a platform for girls in marginalised communities to participate and nurture their talents. Since 2008, we practice their rights each week through the tool of boxing. The organisation always provides strategies that we implement with the young girls who are coming up."

Sarah Achieng
Boxing and Life Skills
Coach

"For 7 years, Boxgirls has been operating in a tight space that is not appropriate for work - two rooms partitioned to four. It had little ventilation and access to Internet was available on two computers shared among team members. AWDF support has enabled us to move to a spacious office, acquire new office laptops, and have access to unlimited Internet for one year. Our team now has a comfortable space to work. This has helped facilitate planning and the creative design of our programs.

Through AWDF's Capacity Building and Coaching Programme, I have improved my writing and verbal skills to access funding. In January 2015, BoxGirls had a total sum of USD 15,000. By the end of 2015, I mobilised an additional USD 81,000 from multiple funders."

Cynthia Coredo

"The AWDF CEO Forum training has really opened me up to wealth of resources. I now know what I am supposed to do and where BoxGirls needs to be in terms of the governing board."

Pamela Mudhune
Board Chairperson

"Over the years, I have grown to show my talent. I was shy and could not show my talent in front of many people. But now I can."

Vivian Adera
BoxGirls Kenya
participant since
2010

"We have a Boxgirls club in our school. The girls are trained on the skills of boxing for one hour once a week, each Tuesday. It has really changed them because now they are able to express themselves without fear. They can speak out. They are leaders. They convene meetings and talk about issues that are affecting them and how they can try and solve the issues before they reach the teacher.

Many times they organise activities where they engage the girls socially and they interact with other schools. They gave us scholarships for our children - 1,000 KES for six children for their school fees. They also gave our school a bicycle so that the girls, in their free time, can do exercises. They have given us computer skills and we use the library which has really helped to develop a reading culture."

Leah Fulusia
Headmistress, P.A.G. School



"Life Skills is when you are being taught or you teach others. You know what you can do if you have a problem with your physical health and your body."

Anne Mwende (right)
BoxGirls Kenya participant for 3 years

Surplus People's Project (SPP) has been actively working with women farmers in Western Cape and Northern Cape, South Africa since the 1980s. The organisation supports "community struggles for agrarian transformation, including food sovereignty, equal land ownership and alternatives to dominant forms of production." Working in peri-urban areas - often neglected geographical communities - SPP implements a range of activist strategies to build up the confidence, opportunities and access for women farmers to structures of transformation, value addition and income generation.

SPP received a grant from AWDF to create a feminist theoretical framework for women farmers to interpret and respond to their environments. The SPP framework includes a focus on food sovereignty and women's indigenous knowledge of seeds and land. This original feminist research focuses on alternative models of agriculture, particularly how agro-ecological production is an organic process countering industrial forms of agriculture (that also tend to be western, corporate and predatory). Intersectionality is key as the framework targets substantial issues facing women farmers and their productivity such as violence against women, xenophobia, unplanned pregnancies, substance abuse, daily power outages, and unemployment.

Some of the strategic actions developed through this AWDF project include mentorship, community and professional exchange, practical sessions, access to government processes, understanding legal systems, financial trainings for organisations and homes, building household gardens, and seminars to address holistic health, nutrition, hygiene and wellness.

The program is all about teaching and sharing skills with other women in the community for possible income generation. Courses are offered in composting, how to save and share seeds with other farmers, art and craft making, grappling with climate change, identifying medicinal plants and herbs, the hygienic processes for goat farming and making goat cheese, and preserving and pickling surplus produce to increase one's resourcefulness. Trainings are also conducted on making homemade paper, natural cleaning products, feminism, and legal and judicial processes. SPP also recently engineered a garden for a community senior citizen home promoting a diet of diverse vegetables by planting ten (10) beds of butternut, beetroot, spinach, squash, carrots, pumpkins and radish) to the elders.

"The secretary of the Food Sovereignty Campaign (FSC) and member of Mfuleni Women's Group's house recently burnt down. Community members gathered and shared what they could since she and her seven (7) children were left homeless. The group assisted with the rebuilding of their house, collected clothes, furniture, food, blankets and provided emotional support."

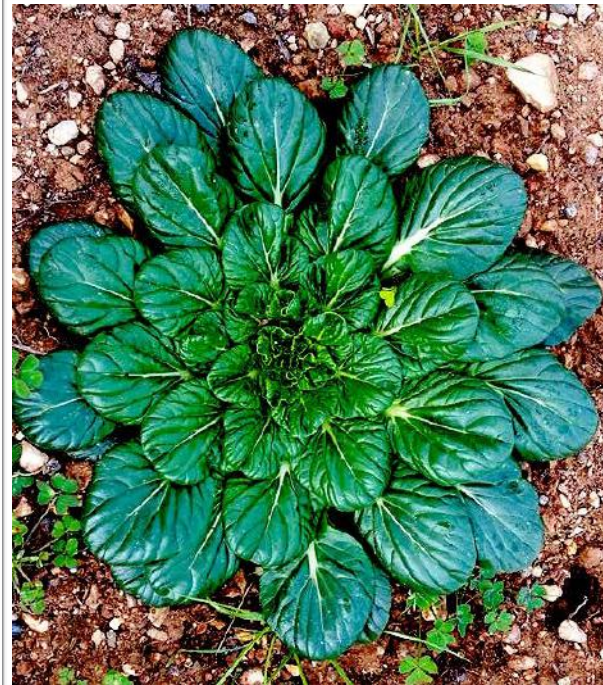
Surplus People's Project: Farming for the Collective



Through the AWDF grant, SPP has started two (2) livestock banks as a means of increasing solidarity between women livestock farmers in a very male-dominated industry. Women in this field seldom are given the opportunity to express their views, and therefore, often feel undervalued and not confident about their work.

A horizontal exchange with other farmers to learn and expand practices and indigenous knowledge sharing is also a main priority. Additionally, the creation of “women only spaces” within the project provides opportunities for women to speak safely on critical issues pertaining to farming and land rights. The SPP, as part of the Food Sovereignty Campaign (FSC), also offers an important critique to the mainstream organisation on creating a deeper integration of women in leadership positions within FSC and linking up with other women groups in support of food autonomy.

Case in point, an SPP staff member has been identified to be part of the Namaqua District Land Committee, a forum making decisions on access to and redistribution of land, water and infrastructure.



STORIES OF CHANGE

After showing support for the GMO March Against Monsanto, SPP participated in the “1 in 4 People go hungry in South Africa” Solidarity March to Parliament on 18th October with women across the Western and Northern Cape. The gathering challenged government about the lack of access to land, need for food sovereignty, raising farmworkers' struggles and a range of connected issues. The march was supported by 300 women, many from the Rural Women Assembly alliances.

A memorandum was given to government departments (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) stating the grievances of the farmworkers.





Dr. Victoria Mutiso (far left) and other AMHF staff in Nairobi with the AWDF visiting team (left and middle), April 2015.

The African Mental Health Foundation (AMHF) was conceived in 2000 and is the premiere hub for generating cutting-edge research and practice on mental health issues in East Africa. The foundation began with a lot of collaboration with universities especially through the founder who is also a renowned psychologist and professor at the University of Nairobi. The AMHF started as a resource centre offering loads of journals, books and articles for psychology, psychiatry and social work students. Many would come from near and far to research and receive mentorship from AMHF's staff. Fifteen years later, AMHF focuses distinctly on community health by reaching the unreachable, specifically high-at-risk populations who normally could not afford mental health services.

Dr. Victoria Mutiso, AMHF's Director of Research and Administration, shares about the passionate work of the organisation in Nairobi's slum communities, how families and communities can support women with mental illnesses, creating business opportunities for mental health patients and how AMHF answered the call and provided crucial service delivery to survivors of the Garissa University attack.

ON MENTAL HEALTH AND STIGMA

Our focus is on mental health for populations who are at risk or are hard to reach. This AWDF project focuses on women who have mental illness. We have found that women are affected by many factors, especially, women who are suffering from mental illness. We included community education and awareness into our focus. They suffer from stigma, they are discriminated against, even from accessing loans or owning property.

Family, friends and community members perpetuate a lot of stigma and that affects recovery. We teach families about support, how it helps to take family members to the hospital, to help maintain treatment and even to integrate members back into the family. Mental illness is like any other condition. People can get well, be productive and contribute to the economic activities of the family, community and country at large. So, it's really important for the woman to be the central focus because once the woman is empowered, then development is improved. The health of the family and community as a whole are improved.

DESIGNING A COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PRACTICE

The Kenyan government is now using our results to form policy. There needs to be an integration of mental health services so we work with schools, prisons and hospitals as well. University students come to us locally and internationally from places like MacMaster University in Canada and Harvard University. They see how we collect data, interact with clients and health workers at the clinics. We bridge the gap by helping students lead research, develop teams where students present their work and create evaluation tools.

MENTAL HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS

In the health facilities, we help with capacity building by training health workers to support mental health clients especially when these patients are combative. We now work with 8 community health facilities in Makwini and Machokos. We also work with 24 primary schools to provide mental health literacy and to combat stigma by parents, teachers and students. We run a life skills program for primary school students that has been going on once a week for the last three years. Children come together and discuss communication and self-esteem. After three months, we go back to monitor how the program has made impact and we link students to the appropriate channels. We've managed to get children back in school. If a child is behaving in a certain way, they shouldn't be disciplined abusively. We also educate communities on epilepsy - that it is not a contagious illness or about witchcraft. We have workshops with teachers and it is very interactive. We've monitored academic performance and we see it going up for students in schools where we provide intervention.

MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS PRACTICE ENTERPRISE SKILLS

We constructed a Psycho-Trauma clinic in Kibera after the post-election violence in 2008. We have focus groups and outreach activities for women who are in recovery and receiving treatment. We've determined through work with these women that their functional outcomes (capacity to meet each day's needs) is declining although their mental health symptoms are going down. Without income and support, their ability to function is affected. These women require help to develop a business trade that will provide income. Some are widows, others unmarried, separated, some are in very abusive relationships – there are different circumstances at work. The AWDF project links women to products and markets. We want to measure the outcomes. How are they doing? Do they feel better? Is their self-esteem improving? Are they empowered?

The women we work with are suffering from a lot of physical and sexual abuse. Kibera is a migrant community and families move a lot. Their power to negotiate safe sex with their husbands or men friends is limited. Because they are not working, the women exchange sex for other things even as they access treatment. The AWDF project takes four groups of 15 women each within the one-year program. We hope that at least two groups show potential for business scale up. Working with a business development consultant, the participants come up with the business ideas and we support them to continue the idea. Groups are formed based on similar business interests and skill experience. The participating women gain support from one another and they work together to choose leaders to strategise on how best to set up.

RESPONDING TO GARISSA

We were involved in the response effort for the Garissa University attack in April 2015 to help provide accurate, firsthand information which is really important. We are involved in sharing information with family members and we are partnering with other organisations to help families to either identify bodies or link up with the students who survived the attack. After that physical need was addressed, we offered psychosocial support and connect students, faculty, and staff to immediate and long-term support for psycho-trauma at our Kibera clinic.



Djakagbe Kaba, Co-Founder of AGACFEM in Guinea.

A women's cooperative saw its work almost reduced to ashes after years of work as the Ebola outbreak ravaged the West African country of Guinea, but the women would have the last say.

Djakagbe Kaba has spent decades working towards women empowerment. Despite the setbacks during the Ebola outbreak, she is determined to reposition women at the forefront of agricultural development and lead the way to better earning power. It is Friday in Conakry and the streets are busy. Vendors are selling their wares as passers-by haggle over prices, afternoon prayers at the mosque have already begun. Amidst the hustle and bustle, Djakagbe Kaba, head of the women's organisation **AGACFEM (Association Guineenne pour L'Allegement des Charges Feminines)**, opens the boutique where the organisation sells locally-made products produced by the women they work with.

The shop is modest but Kaba is confident. She has spent the last 30 years working with women's groups before she co-founded the AGACFEM in 1995. With a focus on training and women's economic and political empowerment, AGACFEM has supported thousands of women living in the country's rural areas. One of the organisation's early projects was a women's leadership programme after receiving funds from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF). Kaba and her team organised trainings for women to participate in local governance. By the end of the project seven women were elected as members of the municipal council. But AGACFEM did not stop there. The programme extended to illiterate women, who were taught how to read and write and the importance of voting.

In recent times AGACFEM has pooled together a co-operative of 45 women's groups in the rural areas Kissidougou, Guéckédou and Kankan. The Coopérative des Femmes Rurales pour l'Agriculture, la Souveraineté Alimentaire et le Développement (COFRASAD) spent the last four years training women in 10 villages in organic agricultural production and value-added processing and are currently in the process of completing the finishing touches to two processing centres. But when the Ebola virus hit in 2014 everything changed. Kaba and her colleagues were forced to re-strategise. AGACFEM received another grant from the AWDF, this time for the fight against Ebola.

Women Take the Lead in Post-Ebola Guinea

The organisation decided to team up with three other Guinean NGOs – Coalition des Organisations pour le Rayonnement de L'Economie Sociale Solidaire en Guinee (CORESS), Cooperative Badembere and Association des Jeunes Agriculteurs pour le Developpement Communautaire (AJADEG) – some of whom are members of COFRASAD working in the same region that also received grants from AWDF during the Ebola crisis to put their funds together to tackle the crisis head on. Kaba decided to leave the capital, Conakry, and base herself in Kissidougou for three months to ensure all the programmes ran efficiently. While she headed the project planning and budget organising, roles were allocated to her partners to ensure that they maximised their efforts and networks as they reached to villages across the region.

"When it came to making orders for hand-washing kits, we placed one order together to keep costs down." Kaba points out that it was important to her that each organisation used its strengths. "For example," she says. "Badembere is an organisation that manufactures soap, so we thought let's put the money we have each been allocated to buy soap into Badembere to strengthen their capacities." Kaba bought and bargained every item needed for the hand-washing kits, even down to the stickers on the bucket, to make sure the group got the best for their buck. After overseeing the manufacturing process, the kits would then go out to the villages with the women volunteers who were spreading the message about Ebola. Though Kaba and her colleagues were successful in their efforts in distributing hand-washing kits across communities, raising hygiene awareness and communicating with people, the work they had been doing in agricultural production took a hit. Nothing was produced for a whole year, setting the whole project back. "We had to stop production," says Fanta Konneh Condé, the secretary general of COFRASAD and one of Kaba's colleagues, as she overlooks one of the gardens in just outside Kissidougou. "We missed the harvest season."

Fast-forward to December 2015 and work has restarted. Condé and her colleague, Mariame Touré of Badembere take a stroll through the garden, stopping to talk to the women, as they remark at how far they all have come. With babies on their backs and farming tools in their hands, some of the women are – for the time being – cultivating carrots, lettuce and chives. Once again working to provide for their families. Under the initiative, they also produce rice, cereals and potatoes. Back in Conakry at the boutique, Kaba is sure of the direction she wants the co-operative to go. "We want to increase production," she declares, as she gestures towards the pots of shea butter and black soap on the shelves. "We would like to export these products." COFRASAD is expanding rapidly having grown from a co-operative of four groups after its first year, to 45 groups today, four years later.

"The women cannot be independent if they do not have the means," Kaba says. "It is better to support a group of women, rather than just one."



Young women participate in a training on governance and leadership at the RNCYPT in Zimbabwe.

Since 2012, **The Regional Network of the Children and Young People Trust (RNCYPT)** in Zimbabwe has worked diligently in the field of child rights advocacy to “inspire children and young people to have a voice, space and capacity to meaningfully and effectively participate in policy and governance issues that concern them”. RNCYPT is a liaison, connecting young women to policy makers and the political know-how of governance processes. With a focus on the inclusion of girls and young women in the making of critical decisions that affect their lives, these young leaders also become actively involved in developing tangible change in their communities.

Building Young Women Leaders

In 2015, RNCYPT was granted an award of USD 20,000 to “amplify the voices of girls and young women in governance.” The organisation works with young women, ages 18 - 24, in five (5) communities within Harare, including Chinhoyi, Chitungwiza, Kadoma, Mvurwi and Raffingora. RNCYPT promotes the critical analysis of human rights by building the capacity of young women to articulate their rights. The organisation also provides education to young women on the governance process, gender budgeting and youth rights advocacy. RNCYPT adopted a peer-to-peer learning approach to spread this knowledge with young women participants creating three (3) community Junior Councils. These councils provide a safe space for young women to discuss governance, women’s rights and to discover strategies and solutions to address the particular issues they encounter. The perspectives of youth involved in these groups are routinely collected and shared with relevant government officials for further discussion and implementation.

RNCYPT participants have also formed school assembly platforms and community awareness campaigns that engage teachers, parents, local councillors and government authorities. Eleven (11) trainings led by young women interrogated the capacity of communities to accommodate children and women’s rights. These trainings produced a “ten point plan” targeting priority issues affecting girls and young women’s ability to participate effectively in governance processes. Issues include the exclusion of girls and young women from political participation, patriarchal repression, religious fundamentalism, family pressures, low self-esteem and confidence, and a lack of media expertise or public speaking preparedness. **By the end of 2015, 961 girls and young women had participated in organisational activities.**

Work with Local Government Authorities

The organisation has developed strategic networks and partnerships with local government institutions to better understand and promote the valuable contributions of young women and to deliver services that respond to these demands. RNCYPT trained area councillors on child rights governance and rights issues for girls and women, especially in rural and resettlement areas. Input from young women indicated a desire for more knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights, allocation of state resources towards issues affecting girls and women and 50-50 opportunities for women to engage in key leadership decisions, strategies and solutions. **The training influenced twelve (12) local government authorities to volunteer and champion the participation of girls and women in governance processes.** The organisation has signed memorandums of understanding (MOU's) with officials in all five project areas.

Gender and Media Training for Journalists

RNCYPT trained fifty (50) journalists from a variety of fields on how to report on issues relating to child rights advocacy and governance. The training and roundtable discussion was important because journalists have the capacity to shape people's attitudes and behaviours. This presents an excellent opportunity to influence reporting to reflect the meaningful inclusion of girls and young women, and their perspectives, in political engagement processes, governance and legislation.

Baseline Survey on Young Women's Rights

RNCYPT created a baseline survey, for their project communities, to explore how girls and young women currently participate in governance processes. The survey and focus groups also investigated understandings on child and women's rights, how these rights are applied in everyday contexts and the barriers encountered to fully accessing such rights. To complete the research process, five (5) teams were trained on data collection and tools to create surveys and questionnaires and to cull analysis from focus group discussions. In total, **164 young women participated in the baseline survey.** The full assessment of the baseline survey is available in this downloadable [report](#).

"We are happy to gather as young women to discuss issues that affect us. For a long time we have not been awarded opportunity to participate and speak out as women. Our participation before was decorative and ineffective. This project gives us space, empowers us and creates avenues that we can use to engage authorities and speak out about what affects us as young women".



Stayce

Kadoma Girls
and Young Women's Committee
RNCYPT

The Kadoma Girls and Young Women's Committee.

The Positive Women's Network (PWN) has been at the forefront of South Africa's national HIV response at service delivery, policy and advocacy levels for over fifteen years. The organisation's work shows how imperative it is that those working on livelihood matters for Women living with HIV should also be part of the decision making, planning and implementation of multi-sector responses to HIV/AIDS. PWN works with positive women and their families, often in economically-strapped communities in urban, peri-urban and rural areas in South Africa. PWN is committed to lobbying for an affirming and safe environment for women by providing direct services to help women with tools to live healthy and stable lives. The PWN model focuses on the improvement of services, advocating for new policies, raising awareness and building the capacity of positive women and communities to address HIV. PWN also facilitates dialogue with community leaders, health workers and local leaders on HIV, addressing cultural norms and stigma against women living with HIV.

In late February 2015, PWN expanded their model by releasing two (2) key advocacy tools: an in-depth research study report on gender and an information packet on prevention, treatment, support and care called the Positive Women's Network PowerPack.

The study, **HIV and Women at Risk: An Analysis of the Policy, Legal and Socio-structural Framework Gaps Leading to Gender Disparities in South Africa**, was carried out by a PWN research team. Supported by the Department of Health, South African National AIDS Council, USAID and BroadReach Healthcare, the report was successful in identifying the most critical policies, legal and structural gaps that contribute to gender-based disparities and discrimination against women. The study provides guidelines for the development of the essential package for women and frontline healthcare workers - the PowerPack - that can offer access to critical services for those in need at clinics, hospitals, government workplaces and schools. The purple cloth bag includes information on TB, breast cancer, HIV and sexually-transmitted diseases, as well as menstruation pads, female and male condoms, a notebook, pen and eraser. The pack is centred on providing accurate and safe information to women on health and wellness.

Of the estimated 6.4 million South Africans living with HIV, 3.87 million are women and 2.53 million are men.

The HIV epidemic in South Africa continues to be driven by gender inequalities and harmful gender norms that promote unsafe sex and reduce access to sexual and reproductive health services especially for girls, women and transgender people. This imposes a particular burden on women and girls who experience increased vulnerability and feature disproportionately amongst those infected and affected by HIV.



PWN staff and partners at the launch of the report and PowerPack, February 2015.

KEY FINDINGS

PWN HIV and Women at Risk study

- The HIV epidemic in South Africa remains highly feminised.
- Women living with HIV, and women in general, are not recognised as a sector in the National Strategic Plan.
- While women between the ages of 15-24 are recognised as a vulnerable group, there is no funded coordination strategy to address that vulnerability.
- Violence against women, especially intimate partner violence, is one of the major drivers of HIV infection. However, there is no costed policy framework that comprehensively addresses violence against women in South Africa.
- There are gaps in the delivery of HIV care, particularly the lack of capacity of frontline healthcare workers to adequately respond to the gendered needs of HIV positive women. This perpetuates stigma and discrimination.
- Many women still experience shortages of drugs, diagnostics and beneficiaries in cervical cancer and TB care.
- Focus group discussions raised governance issues that point out that women living with HIV should be included in the governance structures of AIDS committees at clinic, district and national levels.

AWDF Joins AMPLIFYCHANGE

“AmplifyChange offers the opportunity to get resources to some of the many civil society groups in the global South that do such excellent work in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights but are so often overlooked. This is a chance to help make sure that African women's agendas and priorities on SRHR become central to global discussion and action and it is wonderful that an increasing range of funders now recognise the importance of that.”

Theo Sowa

AWDF CEO and Consortium Steering Committee member for AmplifyChange

In 2015, AWDF joined a consortium including MannionDaniels and Global Fund for Women to manage a new fund called AmplifyChange. The fund provides grants directly to local CSOs and community-based groups in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia working to “secure universal recognition of sexual and reproductive health and rights as human rights, enabling women, men and young people to realise their full potential in safe and supportive environments.” At present, the fund has dispersed more than 7 million euros to selected organisations.

AmplifyChange provides grants in four categories:

Opportunity (nurturing new ideas on SHRR advocacy)

Strengthening (supporting projects for change by building voices, advocacy and policy processes)

Network (building movements for change by aligning regional and national organisations to convene, learn lessons and strengthen their capacity to advocate)

Strategic (support for international organisations to advocate and contribute to policy and strategy development at global, regional and country levels)

AmplifyChange priorities within sexual health and reproductive rights include eradicating gender based violence; affirming women's right to safe and legal abortion; challenging stigma, discrimination, attitudes and laws that undermine LGBTIQ people and practices; the sexual health of young people and girls; and creating access to comprehensive reproductive health services for socially and economically marginalised and vulnerable peoples.

STORIES OF CHANGE

As of 2015, the first year of operations for AmplifyChange, AWDF's Grants department processed more than 200 applications and is currently managing portfolios for 2 Network grantees, 4 Opportunity grantees, and twenty-one (21) Strengthening grantees.

AWDF staff members were part of the team that developed the Results Measurement Framework (RMF) and Theory of Change (TOC) for AmplifyChange. This framework provides guidelines on outcomes focusing on the five (5) thematic areas of the grant making program. The consortium will use these tools to report to donors and to guide grantee organisations in their reporting.

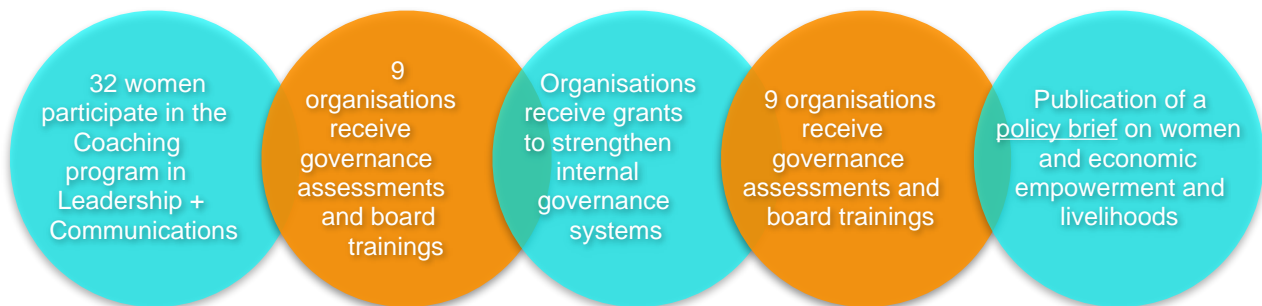
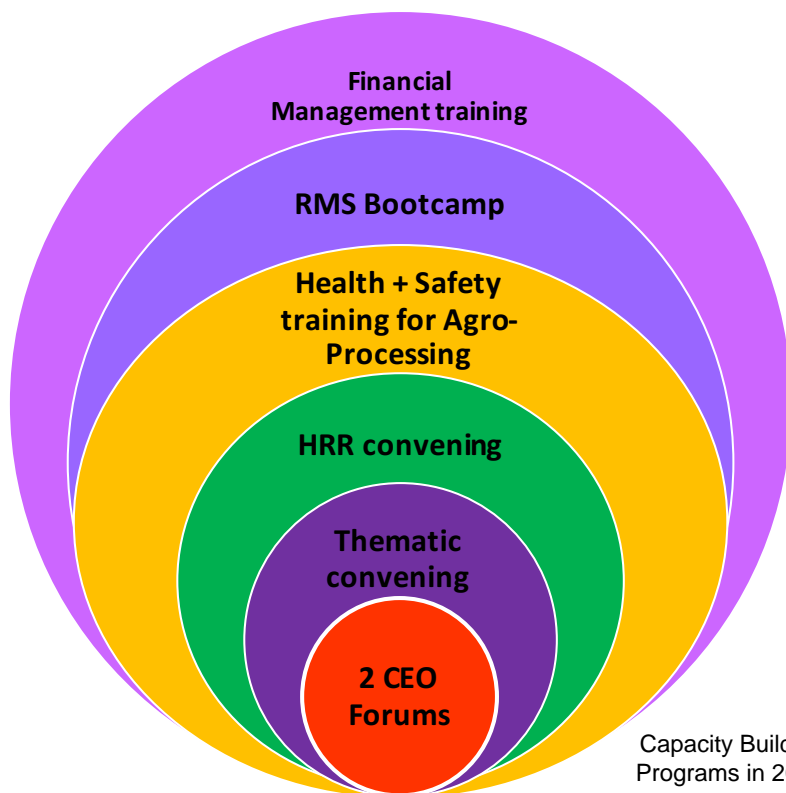
AWDF's CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

"I have gained more confidence in myself and in my ability to relate with governance issues within my institution. I feel even more empowered to lead an organisation as a young woman. Mentorship has changed my perception about leadership which now is about discipline and realizing the power within myself. For me, become discipline and self-leadership."

No one else besides AWDF has ever taken us through this journey of self-discovery and strategic growth for our organisation. We say, "VIVA, AWDF, VIVA!"

Vimbai Mlambo

SAYWHAT, Programs Manager
Zimbabwe



STORIES OF CHANGE

The CBP has a lot to celebrate in 2015. Here are a few reasons:

- 13 women leaders have interacted with local and global multimedia networks and expanded the exposure of their organisations
- 6 women executives have taken part in highly visible, international conferences on violence against women and girls, food security and sexual reproductive health and rights
- 2 women leaders have been appointed to the boards of well-recognised international organisations
- Percentage increase for participants who have diversified their income
- Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) Bootcamp helped 60% of grantee participants develop their documents for the first time
- Results-based Management training held specifically to strengthen organisational effectiveness for Francophone grantees

AWDF hosted the third Biennial meeting of the African Grantmakers Network (now the African Philanthropy Network) themed *Philanthropy in Africa 2015 – People, Policy and Practice* in Arusha, Tanzania between July 1 – 3, 2015. The attendance of more than 200 people was significant because, for the first time, members covered approximately 65 percent of the costs. Previously, the network had relied on external funding for conference participation.

This speaks to the nature of APN and their commitment towards self and collective sustainability.

African philanthropy is a unique framework that practices wellbeing and resource sharing across groups of people as opposed to the neoliberal capitalist model or the patronage model.

With both these constructions, only a few individuals take care of many others or a few individuals get rich and hoard resources through the exploitation of others' energy, effort, hard work or lack of access to human rights. African philanthropy is a practice in sustaining horizontal power relations where access and opportunities are available to the collective and not just a few.

The conference panels, lectures and discussions were action-oriented and focused on topics such as unused tax reserves, the impact of governance on philanthropy, and ways to unearth good practice through knowledge building, research, and experience sharing and skills building in each of these critical areas. The conference also foregrounded contributions to philanthropy in Africa by critical constituencies such as women, youth and other marginalised groups.

"Many people at the assembly spoke positively about how organisations such as AWDF have helped sustain social justice and gender equality causes across the continent by simplifying funding. Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee saluted some of the important work done by AWDF in helping start and sustain the women's movement that eventually contributed towards overthrowing Charles Taylor in Liberia. That alone is worth celebrating. We also celebrate the fact that Africans are now giving beyond the continent into global causes."

Tendai Murisa

Executive Director, TrustAfrica



BBC journalist Bola Mosuro moderates a panel featuring Leymah Gbowee at the 3rd Biennial Assembly of the AGN in Tanzania, July 2015.

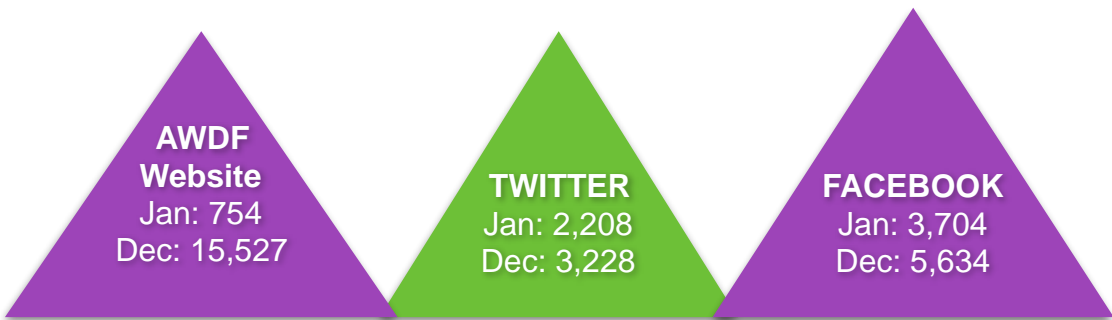
Key Conversations at the APN Meeting

- Women have a wealth of practices and resources of giving that are critical to the development of African philanthropy. This knowledge should be harnessed to support the women's movement and recognised for how this work creates social change across the world.
- African philanthropy is backed by a long historical tradition of giving, compassion, belonging, support and solidarity.
- This is a responsive philanthropy so critical for social justice because it is aligned with communities as co-creators not beneficiaries. This philanthropy is a flexible ecosystem not an industry.
- Crises of fear and insecurity are rocking places across the world and Africa is no exception. These are a result of existing systemic issues so our focus and strategies should be geared to responding to the root causes of crises not just the immediate emergency response. For this to work, a code of practice can be developed to strengthen a collective and effective emergency response. Those in crisis situations often produce their own solutions. We must recognise communal responses as the blueprint to build upon and, ultimately, a centre to implement transformative change.
- In light of the Post-2015 Development agenda, what is the place for African philanthropy within the world? Philanthropic spaces must be clearly defined. We are committed to effective financial and resource management, showcasing practices that develop sustainable solutions to the continent's challenges, generating models for African partnerships and extending the knowledge and value of pan-African philanthropy practices to our governments.
- African philanthropy challenges the thinking of funders to recognise value and invest in mobilising young people through digital technology, fresh and transgressive art cultures and new strategies of activism.
- African philanthropy provides an opportunity for the continent to redefine how the world perceives us. African philanthropy is a game changer in development.

BEIJING+ 20 Review and Recommendations

AWDF provided support to grantee partner, FEMNET, to participate in the Beijing+20 Review meeting at the end of 2014. CSO engagement in these reviews is so critical given the role women's rights organisations contributed in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and Declaration since 1995. The Beijing +20 Review coincided with the final year of negotiating the Post-2015 Development agenda and the 3rd Conference on Financing for Development (FfD). FEMNET convened a series of meetings as part of a CSO regional consultation process that included 200 women's rights activists and advocates. The result is a position paper that frames African women's rights as integral to the Beijing+20 negotiations over the last 20 years as well as detailed recommendations on how national policies can address 12 critical gaps in state reporting and trend analysis. The shadow report includes innovative strategies that can be replicated in other countries. The report concludes with a set of recommendations to governments in the form of policy briefs.

The report was validated during the CSOs meeting at CSW July 2015 meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **By October 2015, the African CSO Position Statement – Equal Say, Share and Control had been downloaded 7,289 times.**

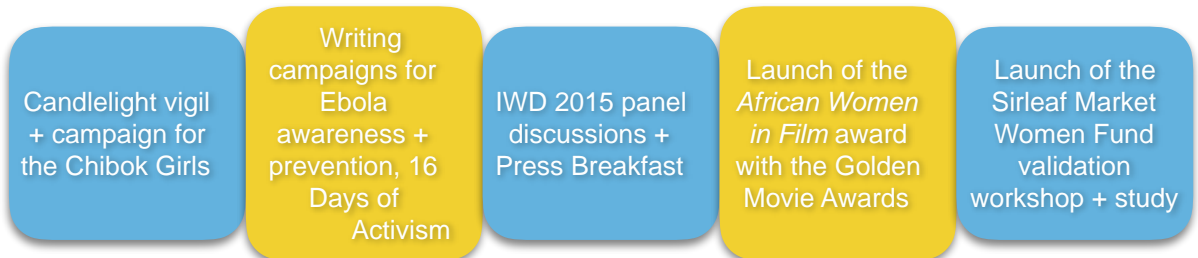


Digital media network growth in followers, January - December 2015

Visibility of AWDF Grantee Partners

Deborah Ahenkorah of Golden Baobab received two honors in 2015: the Yale Publishing scholarship and the Grinnell College Innovator for Social Justice Prize. The latter recognises organisations that have shown outstanding dedication in bringing about positive social change. Winners receive \$100,000, half of which is given to their organisation.

BoxGirls Kenya was featured in a short documentary about their work which debuted on *Broadly*, a women's focus online channel of the Vice network. In 2015, BoxGirls became one of 20 organisations around the world to receive an inaugural ***With and For Girls Award***, a global initiative to identify and support strong local organisations working effectively with and for girls.



Communication Events in 2015

The **2nd AWDF African Women Writers Residency** held July-August 2015 in Kampala, Uganda added 20 women to the fold. The 2014 + 2015 residencies have produced **a total of 118 critical writing pieces** in major and public press outlets.

AWDF establishes new relationships with two global media outlets - **Quartz Africa** (New York) and **The Journalist** (South Africa).

In 2015, a total of 30 women (grantee partners and AWDF staff) have been featured on websites and media outlets with over 100 appearances and features in electronic, print, TV, radio and social media.

Outlets include international media such as BBC News, The Guardian, All Africa, Huffington Post, New African and the Africa Report.

MONITORING + EVALUATION

WHY DOES M&E MATTER?

AWDF is one of the few women's funds to have an M&E unit. The unit has helped shift organisational thinking and provides evidence-based data to support program delivery, fundraising and advocacy through reviews, site visits and analysis. M&E contributes to the ability of AWDF to implement flexible, responsive, innovative and relevant programs that respond to the needs of the organisation and partners including donors and grantee organisations.

The data collected helps to determine the effectiveness and impact of our work over a period of time. With this evidence we are better able to track the achievements of AWDF's program work.

M&E survey results from grantee partners in 2015 suggest that investing resources in many grantees and countries presents the potential to reach more beneficiaries within a limited space of time. However, spreading the resources too thinly may also compromise the level of impact for the project. The inclusive package (supporting grant making and capacity building) helps to build leadership, sustainability, relationships, ownership and ability to raise women's leadership. It is a model for building women's rights.

EBOLA RESPONSE SURVEY

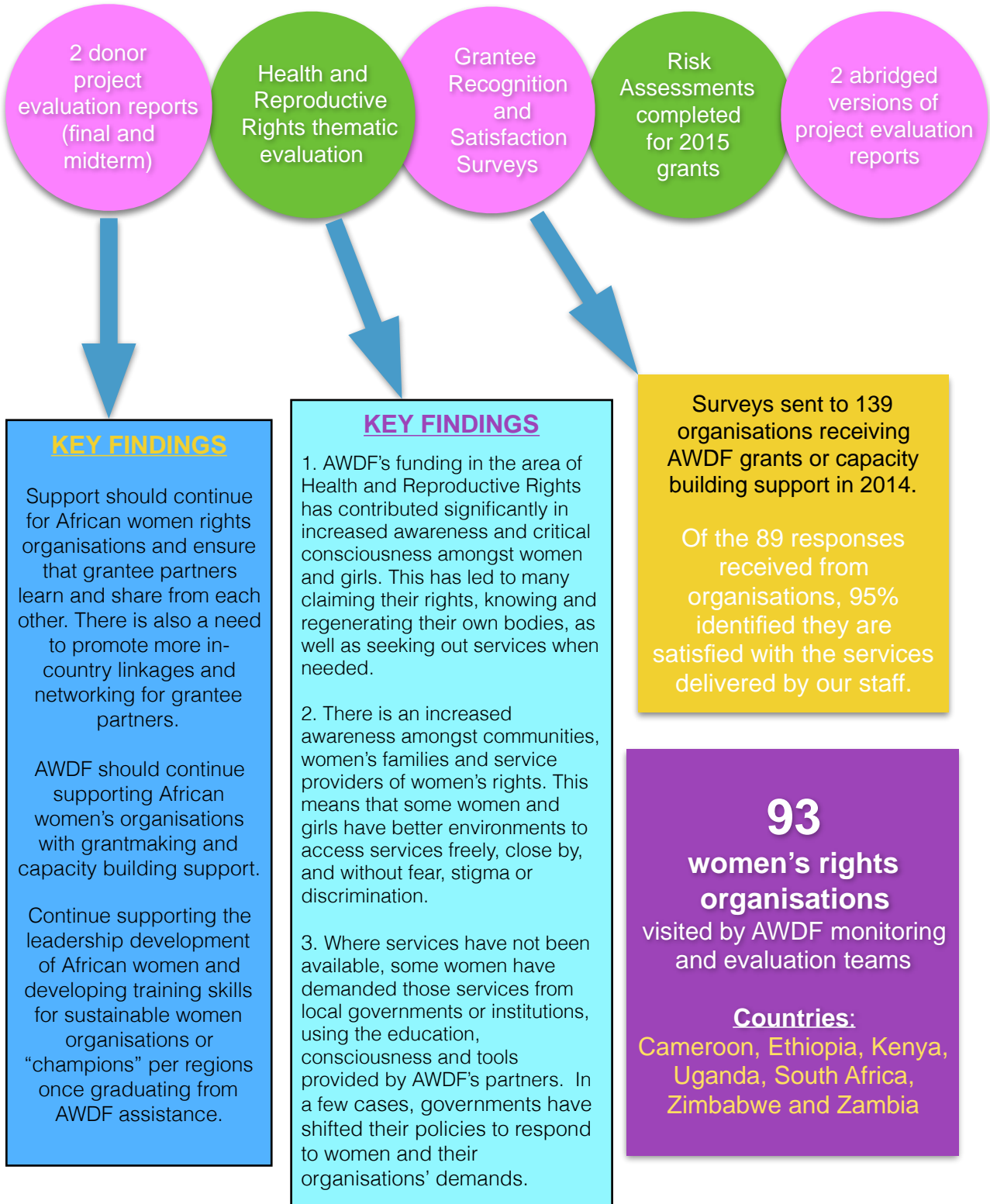
This survey was designed to understand the efficacy of the ebola emergency response funding, capacity building support and technical assistance that was provided to women's rights organisations in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

Below is a brief summary of the responses received:



MONITORING + EVALUATION

M&E learnings generated in 2015



Over the last five years, **AWLN (the African Women Leaders Network)** has enabled AWDF to engage in the arena of reproductive health and rights, particularly family planning advocacy and implementation of critical policies and legislation that increase African women's wellness. AWDF is now known in Ghana, across Africa and globally as one of the leading organisations helping shape global development agendas to include stronger women's rights approaches to reproductive health and family planning. Working with influential African women leaders throughout a number of fields, AWLN persists through a multi-sector approach to national-level advocacy on reproductive health and family planning (RH/FP).

The 2015 Annual AWLN meeting

The AWLN convening, entitled "5 Years of Advocacy for Family Planning: Building Momentum, Consolidating Gains and Achieving Change", was held in Nairobi on August 24 – 28, 2015. The meeting was attended by AWLN members and partners from 12 countries, namely, DRC, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Swaziland, Kenya, South Africa, Malawi, Zanzibar, Tanzania and the U.S.

AWLN has made a number of exciting interventions this year:

In Kenya, the launch of the Nyeri County RH/FP Strategy (2015-2025) was a key milestone.

In Uganda, advocacy efforts in Nebbi District have resulted in the allocation of Ushs 10million (3.3% of the district budget) to family planning strategies.

In Zanzibar, the creation of Zanzibar Integrated Logistics Systems (ZILS) has enhanced access to health commodities for women and girls.

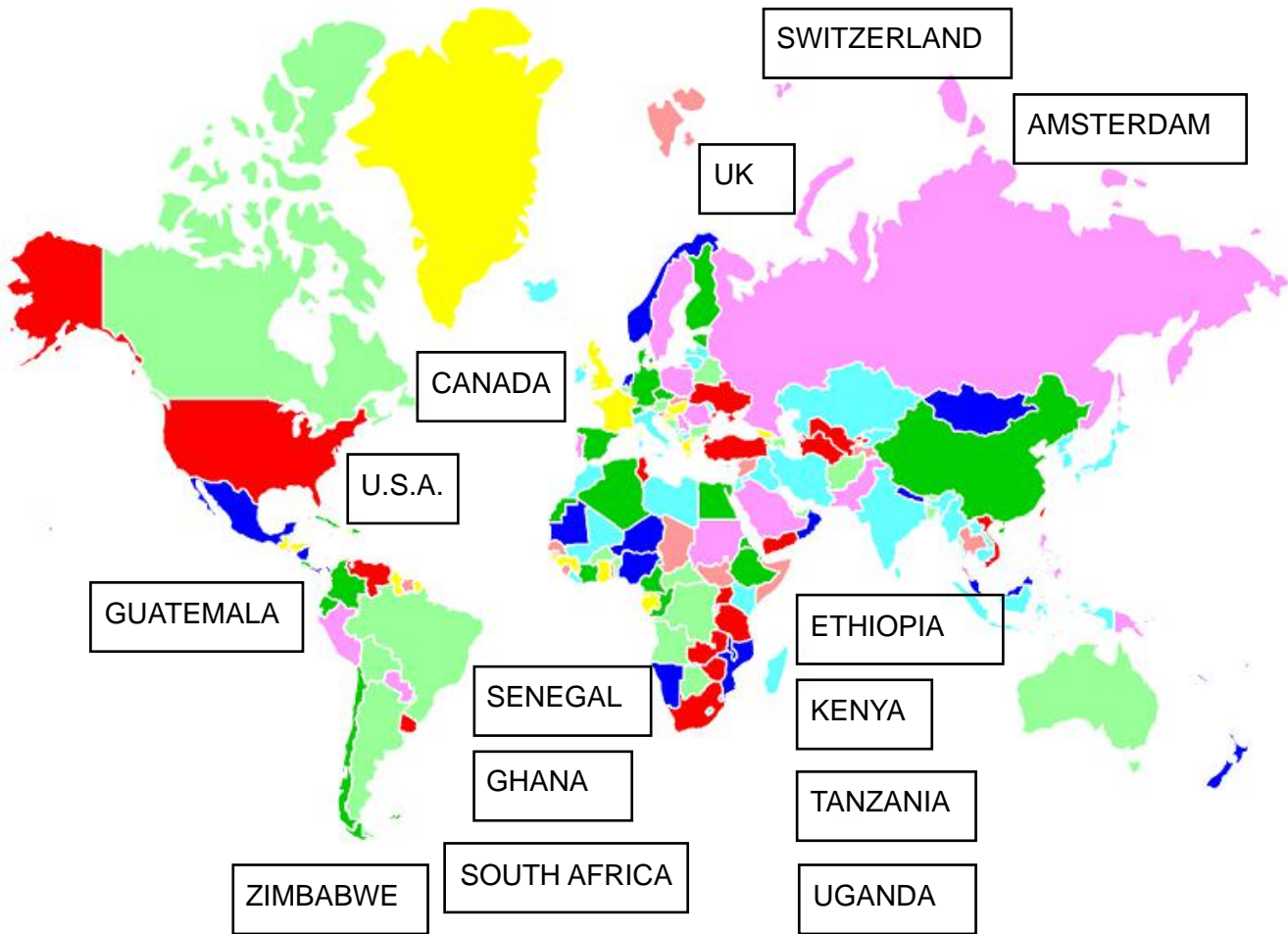
In Ghana, inclusion of family planning in the National Health Insurance benefit package enables women to have free maternal health until the point of delivery. Plans are also underway to include clinical methods, specifically injectables, implants, female sterilisation and vasectomies, in the insurance benefit package for patients.

At the meeting, AWLN partners cited the inadequate commitment of leaders to prioritise family planning as a national agenda, especially when it comes to resource allocation. This is a major challenge which will require more advocacy with local and national leaders.

AWLN will consider a project to evaluate and make recommendations on the SDG indicators on reproductive health and family planning. This will allow AWLN to better measure progress towards the goals and provide opportunity for analysis of the results. In considering the Financing for Development meeting, national governments must be driven to provide enough resources from their budgets for reproductive health and family planning and to be accountable rather than passing that responsibility on to family structures, CSOs and donor communities.

Looking forward, AWLN is exploring new and innovative ways to amplify young women's expressions on sexual health, reproductive rights and family planning. The network is working to open new spaces for young women to engage in discussions that have real effect on their lives. To do this, AWLN partnerships are built from a point of common ownership that can be scaled up and replicated. Tracking the work of AWLN - achievements, challenges, lessons, opportunities, risks and strategies - will also become a priority focus as a matter of historical documentation and analysis. Linking this work to decision-making on reproductive health and family planning and the development of regional and global policies and frameworks, is in itself a demonstration of women solidarity, leadership and capacity to shift the world towards safety, happiness and wellness for women and girls.

AWDF Advocacy Around the Globe



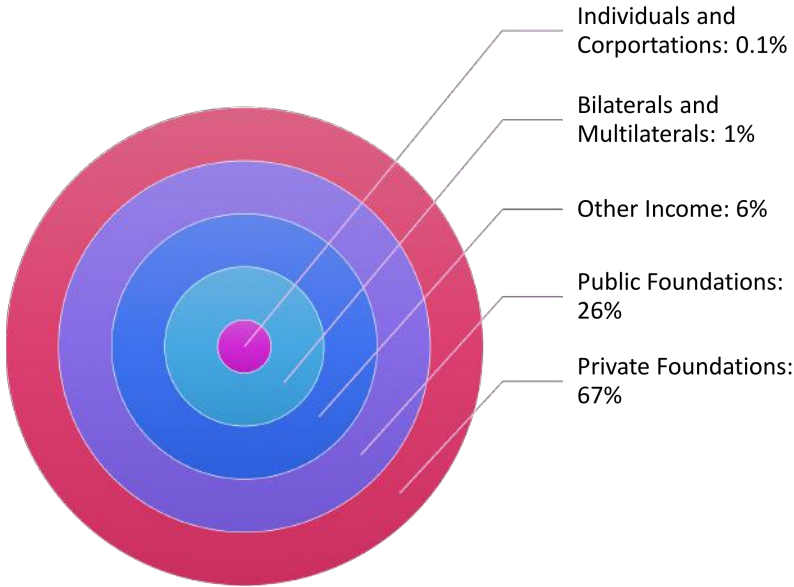
Advocacy can take different shapes that stretch from local, national, regional and intercontinental, depending on the platform, networks and audiences. At AWDF, each staff member plays a crucial role in our advocacy journey. This is a core value of the organisation and the history of our passion for the work we've done for the last fifteen years.

In 2015, our staff participated in more than 50 advocacy and outreach trips including international board meetings, CSO partner convenings, donor visits, academic engagements and UN consultation meetings.

Theo Sowa, AWDF's CEO, took part in public dialogues and critical discussions at the Ask Her Talks (Stephen Lewis Foundation), the Code Blue campaign, Tana Forum and she participated in the UN regional consultation on peace infrastructures as part of the UN Women West Africa Advisory committee. The CEO was also the keynote speaker at the Mandela Washington Fellows conference and moderated a Ministerial panel at the Beijing +20 Africa regional meeting.

These advocacy and outreach opportunities help to raise the profile and visibility of our organisation and connect AWDF to networks and opportunities to share how African women and organisations are creating change in their communities.

In 2015, AWDF raised **USD 3.93 million** in funds for women's rights. At the end of 2015, AWDF's reported income totalled **USD 4.86 million** - an increase from 2014's **USD 4.4 million** - for programme and non-programme activities.



2015 Income Distribution

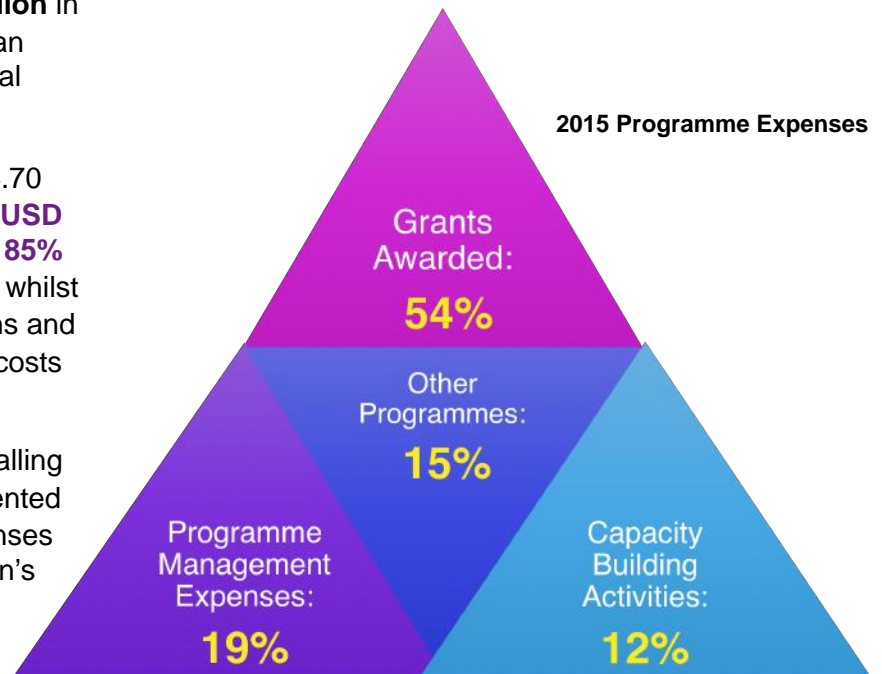
Income received from private foundations amounted to **USD 3.3 million** with **USD 1.3 million** acquired from public foundations.

2015 operating expenses totalled USD 4.70 million

compared to **USD 4.43 million** in 2014. This represents an increase of 6% in annual expenses.

Out of the total of USD 4.70 million expenses in 2015, **USD 3.99 million represented 85% for programme activities**, whilst fundraising, communications and institutional development costs constituted 15%.

2015 grants awarded - totalling USD 2.16 million - represented 46% of AWDF's total expenses and 54% of the organisation's programme expenses.



AWDF Financial Highlights

Key Financial Facts

