



2012 ANNUAL REPORT | www.awdf.org

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



2012 has been an eventful year for the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).

As we reflect back on our performance over the course of the year, we are heartened by the endorsement of grantees and other partners, who underscore the value added and difference that AWDF has made in supporting women led initiatives to transform their lives.

In 2012, we were able to create new strategic alliances in pursuance of our mission. We cemented our position as a leader in the field of philanthropy in

Africa and as a best practice example of philanthropic support for women's rights. Our grant making model - combining grant making with capacity building and technical assistance - has ensured that significant numbers of women's groups and initiatives are able to access grants that they would otherwise be excluded from. AWDF's support for women's groups to strengthen leadership and active participation in decision making has contributed to the continued entry into local and national decision making processes by women, especially those from marginalised communities.

Our outreach into francophone countries saw a steady increase in our grantee portfolio. Our financial health remained buoyant in the face of continued global economic uncertainty.

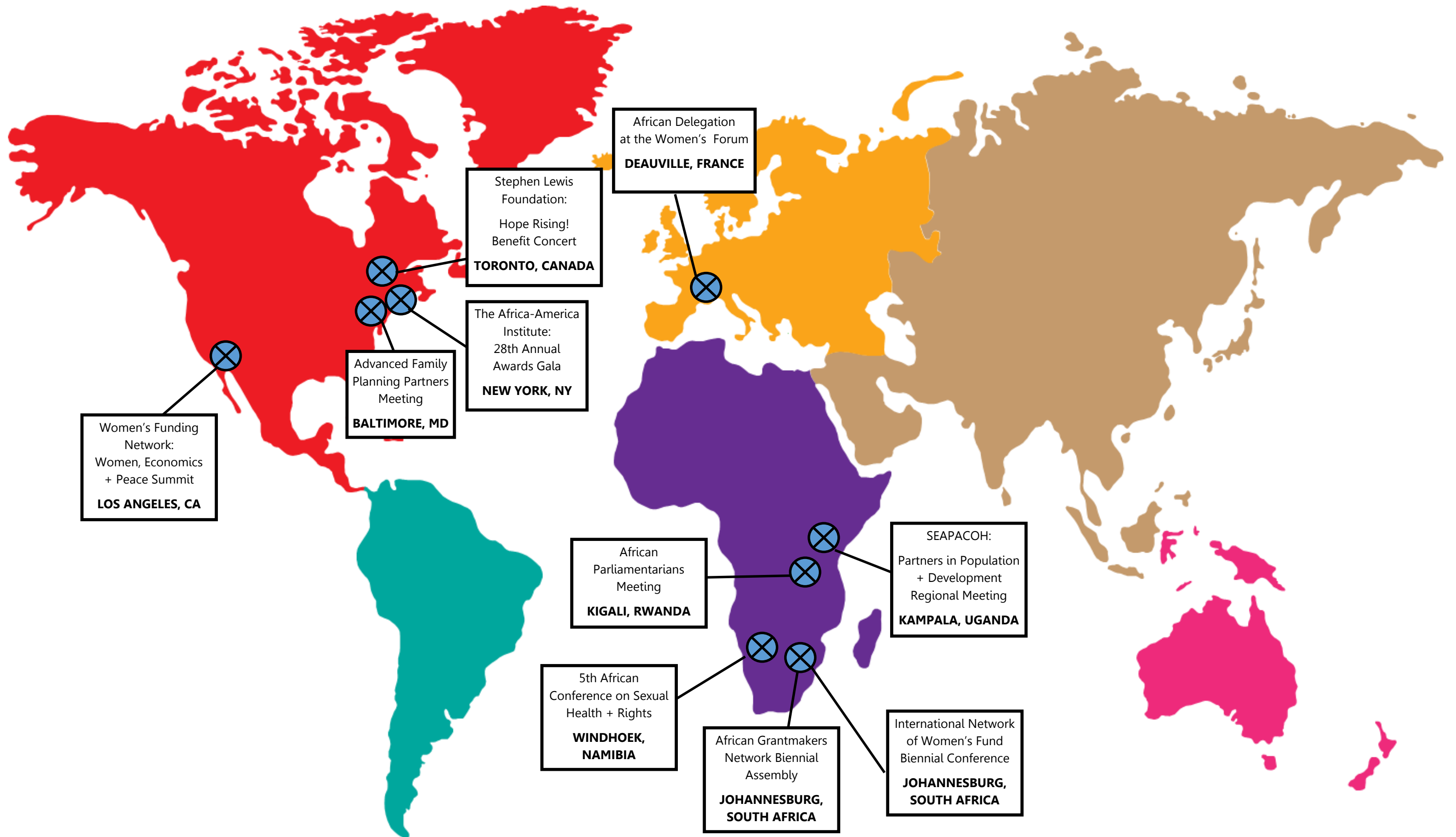
Our annual income for the year was USD4.3 million against our target of USD5million.

This year, we welcomed internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter and campaigner for human rights, **NNEKA EGBUNA**, as AWDF Ambassador for the Arts, Culture and Sports programme. Nneka is a shining example of a young African woman exercising leadership and vision by using her craft to pose socially conscious messages. Nneka has been involved in a number of our programmes, including running a workshop for young musicians. She forms part of AWDF's efforts to engage new constituencies of young people on women's rights and social justice.

Finally, we wish to thank all those who have contributed to our programmes in the course of 2012. Your support, generosity, advice, constructive criticism, and encouragement have been so critical to our success.

Sincerely,
Theo Sowa

MOVEMENTS: KEY EVENTS + MEETINGS in 2012





AWDF IN ACTION

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

is a women led, grant making foundation invested in the vibrant promotion and realisation of social justice, equality and respect for women's rights in Africa. As a leading feminist philanthropic organisation, AWDF is also the first continent-wide fund in Africa to provide grants to women's organisations at local, national, and regional scales.

"AWDF was the first to contribute to NLK's initiative for social, economic and health rights of our marginalized and vulnerable women groups. Secondly, AWDF is more than a donor for NLK women. AWDF is a representation of our identity, belongingness, confidence, solidarity, and Independence."

Since 2001, AWDF has provided over USD22 million in grants to 1014 women's organisations in 42 African countries.

Along with a distinct model of grant making for women's rights in Africa, AWDF creates innovative strategies of sustainability for grantees in the form of capacity building, technical assistance, advocacy and movement mobilisation trainings.

Bethlehem Ashabir, Chairperson
Negemelelakennew Organization (NLK)
Ethiopia

AWDF STRATEGIC PLAN IN 2012

AWDF's Strategic Plan 2011-15 (SPII) consists of five [5] key strategic goals that determine our aims and activities leading to 2015. Year after year, these goals have directed the vision and mission of our organization. By providing a living framework to guide and assess the progress of AWDF's relationships with grantees and partners, we remain transparent, accountable and attentive to achieving our objectives.

Strategic Goal 1:

To support African women's organisations and the African women's movement in their work to promote, protect and realise women's human rights **through grant making, capacity building, advocacy and movement building.**



"AWDF's support was a rescue for the organisation when we were on the verge of closing down. We have no words to show our appreciation to AWDF for making us continue our work. When you go to the field, you will see what great impact you've made."

-Annie Katyamba

Johnlaing Community Home-Based Care
Zambia

AWDF grants are geared to create visible markers of change in small and medium sized, women led initiatives on the continent. In fact, AWDF has made critical impacts in "off-the-road communities" across rural Africa. We help to enable grantees to scale up their efforts and catalyse a broader community influence, support and leadership for their work.

60% of our grantees operate on budgets of less than USD100,000 a year.

Without the support that AWDF provides, the work of many of these women's organisations would be unsustainable.

GRANT MAKING AT AWDF

Our grant making practices are the cornerstone of what we do at AWDF.

In 2012, AWDF awarded grants to 185 women's rights organisations in 32 countries.

The total amount of these awards is USD2,196,500.

Grants are awarded under the following six thematic areas:

Arts, Culture and Sports [AC&S]

Health and Reproductive Rights [HRR]

Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods [EE&L]

HIV/AIDS

Governance, Peace and Security [GP&S]

Women's Human Rights [WHR]

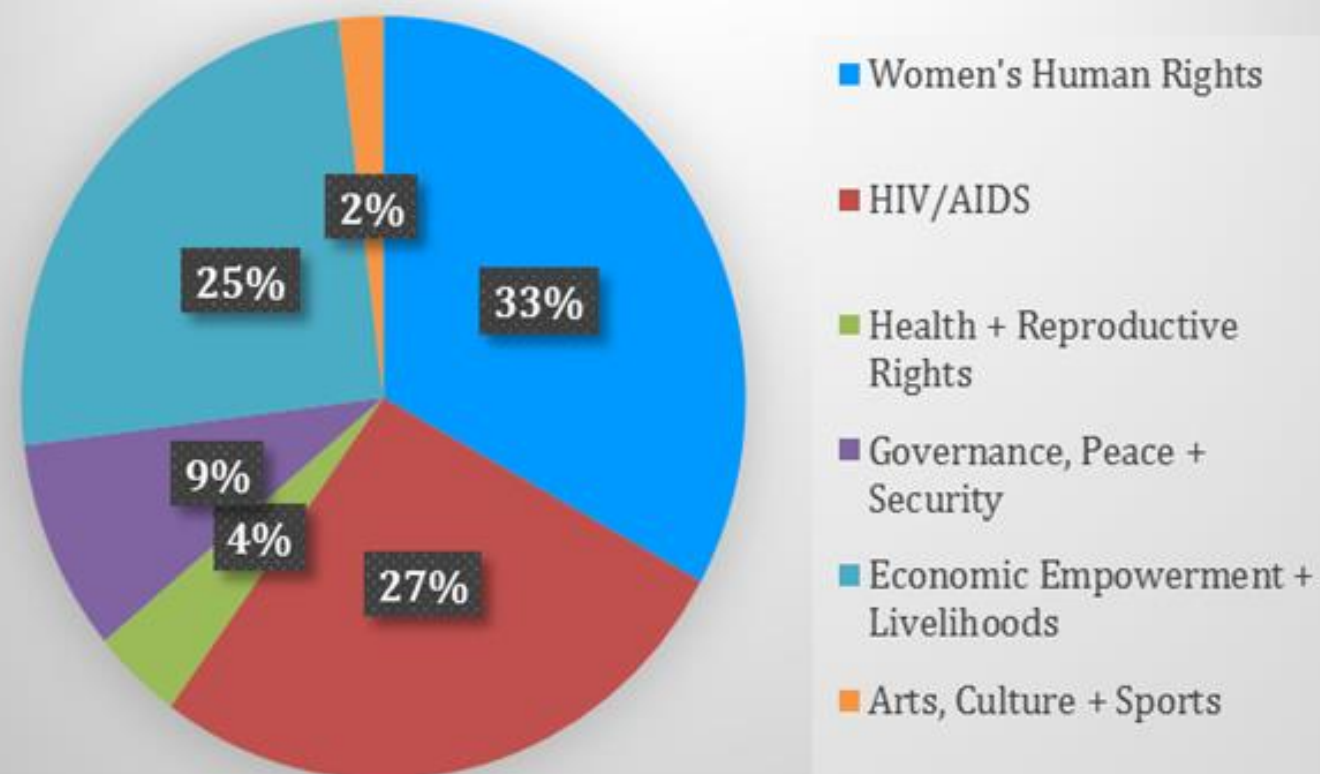


Over 60% of AWDF grantees report significant increases in income and skills development enabling women to enroll children in quality schools, provide nutritious meals for their families, and obtain affordable healthcare to protect loved ones.

2012 GRANT MAKING AT A GLANCE



GRANTS AWARDED IN 2012



Six Thematic Areas	Number of Organisations	Number of Countries	Amount (USD)
Arts, Sports and Culture	4	2	110,000.00
Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods	46	14	458,500.00
Governance, Peace and Security	16	8	301,000.00
HIV/AIDS	50	16	450,200.00
Health and Reproductive Rights	8	5	130,000.00
Women Human Rights	61	26	746,800.00
TOTAL	185	71	2,196,500.00

ARTS, CULTURE and SPORTS



AWDF Ambassador of the Arts, NNEKA, with writer and activist, AMA ATA AIDOO

Under our newest category of grant support, AWDF financed projects that help women to access critical, new skills and reach expanding audiences through participation in film festivals, capacity-building seminars and sport competitions.

In 2012, AWDF provided grants to projects that challenge discriminatory and stereotypical depictions of African women. The grants are used to train, nurture and raise the profile of African women artists and their ability to change narratives and discussions about gender and sexual rights.

2012 GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Arts, Culture and Sports

USD100,000

Total grants disbursed

4

Women's rights organisations

2

Countries

5

Women trained in film production, directing, screenwriting and stage management

140

Women trained to use sports, drama and poetry to promote women's human rights in 30 communities

111

Girls removed from child trafficking practices through training programs

ARTS, CULTURE and SPORTS



THE OUTCOMES >>>

With Arts, Culture and Sports, we are building a cadre of skilled young African women to use art as a medium to express the process of achieving women's human rights.

In South Africa, AWDF support equipped women with intensive training in film production, directing, screenwriting and stage management. *Tell Me Sweet Something* is a stage play that explores the coping mechanisms that women use to survive abusive relationships. The production is currently being made into a feature film.

This project has imparted over 3,000 artists, activists and audiences with critical knowledge about the experience of women's rights issues in Africa.

140 young women were educated, within 30 communities in the Effutu municipality of Ghana, on how to use sports, local drama and poetry to promote women's human rights and resist child trafficking practices, forced child marriages, domestic servitude and abuse. The young women trainees took immediate action with the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit [DOVVSU] of the Police Service, **leading to the release of 111 girls from forced marriages.** The project has resulted in active media attention, as well as a significant reduction in child trafficking, allowing young girls to remain in school.

AWDF supported a Ghanaian organisation to promote the work of women artists, particularly sculptors, painters, textile designers and photographers. This space will serve as **a marketplace for the creative works of women artists, opening the door to highly visible traffic and the potential for self-regeneration.**

AWDF also financed the productions of several women filmmakers in the Environmental Film Festival in Accra, Ghana. The festival uses film to create awareness about how our environmental choices impact the planet's ability to function. Highlighting the adverse effects of climate change on women, who are also the primary users and managers of natural resources, has generated discussions across international media.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT and LIVELIHOODS

Economic security for women, across the globe, is persistently in crisis. Throughout these changing times, AWDF has engaged with African women's organisations to provide tools to maximise their capacity to manage time, resources, people and procedures.

The focus of AWDF projects under this theme are: Improved farming and food processing; Vocational and other livelihood training; Business capital and the formation of women cooperatives in marginalised communities.

We've assisted women farmers, differently abled women, sex workers, widows, single mothers, survivors of domestic violence, women affected by war, among others, to nurture new strategies of progressive action, economic interdependence and upward mobility for themselves.

2012 GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods	
USD454,500	Total grants disbursed
45	Women's rights organisations
13	Countries
2,586	Women in 66 communities directly impacted
505	Women trained with vocational skills in credit and savings management, business development and marketing
1010	Women boosted with capital and capacity building training for small scale businesses

"I was able to see and meet people whom I couldn't get a chance to meet. I go round to talk to people and they listen to me, I have respect and recognition. My business is growing and I am able to look after my family thanks to the training I got."

– Ms. Irene Bangora

New Liberian Women Organisation/Skills Training Centre
Liberia

THE OUTCOMES>>>

The farming and food processing groups we support have initiated peer learning and sharing platforms to strengthen the business practices of their members. This increases the individual and collective ability of grantees to tap into larger markets and achieve higher profits.

With vocational skills trainings, participants receive instruction on how to implement start-up capital grants effectively. The specialized trainings develop each grantee's knowledge base by demonstrating how to efficiently manage credit and savings accounts, operational costs, marketing plans and business expansion.

GOVERNANCE, PEACE and SECURITY

2012 GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Governance, Peace and Security

USD289,000

Total grants disbursed

18

Organisations

8

Countries

2,115

Women in 33 communities directly impacted

1,000,000

Persons indirectly impacted through community radio and door-to-door outreach education drives

1,914

Women trained in voter registration, the electoral process, peace-building and conflict resolution



The presence of women in governance is not only a right but also an opportunity to influence local, national and regional responses to the integrity, needs and desires of African women. AWDF works long term to ensure that women are able to influence public decision making processes and keep priority women's rights issues on the political agenda.

Our focus this year was to leverage the leadership capacity of women to actively participate in local and national elections. In 2012, we contributed to the extended participation of women in critical electoral processes, promoted the benefits of women's leadership in local elections and invested in young women's inclusion in peace building activities.

Taking action on the premise that women have the ability to transform legislation and government accountability, AWDF supported vigorous voter education campaigns [door-to-door and outreach visits, community radio, social media campaigns, registration drives] to inform women voters of their constitutional rights and guide them through the electoral process.

These targeted campaigns reached more than 1 million people across the continent.

GOVERNANCE, PEACE and SECURITY



CASE IN POINT

In Ghana, the advocacy efforts of **ABANTU Ghana**, a grantee organisation, coupled with the work of other partner organisations has led to an increase in the number of women parliamentary candidates from 103 in 2008 to 133 in 2012. In addition, three political parties nominated women as their presidential running mates. Almost all the political parties in the country have now incorporated women's rights and gender equality issues into their manifestos.

THE OUTCOMES>>>

With the support of AWDF, twenty-five [25] women in South Africa passionately led advocacy efforts towards the swift passage of the Traditional Courts bill in South Africa. This action also resulted in the local government organizing public hearings on the bill for women activists to share their insights.

AWDF providing training support to more than 80 women in Cameroon, Somalia and Sierra Leone on "early warning system" procedures should election tensions escalate in their communities. We released a research publication this year on conflict resolution that can be used as an advocacy tool to bolster the skill sets of women in managing peace and security issues within their communities.

We also granted four [4] scholarships to women, in different countries, to study emerging lessons in engendering security, conflict resolution, and sustainable development. These women will critically shape how peace and security is engaged with on regional scales. An online platform was created, as part of this cooperative project, for young women working on peace and security issues to learn, share and exchange fresh ideas on how to continue building their capacity.

HEALTH and REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

2012 GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Health and Reproductive Rights	
USD100,000	Total grants disbursed
8	Women's rights organisations
5	Countries
61,222	Women directly impacted
36,140	Women trained on reproductive rights, STI screenings and support, peer counseling and life skills

"During the awareness programme, I learnt how to take care of my household and be assertive. I also learnt about family planning. When I went back to my village, I brought together other women in our community to educate them on the various methods of family planning. One of the obvious changes is that most women who benefited from this programme look more healthy and happy as they can make informed choices and make good use of their time".

-Ewe Ami Delali

CREMA

Togo/Benin

Determined strategies to expand the health and reproductive

rights of African women have been met, time and time again, with much resistance. AWDF's commitment to the wellbeing of women on the continent is demonstrated through an avid support of awareness-raising and advocacy activities for women. By ensuring a vibrant knowledge exchange for women and young people on sexual wellness and reproductive rights including STIs, breast cancer, family planning, and maternal health, we increase the capacity of women to self-care and sustain healthy families and communities.

In Nigeria, **509 young women were trained with AWDF support** to scale up their knowledge about reproductive health and increase their leadership confidence to be able to engage peers with information on adolescent health and reproductive rights issues.

HEALTH and REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

We've built longstanding partnerships with women's organizations and local communities by cooperatively working with traditional leaders to protect and scale up the execution of women's health and reproductive rights. AWDF-supported trainings on young women's reproductive rights provide STI screening and support services, peer counseling methods, and life skills to prevent transactional sexual violence and the harmful effects of female genital mutilation [FGM].

Trainings in Nigeria and Zambia were attended by a diverse population of learners including students, women from vulnerable communities, traditional birth attendants, community health workers and midwives, among others.



THE OUTCOMES >>>

AWDF responded to the shortfall in public service delivery for reproductive health through outreach education about breast and cervical cancer. Our support has generated knowledge sharing platforms on women's wellness for breast cancer survivors. Additionally, AWDF grants have provided healthcare kits [including a temporary prosthesis and mastectomy patient's guide] and psychotherapeutic care to 100 breast care patients in Ghana.

AWDF grants to Sudan, Ghana and Uganda have equipped traditional midwives with accurate, up-to-date information on safe delivery practices that will help to reduce maternal and infant mortality. Nearly 1,200 women, particularly young women experiencing difficulty in completing school, benefitted from reproductive healthcare through these projects. Through AWDF support, healthcare workers in Ghana have benefitted from skills-based trainings on the partograph, a medical instrument used to correctly track the progress of pregnancies, and the proper techniques of antenatal care for mothers and newborn babies.

HIV/AIDS



Many African women live in resource-constrained communities which can create a more difficult experience of HIV/AIDS. Such challenges can multiply as threats to the social and economic security of women on the continent. In addition, women living with HIV/AIDSs can be subjected to deep, cultural stigmatisation from their communities. In response to this, AWDF generated project grants for an array of services including comprehensive education on HIV preventive strategies, treatment options, stigma reduction, healthy nutrition, self-care and wellness support services.

Multiple projects even explore couples counseling and preventive testing as a method to reduce stigmatisation against women living with HIV/AIDS. Research from grantee projects indicate that men are viable support systems to encourage and accompany expectant women to access Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission [PMTCT] services and even to sign up for screening and treatment services for themselves.

2012 GRANTS AT A GLANCE

HIV/AIDS	
USD430,200	Total grants disbursed
49	Women's rights organisations
16	Countries
192,704	Women directly impacted in 144 communities
2,655	Women trained on HIV preventive measures, Leadership and advocacy skills, and peer education
1,350	Women living with HIV trained on business development and provided startup capital for entrepreneurship
2,271	Expectant mothers received wellness education and free access to Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission services (PMTCT)

HIV/AIDS

CASE IN POINT

In 2012, AWDF sponsored school materials and after school tutoring services for 395 young orphans and vulnerable children [OVCs] and supplied 45 older OVCs with vocational training and startup capital to generate self-determined income.



THE OUTCOMES >>>

As part of our participation each year in World AIDS Day [Dec. 1st], AWDF grants have enabled the creation and strengthening of support groups for women living with HIV/AIDS. **These meetings establish a safe space for women to take up leadership positions** in developing a strategic approach to issues relating to HIV/AIDS. These groups also administer treatment and pertinent information, resource tools to enhance self-confidence and trusted collaboration, and mentorship networks between women.

AWDF also invests in income generation activities to strengthen the capacity of women living with HIV/AIDS to take better care of themselves and their families.

This year, vocational trainings were offered to 1350 women in modern methods of farming and gardening, animal rearing and best trading practices.

With economic empowerment grants for 670 women living with HIV/AIDS, AWDF support nurtured community cooperatives, joint businesses and civic society networks to share financial management information, business capital and resource support systems to ensure sustainable livelihoods for all involved.

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

"Joining the group has expanded my world view, visiting places and meeting new people of my age group. There is a lot of things to talk about when we meet. I have made friends with people of my age group in other communities. The trainings I received has sharpened my analysis and critical thinking. It has made me more observant and given me the power to question things."

-Mandisa Msomi, 17
Emthonejeni group
South Africa

AWDF provides grants for women's human rights in three priority areas: access to justice, mitigation of violence against women including harmful traditional practices, and in-depth training and education to promote women's human rights.

AWDF grants supported 61 continent-wide projects to enhance

women's knowledge and skills to better articulate their rights, create awareness about women's sexual rights, increase women's access to and ownership of land and intensify public education on the traumatic effects of female genital mutilation.

Under the Access to Justice focus, we provided training support for paralegals and community leaders to approach legislative policy and media promotion with women's human rights in mind. Partnerships are forged with state institutions, such as the police force, to ensure that women who report an abuse of their rights will receive fair access to the justice procedure.

2012 GRANTS AT A GLANCE

Women's Human Rights

USD697,800

Total grants disbursed

52

Women's rights organisations

24

Countries

31,505

Women in 61 communities directly impacted

30,755

Women trained on human rights legislation and policies, functional literacy skills

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2012, 440 women including 40 paralegals were trained in DRC to provide assistance to survivors of gender based violence and to administer options for women seeking justice through the state. Networks of paralegals have also been organised to provide basic legal information to rural women and to help them to assert their rights before formal and traditional justice systems.



THE OUTCOMES>>>

- **AWDF also supported trainings for 15 rural women** to advocate for women's access to land in Kasonga, Zambia, where women are not allowed to own any property. Now these trained women are consulted on land issues in their communities. With this project, higher visibility of women and their rights is being achieved through traditional leaders and other popular thought leaders.
- **480 women in 16 countries were trained with AWDF funding** to champion the abolition of female genital mutilation [FGM]. As a result of this support, project communities are sanctioning perpetrators of violence, watch committees regularly patrol their neighborhoods to engender safety for women and children, and women residents are better able to keep authorities accountable for fuller protection of their rights under national law.
- **50 differently abled women in AWDF project communities were trained to lead efforts** to promote their rights and challenge those who violate the rights of women with varying physical and mental abilities.
- **270 women from multiple rural communities received functional literacy training** to boost their confidence and leadership skills. Many of these women have used knowledge gained from the literacy training to improve their entrepreneurship activities.

CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2012, we restructured our Capacity Building programme (CBP) to correspond with AWDF's Strategic Plan and Results Based Framework.

With results from internal and external reviews, the programme was revised to concentrate on the following objectives:

- Strengthen small to medium size grantee organisations through one-on-one technical assistance and in-country skills building forums
- Increase grantee engagement with policy and advocacy networks
- Bolster the institutional capacity of grantees to document, archive and manage organisational knowledge and resources.

Visit our database of experts featuring over 60 women with specialized knowledge in 10 key areas of development in Africa.

www.womenexperts.com

CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS

AWDF makes strategic catalytic grants - small sums of money in addition to capacity building seminars – as a part of the services provided to women's organisations.

The grants together with skills building and leadership development has strengthened the ability of grantees to strategically leverage their influence.

In 2012, grantee requests for capacity building support revolved around the need to restructure institutional governance and develop key policies and guidelines for their organisations.

Out of the twenty [20] women's organisations that received grants for capacity building in 2012, seven [7] were to develop reviews, strategic plans and organisational systems and structures. Three [3] grants were awarded for research and publication dissemination, six [6] went to salaries and operational costs while four [4] grants afforded trainings.

CAPACITY BUILDING



"After the death of my husband, I felt really lonely but ACVO brought us all together. Through the exchange programme and discussions we were having, I felt empowered and more confident to start an activity to earn a living. That is how I started going to the space provided by ACVO 'Widow's Home' to make soap for sale. I wish to thank AWDF for its support. Had it not been for this grant, I don't think I would be here today."

-Justine Tchao

Association Catholique de la Veuve et de l'Orphelin (ACVO)
Togo/Benin

CASE IN POINT

As a follow up to the resource mobilisation trainings in Kenya [2010] and Liberia [2012], 18 out of the 26 participants have submitted action plans illustrating how they will institutionalise learning to support the development of resource mobilisation strategies for their organizations.



CAPACITY BUILDING

THE OUTCOMES>>>

To respond to identified issues, three training workshops were designed and organised for grantees in Liberia, Kenya and South Africa.

These technical and skills building workshops focused on reporting and documentation (Liberia), a thematic workshop on Governance, Peace + Security (Kenya) and a specialised training workshop on rights and results based programming/impact reporting (South Africa).

- **A thematic workshop on Governance, Peace + Security in Nairobi** integrated skills and experiences of international partners to see how to combine forces and maximise impact on the ground. A policy brief and the *Feminist Perspective Series* were published as a part of this workshop ensuring that key information is disseminated to the greater public.
- The results based training in Johannesburg brought together **30 organisations and 32 participants from six [6] countries** from the Southern African region. The training provided technical skills to grantee organisations to align their work to results, track changes and report them in coherent and compelling ways to different stakeholders.
- **We partnered with the Resource Alliance** to organise the International Workshop on Resource Mobilization (IWRM) in Kampala, Uganda. As part of this convening, we sponsored representatives from 26 small to medium size grantee organisations to participate.

AWDF has mobilised even more resources to support grantees. By providing pro-bono, on-going technical assistance from private firms fulfilling their corporate social responsibility goals, we help develop the management systems and structures of our grantees.

Pilot projects have already begun in Liberia and Kenya.

CASE IN POINT

Up-to-date record keeping is one of the weaknesses in small to medium size organisations. Our skills building workshop on reporting and documentation, trained grantees on how to improve their programme reports and financial record keeping.

This workshop featured 39 participants from 19 grantee organisations representing 86% of our active grantees in Liberia.

MOVEMENT BUILDING



Technical assistance and orientation sessions on the Feminist Charter were given to organizations in two countries, Mali and Liberia.

Both countries will convene national feminist forums in 2013.

AWDF's key strategy for building the African women's movement is the convening of the African Feminist Forum (AFF).

The AFF is a regional initiative to build and support feminist movements on the continent. AFF provides a platform for activists to deliberate on key development concerns to the movement. AFF has convened a total of three [3] regional forums in 2006, 2008 and 2010. Follow up programmes for mobilisation and agenda setting are conducted at national levels.

Since 2006, AFF has conducted national follow up programmes in over eight countries.

In a relatively short span of time, AFF has added considerable value to the feminist movement in Africa by strengthening the visibility and effectiveness of collective action. The creation and adoption of the [Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists](#) has provided a framework for mobilising advocacy and policy influence. Since its establishment, AFF has been a catalyst for feminist engagement with intergovernmental processes on the continent.

Our approach is to ensure that AFF members are also strategically positioned in networks that trigger the development of policy and decision making at national, regional and international levels.

AFF has also been instrumental in shaping a more inclusive feminist movement by taking on board the interests of women from marginalised constituencies such as sexual minorities, women living with HIV/AIDS, young women and women with different abilities.

For example, over 50% of participants in the national feminist forums are below the age of 30.

In many instances, AFF has been the sole representative of African feminist voices, thus ensuring that global feminist links reflect African women's rights, perspectives and interests.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate **Leymah Gbowee** has been with AFF since the beginning. Leymah has continued to champion key concerns of AFF with sexual and reproductive health, young women's rights and gender based violence as part of her activities.



LEYMAH GBOWEE photographed with senior management staff at the AWDF House in Accra.

MOVEMENT BUILDING

In 2012, AFF demonstrated a three-prong approach to movement building by:

- Providing grants and technical assistance for national follow up activities esp. to those countries without a national feminist forum convened before.
- Exploring innovative and cost-effective ways to convene AFF platforms, as well as expand participation in these deliberations.
- Showcasing AFF achievements through international and regional outreach.

In 2012, AFF in partnership with the Association for Progressive Communications [APC] embarked on an inaugural webinar entitled, "Feminist Cyborgs: Activism, Fundraising and Security Online." Since much activism in Africa is engaged online, advocacy for women's rights can be extremely dangerous. Therefore, it is necessary to protect against threats to cyborg activism. Two sessions of the webinar were hosted in English and French.

AFF convened national feminist forums in three countries in 2012. AFF also convened its first sub-regional forum in Congo Brazzaville bringing together 39 participants from five Central African countries. These countries constitute some of the most marginalized populations in Africa with a weak infrastructure for civil society organizing at the national scale, particularly on women's rights issues.

The national forums have also shaped the local women's movements to be more accepting of diversity and in particular LGBTI and sex workers' rights.

In addition, the national forums have enabled the development of links and mobilisation of women beyond traditional NGO circles to include women in the private sector, media and communications, theologians, trade unions, and women in the arts.

These cross-connections are critical for the sustainability and comprehensive impact of the African Feminist Forum.

AWLN: The African Women Leaders Network for Reproductive Health and Family Planning



The African Women Leaders Network for Reproductive Health and Family Planning [AWLN] is a project that AWDF coordinates with International Planned Parenthood Federation, Africa Region [IPPFAR] as a part of the Advance Family Planning [AFP] project. AWLN features 35 women leaders from a variety of political, civil society and art backgrounds. AWLN is an advocacy initiative enlisting greater commitments from African governments to address the reproductive health and rights of African women. Part of AWLN's mission is to reduce high rates of maternal mortality through expansive access to public services and increasing national budgets for family planning.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: TO ENSURE AWDF IS A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE FEMINIST PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTION

AWDF nurtures partnerships and outreach programmes that leverage financial and technical resources for women's rights organising in Africa.

With a diverse and flexible leadership portfolio, we have influenced processes of decision making and heightened the promotion and implementation of gender equality policies.

We continue to support the greater inclusion of African women's perspectives, experiences and solutions in policy-making spaces.

Key Appointments:

Jane Kiragu – Civil Society Representative, Global Reference Group of the Family Planning 2020 [FP2020]

Nyaradzayi Gumbondsvanda - UNFPA Global Advisory Panel

Prudence Mabele – Civil Society Partner for AIDS 2014 + 2016, Advisor to the South African Government on HIV/AIDS

Sentor Faith ThandiShongwe – High Level Task-Force for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV for Eastern and Southern Africa [HLTF]



In April 2012, **AWDF CEO Theo Sowa** presented a TEDx Change talk, “We Need the Voices of African Women,” in Berlin to an audience of 900 people with a live stream to over 200 international sites. The talk has received wide acclaim worldwide and enthusiastic endorsements from Melinda Gates [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation] and Baaba Maal [Senegalese musician/social activist].

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: TO ENSURE AWDF IS A FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE FEMINIST PHILANTHROPIC INSTITUTION

Links with the Corporate Sector

NADEF - In 2012, AWDF and NADEF began implementation of a first phase agreement to provide capacity building assistance to corporate partners. AWDF conducted training for the NADEF Development Committee Members in the Ahafo Ano area in Ghana. Our role was to assess, identify and select projects for NADEF support, examining assessment procedures, criteria setting, selection processes as well as developing systems of accountability, transparency, equality and fairness. This was followed by a week long peer learning visit by NADEF staff to the AWDF Grants Department.



MDG3 Fund – In November 2012, AWDF participated in the conference to mark the end of the MDG3 Fund hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting presented research done by AWID and AWDF on the impact that grantees made in advancing the rights of women. The performance of the grantees exceeded the expectations of the Dutch sponsors of the MDG3 Fund. They are using the report as an advocacy promotion tool to encourage other donors to create dedicated budgets for women's rights.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: TO IMPLEMENT A MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

AWDF recognises the use of communications as an integral part of the efforts to challenge negative or stereotypical narratives and depictions that reinforce gender inequality in Africa.

Implementing a multi-purpose communications strategy involves raising the profile of the organisation regionally and internationally; making the purpose and work of AWDF known all over Africa and the world; and creating a communications package that responds to the interests of multiple actors including the media, policy makers, legislators, donors, AWDF grantees and partners.



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS for 2012

Press:

Applause Africa
AllAfrica.com
Huffington Post
The Guardian Newspaper

AWDF website [English]:

2011 – 61,460

2012 – 73,857 visitors

AWDF website [French]:

2011 – 73

2012 – 4,155 visitors

As part of our efforts to maximize popular culture to promote gender equality, AWDF commissioned Lady Jay, an emerging Ghanaian singer, to create a song entitled "African Woman." A remix of this song featured Ghanaian-Hungarian musician, Sena Dagadu. The BBC World Service played "African Woman" on International Woman's Day citing the work of AWDF.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4: TO STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING

AWDF employs a number of activities to strengthen its internal capacities and respond to the needs of our constituencies through on-going learning and documentation of lessons learnt and knowledge generated through internal and external reviews, research and publications.

In addition to strengthening its own learning, AWDF seeks to be part of a process that contributes to the generation of a body of knowledge that challenges dominant narratives, in development studies and practice, of African women as passive recipients of aid.

In this light, AWDF's Knowledge Management activities for 2012 centered on three goals:

- To showcase the contributions of African women to development
- To provide education and information on AWDF's areas of work
- To provide resource and reference materials for AWDF grantees and women's rights organisations



The AWDF Resource Centre serves as a repository for knowledge generation by African women in each of AWDF's thematic areas of programme focus. It houses over 3000 publications, journals, papers and materials and is used by students, researchers, members of the media and others. In 2012, AWDF was supported by the African Capacity Building Foundation to begin a process of digitalisation to increase online access to the comprehensive work of the organization.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4: TO STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING

Knowledge Management publications created in 2012:

Women Leading Africa: conversations with women in positions of leadership, highlighting successes and challenges

Gender mapping studies in 6 countries:

Ghana, Malawi, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Study highlights the current state of progress in achieving equality for women and girls in each country.

Monitoring and Evaluation site visits were undertaken to **a total of 108 grantees and applicant organizations in eight [8] countries:** Liberia, Zambia, Congo Brazzaville, Kenya, Togo, Benin, Cameroon and South Africa.



WOMEN LEADING AFRICA Publication Launch in Accra

STRATEGIC GOAL 5: TO PROMOTE AN AFRICAN AGENDA FOR PHILANTHROPY

Under this strategic goal, our work in 2012 centered on two key areas of focus:

- Showcasing philanthropic giving in Africa where the key strategy is to strengthen the **African Grantmakers Network (AGN)**, a collective of African grantmakers building visible philanthropic practice in Africa. AWDF is a co founder of AGN.
- Strengthening feminist philanthropy on the continent. It is imperative that as we build on the traditions of philanthropy on the continent, we ensure that we do so within the framework of equality and respect for women's rights. We must also recognise the contributions that African women make to strengthen the practice on the continent.

AGN convened its 2012 biennial assembly in Johannesburg, South Africa, between 30th October and 1st November, 2012 to discuss '**Growing African Philanthropy: What's New, What's Now, What's Next?**'. The convening brought together over 350 delegates from a broad variety of constituencies including policy makers, legislators, intergovernmental organisations, high net worth individuals, civil society actors, academia, media and the arts and sports figures. Through the live streaming and social media outreach, the convening was able to attract an additional 300 participants.



Also launched at the assembly was the inaugural ceremony of **The African Philanthropy Award**. The award has been established to recognise thriving African philanthropic initiatives. Through initiatives like these, the profile and visibility of philanthropic practice in Africa will be enhanced to contribute to the body of knowledge about philanthropy in general.

Moving forward, AWDF was elected to the chair of AGN at the annual General Meeting and will also host the 3rd Assembly in November 2014.

STRATEGIC GOAL 5: TO PROMOTE AN AFRICAN AGENDA FOR PHILANTHROPY

AWDF Co-Founders – Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Dr. Hilda Tadia and Joana Foster – were awarded **the International Planned Parenthood Federation [IPPF] African Region Philanthropy Award**. This award recognizes the work of individuals and institutions that actively impact community and women's rights development on the continent through philanthropic engagements.



BISI ADELEYE-FAYEMI



DR. HILDA TADRIA

AWDF's presence within the [International Networks of Women's Funds](#) (INWF) and the [Women's Funding Network](#) (WFN) strengthens alliances for global feminist philanthropy. AWDF is the only African women's fund present in such spaces, and therefore, brings on board these perspectives and keen insight on developing trends in Africa. Additionally, the networks offer learning and sharing opportunities and members share information on fundraising, grantmaking, capacity building, in addition to emerging women's rights issues on the continent and elsewhere.

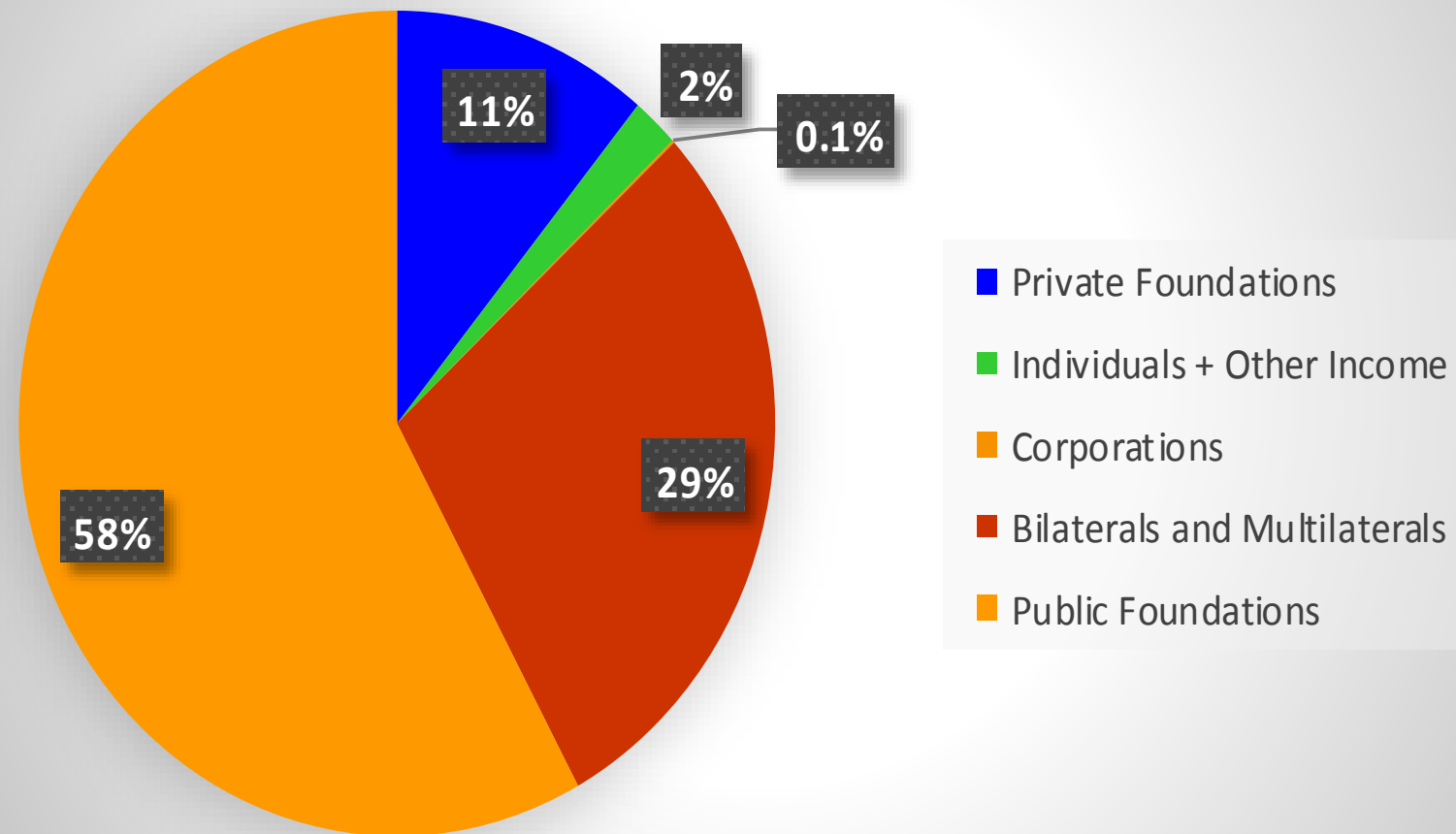


JOANA FOSTER

2012 FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL GRANT MAKING IN 2012

2012 TOTAL ASSETS



USD2,196,500

Total grants disbursed

185

Women's right organisations

32

Countries

300,000

Women directly impacted in 345 communities

2,000,000

Residents indirectly impacted

60%

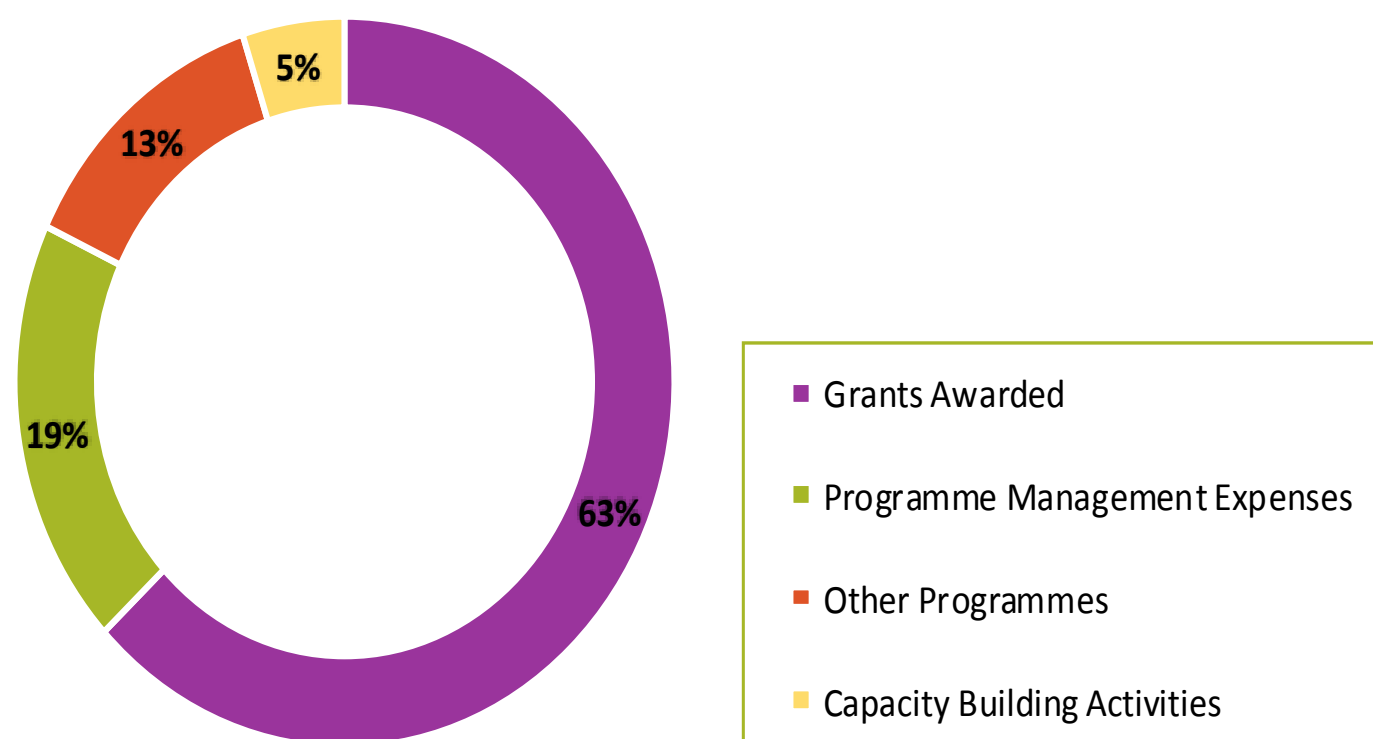
Grantees operating on US\$100,000 annually

2012 FINANCIAL DATA

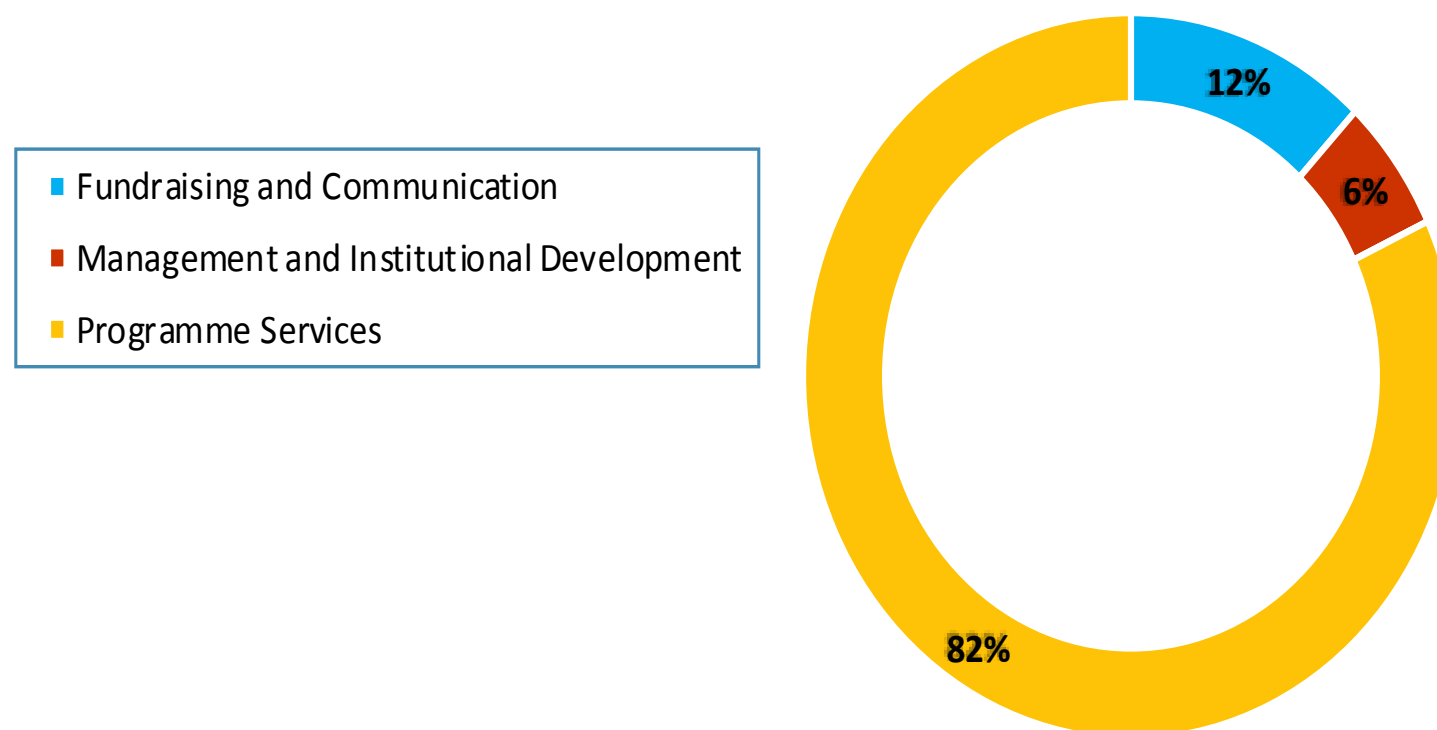
Programme Services OPERATING EXPENSES [USD]	
Grants Awarded	2,176,500
Capacity Building Activities	158,427
Other Programmes	450,073
Programme Management Expenses	660,456
Subtotal for Programme Services	3,445,456

Non-Programme Activities OPERATING EXPENSES [USD]	
Fundraising and Communication	495,224
Management and Institutional Development	243,947
Subtotal for Non-Programme Expenses	739,171
TOTAL EXPENSES for 2012	4,184,627

Programme Services for 2012



Non-Programme Activities for 2012



MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

DONORS

Africa Capacity Building Foundation
Anonymous Institutional Donor
Comic Relief
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
**Department for International
Development**
Dutch MDG 3
Global Fund for Women
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New Field Foundation
**Norwegian Agency for Development
Cooperation**
Stephen Lewis Foundation
UN Women
Urgent Action Fund Africa
Women's Foundation of Minnesota

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