



# DEEPENING ROOTS

Annual Report 2018

African Women's Development Fund









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# CEO message

Growth can be a strange phenomenon. All too often, people see the end result and express surprise at a sudden expansion. 2018 was a year of growth at AWDF, but that growth was a reflection of years of experimentation and learning in our approaches to fundraising and partnership; a flourishing of our continuous thinking and linking with feminist, African and global philanthropy; and a deepening of our ongoing strengthening of professional and feminist processes within our organisation. In 2018 we gave over USD 6 million in grants to innovative grassroots, national and regional women's rights organisations. AWDF continues to make important strides in the philanthropy sector, focusing on sharing our learning about effective resourcing of African women's rights. We continue to work in innovative partnerships, including Leading from the South and AmplifyChange, and we continue to learn from both our challenges and our achievements.

At the heart of AWDF's work is our celebration, support and faith in African women's capacity to chart our own paths. This year we demonstrated this commitment by creating even more opportunities for African women to tell their own stories and build their individual and organisational leadership capacities. We believe that African women hold the keys for transformative growth on this continent and our work stands as a testament to African women's collective power. It stands also as testament to the commitment and passion of AWDF team members, without whom none of our work would be possible – so massive thanks to the whole team.

This year's annual report demonstrates the importance of strong leadership (feminist leadership that thrives in each individual - not as a result of positional power), effective internal systems and our persistent effort to change the narratives about African women. As we move into 2019 and beyond, we carry with us the key lessons from our reflection, growth and learning. We hope that you will continue with us on this journey.

**Theo Sowa, CEO**





## **We are THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT FUND...**

...a Pan-African grant making organisation that supports the realisation and fulfilment of African women's rights through funding of autonomous women's organisations on the continent. Since its inception in the year 2000, AWDF has awarded grants of USD 41.7 million to over 1,300 women's organisations in 46 countries in Africa and the Middle East.

## **We have a vision...**

...to have a world where all African women live in peace, with dignity and justice and where there is equality and respect for women's rights.

## **We are on a mission...**

...to mobilise financial, human and material resources to support initiatives for transformation led by African women, women's rights organisations and African women's movements.

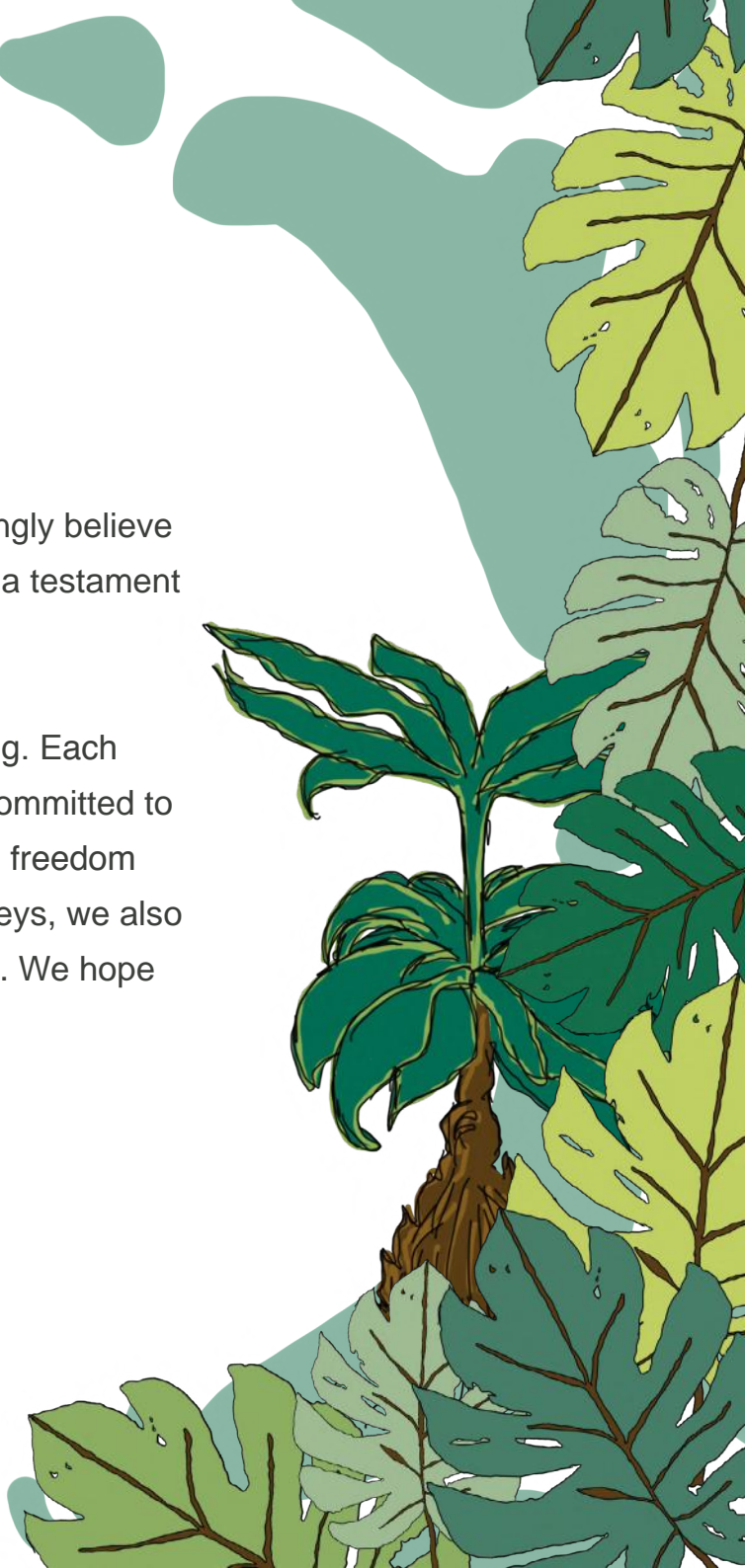




# Introduction

*Deepening Roots* is a report on our achievements, learnings and growth in 2018. We strongly believe in the power and potential of African women to shape our own destinies and this report is a testament to all the growth work that continues to guide our cause.

The report has been structured across three major themes: growth, reflection, and learning. Each theme captures the ways that AWDF implemented our strategic vision in 2018. We stay committed to supporting a range of African women's organisations to live out their visions of justice and freedom for all African women. As we continue to reach upwards and outward in our feminist journeys, we also remember to dig deeper and more intentionally into the values that root us to do this work. We hope you enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed growing, reflecting and learning in 2018.





## Expanding our Grant Support

In 2018, AWDF expanded our grant making to provide greater reach and flexibility in our programming. We made grants totalling **USD 6.4 million** to support critical women's rights organising across the African continent and in six countries in the Middle East.



### *Here's a breakdown of our support:*

#### **Grant making and Technical Support**

- Awarded grants to 75 organisations in 22 countries for a total of USD 6.4 million
- Provided technical assistance to grantees across Africa and the Middle East

#### **AmplifyChange Partnership**

- Supported 71 organisations advancing advocacy on sexual and reproductive health and rights, representing a grants total of USD 5.4 million

#### **Leading from the South**

- In 2018, we closed our first round of LFS grant support, and opened Round Two with a total support of **USD 5.6 million**.
- In Round Three, set to launch in 2019, we have expanded our outreach to North Africa and the Middle East.
- **Results Based Programming** Trainings were held for two cohorts of Leading from the South grantees, assisting over 50 grantees from both Anglophone and Francophone Africa.



# Resourcing and Growing Movements: Grantee Spotlight

We are proud of the transformational work that our grantees continue to achieve.

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## **ONG ALAFIA (Togo) Sets Precedent on Widowhood Rites**

ONG ALAFIA has assisted widows in the Guerin Kouka village (Dankpen district) to mobilise to meet the traditional chief for the first time to discuss the issue of widowhood rites and its effects on their lives. This is a monumental moment for the women of Guerin Kouka, demonstrating courage, agency and transformation.

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## **INTEGRATED DISABLED WOMEN ACTIVITIES (IDIWA): Fighting for dignified work in Uganda**

The Mayuge District (Uganda) council is in the third stage of drafting an ordinance promoting employment of People with Disabilities. Ninety women and girls living with disabilities have been trained to actively engage the process.

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## **RIPPLES INTERNATIONAL: Enhancing Access for Justice for Women in Meru County (Kenya)**

In Kenya, one out of every three women has faced some form of violence. The most common forms of violence include partner violence, sexual violence and emotional/psychological violence. AWDF supported Ripples International to help women in Meru who have suffered violence access justice. Since the beginning of this project Ripples International offices has received over 65 cases of violence incidences ranging from economic, physical, and psychological violence. Ripples International has successfully facilitated women to file 20 court cases concerning economic violence. Sixteen of the cases are for non-maintenance of children, two for custody of children and two for succession. Ripples International provided pro bono lawyers for the women, ensuring that they have appropriate legal counsel.



**COMMUNITY SERVE  
TANZANIA: Amplifying  
the Voices of Women  
Street Vendors in  
Tanzania**

Community Serve Tanzania (CST) was supported by AWDF to work with women street vendors, market leadership and local councils to create a conducive business environment for street hawkers. The project seeks to enhance the capacity of women street vendors to engage key actors for better services, including local government, law enforcement, decision makers, elected women leaders and financial institutions. CST worked with 800 women and girls street vendors in Ubungo District of Tanzania. The women now better understand and act on local government by-laws regulating street vending business and are also better able to access community-based financial services. Some of the women are now effectively participating in the leadership structures within the markets and therefore have a better platform to challenge the violence perpetuated against women and girl-child street hawkers. The key aim of these women is to have the local council by-laws revised and implemented to enhance the business activities of women street vendors and protect them from the violence they experience within their work spaces.

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**Christian Partners  
Development Agency  
(CPDA): advocating for  
women's leadership in  
Kenya's tea industry**

Christian Partners Development Agency (CPDA) developed an initiative to empower women smallholder tea producers in Kenya to participate in decision-making and to provide basic needs for their families.

Prior to this project, election to leadership positions within the tea structures was dependent on how many kilograms of tea a farmer was able to produce which was also dependent on the acreage of farm land. Women are however known to cultivate small acreages because they do not own land. Additionally, to occupy leadership position, a farmer has to be a registered member of the Tea Association but most women work in the name of their husbands so they are not registered. These challenges served as a hindrance to women's effective participation in leadership. Through AWDF support, CPDA was able to advocate for the abolishment of these conditions within the tea industry, pushing women to take up leadership in their communities.





**ANTI-RACISM  
MOVEMENT: Allies in  
The Fight For Domestic  
Workers' Labour Rights  
(Lebanon)**

The Kafala system of sponsorship is an archaic practice that is prevalent across the Middle East and parts of North Africa. It was initially put in place to offer protection from a local employer for domestic workers from other villages. Currently, with the advent of migrant workers from Asia and Africa, Kafala has devolved into an abusive system full of violence and sometimes fatal results. In Lebanon, women migrant domestic workers (WMDWs) from Sri Lanka, Nepal, the Philippines Ethiopia, among other countries, live in difficult conditions. Even those lucky enough to have kind employers have no protections under labour law and automatically lose their resident status once they lose their jobs.

The Anti-Racism Movement is a pioneer in the fight to abolish the Kafala system. In addition to their three centres across the country where women migrant domestic workers (WMDW) can meet in a safe space, ARM is training WMDW on Lebanese labour law and self-advocacy.

On 17 June 2018, ARM organised a Domestic Workers' Parade to commemorate International Domestic Workers' Day as a fitting start to its advocacy project: "Building and Sustaining Strong Migrant Domestic Worker Communities in Lebanon."



# Strengthening Grantee Capacity

AWDF is committed to strengthening our grantees' capacity through year-round diverse training and capacity building programmes. In 2018, we continued this commitment through:

## Trainings

- A 3-day pilot **communications training** organised in Accra, Ghana to support our grantees in building their strategic communications
- A **Financial Management training** held concurrently in English and French for over 40 participants to support with strengthening the financial accountability and education of AWDF grantees. We also circulated our [Financial Training Manual](#) to support grantees to strengthen their own organisation's financial literacy.
- A **Results-Based Programming Training** held in Nairobi, Kenya for LFS Round One & Round Two grantees, assisting over 50 grantees from both Anglophone and Francophone Africa.
- An **Effective Advocacy Training** piloted in November to support AWDF grantees in strengthening their advocacy strategies.
- The **Leadership and Governance Capacity Building programme** to **provide** ongoing support for 20 leaders from ten grantee organisations and nine organisational boards. Ten organisations have received governance grants to undertake various projects to effectively resolve governance challenges identified in their organisation under the leadership and governance coaching project.

- The Leadership and Governance capacity building programme culminated in a [Grand Finale CEO](#) Forum held in Accra, Ghana. We welcomed 38 grantees, programme coaches and staff members to the event. The video AWDF CEO Forum: Building Agents of Change profiling the programme is available [online](#).

## Training manuals to support our grantees:

- We published **Flipping the Script! A Communications Training Curriculum for Women's Rights Organisations**, written by feminist journalist and communications trainer Maimouna Jallow and piloted with grantees in the Leading from the South initiative.
- We are developing a training platform on **Effective Advocacy**- because the revolution will be strategised!

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## AWDF's Knowledge Hub: growing from and through feminist intellectual work

AWDF continues to highlight the intellectual contributions of African feminists through our Feminist Knowledge Hub. Launched in 2009, our Resource Centre at AWDF House in Accra is home to hundreds of materials on African feminist thought and is accompanied by our [Resource Centre Catalogue](#) and online repository -[AfriREP](#). In 2018, the Centre continued its operations, hosting various events including six meetings for the Young Feminist Collective and a Wikipedia edit-a-thon in collaboration with Open Foundation West Africa.



# What is the Future of Feminist Africa?

In July 2018, AWDF hosted the *Future of Feminist Africa*, a strategic planning meeting for the international online feminist journal, *Feminist Africa*, to support with their in-depth restructuring process. The meeting was a prime opportunity for Africa's leading feminist intellectual journal to strategise a future-focused leadership model, as well as providing a critical lens on the future of feminist knowledge production in Africa. As a feminist grant maker, AWDF is committed to strengthening the internal processes and practices of feminist intellectual institutions across the continent. We are looking forward to the next phase of the *Feminist Africa* journey.

# Amplifying Movements, One Post at a Time: AWDF on the Web

Our sustained growth within our social media and continued engagement with grantees to tell their stories has meant that we have seen an increase in followers and engagement across our social media. Our continued publication of various external communications products has amplified our work, and placed it in the pathways of various constituents.



Over 40 blog posts spotlighting feminist activism and philanthropy throughout the continent



29% more followers on Twitter



Over 11,000 followers on Facebook



39% more users on our website



312% more viewers on our YouTube channel

*We have new swag!: LFS Bags, AWDF Bags, Purses, LFS Notebooks, LFS Brochures (English & French)*



# Moving to create & flourish!

In 2018, AWDF launched two new programmes:

- The Create Initiative - an initiative to explore the use of feminist arts practice in West Africa to support women's rights and social justice.
- The Flourish Initiative - resourcing inter-generational movement building through the African Feminist Forum and its national forums, documenting African feminist legacies and supporting an older generation of feminist leadership in transition. Through Flourish we are also piloting a model of an African feminist wellbeing retreat. Flourish is part of Novo Foundation's Radical Hope initiative. Check out our article on the Flourish Initiative: [\*"How a Pilot Healing Retreat for African Feminist Activists Can Advance Movement Building"\*](#).

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## Spreading our Branches: Building Global Partnerships and Solidarities

Through our outreach and partnership work, we continue to spread our branches by:

- Sustaining AWDF as a financially secure, effective and well governed feminist philanthropic organisation by increasing the organisation's credibility in the sight of donors, maintaining their interest in our work and exposing grantees' work and impact to donors.
- Amplifying AWDF's work and African women's voices in relevant spaces critical to influencing policy positively.
- AWDF's elevated and respected position within the networks of Human Rights Funders, African Philanthropy Network, SDG Philanthropy Platforms has contributed to gradually ground women's rights and positions in these spaces, with a constant demand for AWDF's voice in these spaces.

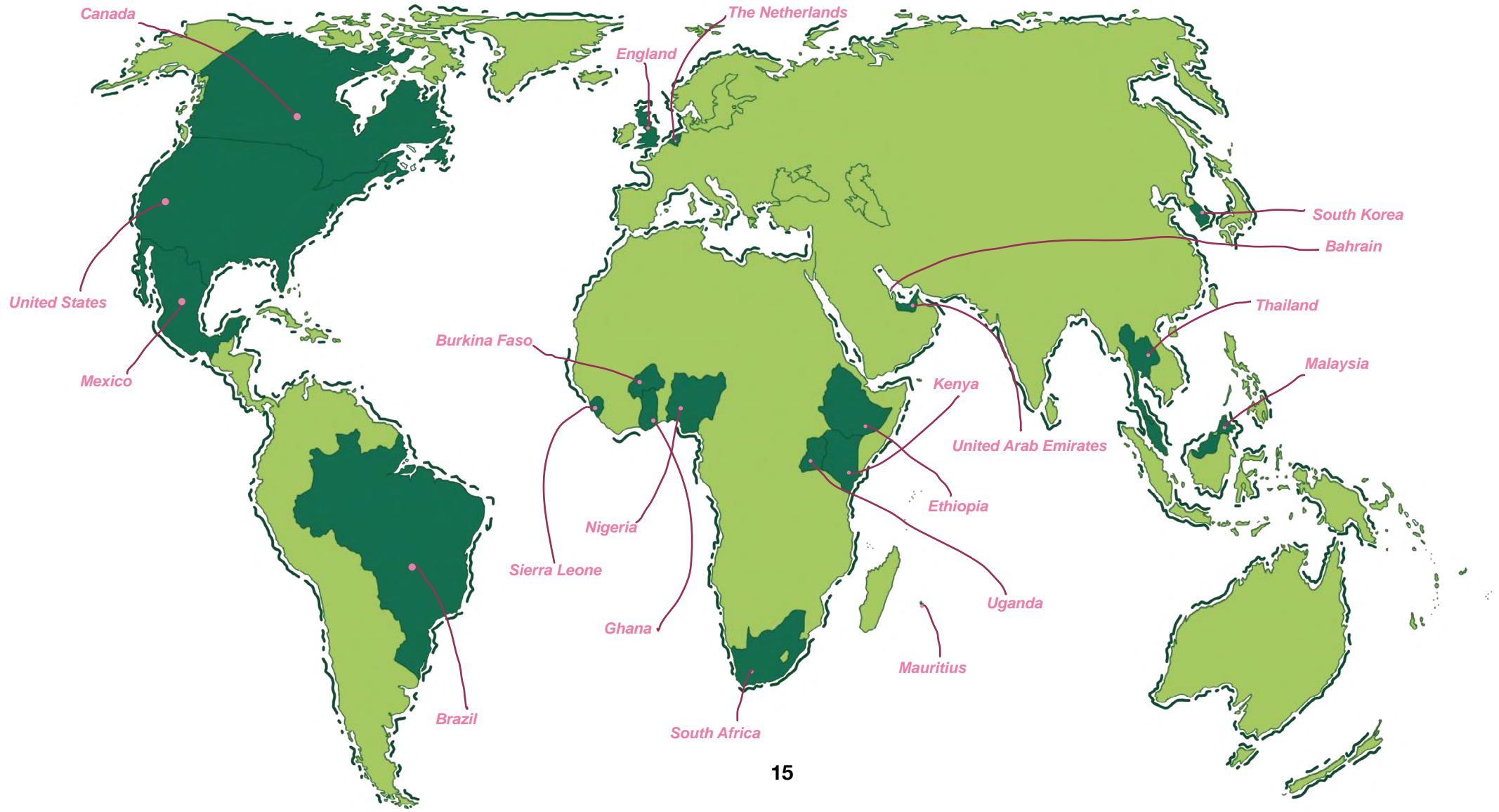




# AWDF in the World

In 2018, the AWDF staff team strengthened our global solidarities through various spaces of engagement, public speaking and collaboration. We are committed to transnational feminist movement building, while advancing the rights of African women here at home.

## Take a look at some of the global organising spaces we engaged in 2018



# AFRICA

Official opening of The 50/50 Group Sierra Leone Leadership Training Institute (**Sierra Leone**)

Women's rights online issues organised by Media Foundation for West Africa (**Ghana**)

MEMPROW's 10th anniversary celebration (**Uganda**)

Meeting with the President of the Republic of Ghana organised by NETRIGHT, Coalition of Women's Manifesto of Ghana and Domestic Violence coalition (**Ghana**)

She Decides Conference (**South Africa**)

Report Launch: "Enabling Environment for Philanthropy in Ghana report", commissioned by the SDG Philanthropy Platform, UNDP (**Ghana**)

Money and Movements Convening: AWID (**Kenya**)

FAO – Ghana launch of an online platform promoting Women and Youth in Responsible Agricultural Investment (**Ghana**)

Tana High Level Forum on

Security in Africa (**Ethiopia**)

Sheroes Foundation Meeting (**Ghana**)

Adaptation Futures 2018: ACDI, University of Cape Town (**South Africa**)

The Continental Civil Society and Media Experts Consultations: African Union (**Burkina Faso**)

Education Workforce Initiative meeting with Ghana's Minister for Education: Education Commission (**Ghana**)

Midwifing the African Women's Human Rights Defenders' Platform – The Feminist Republik: Urgent Action Fund Africa (**Nigeria**)

Decolonising the Internet Pre Conference, Wikimania 2018 (**South Africa**)

Whose Knowledge? and WIKIMEDIA Foundation (**South Africa**)

Consultation Forum with Civil Society Organisations, Coalitions and Networks for the Passage of the Affirmative

Action Law in Ghana: ABANTU for Development (**Ghana**)

African Philanthropy Network Conference (**Mauritius**)

Prospera Digital Security workshop for Women's funds (**Mauritius**)

# ASIA

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women Donor-Advocate meeting (**Thailand**)

Green Climate Fund Board meeting (**South Korea**)

Women Funds Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Community of Practice (CoP) meeting: Prospera (**Malaysia**)

# EUROPE

Dialogue and Dissent meeting organised by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (**The Netherlands**)

The Bond Annual Conference and Awards (**England**)

Commonwealth Parliamentarians Forum (**England**)

1st Gaia Feed the World Photography Exhibition Launch (**England**)

# NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

Spotlight– Advocacy Group meeting: Count Me In! Consortium (CMI!) (**United States**)

New York Women's Foundation Meeting (**New York, United States**)

CSW parallel event - The Power of Data: How Gender Focused Research Institutes Can Support Rural Girls and Women in Africa (**New York, United States**)

AWDF USA Event Afri-Women Hangout – Conversation: merging seasoned experience and wisdom with new energy (**New York, United States**)

CSW Africa Region meeting organised by FEMNET (**New York, United States**)

Women 7 meeting (**Canada**)

Meeting with the Canadian Minister for International Development and launch of the Women's Voice and Leadership Initiative in Sierra Leone: Global Affairs Canada (**Canada**)

CCIC conference organised by CCIC (**Canada**)

International Meeting of Women Foreign Ministers: Government of Canada

Prospera Women's Funds Meeting (**Mexico**)

Human Rights Funders Network conference (**Mexico**)

Philanthropy Advancing Women's Human Rights (**Mexico**)

Women Of The World Festival (**Brazil**)

# MIDDLE EAST

Education Workforce Initiative meeting: Education Commission (**United Arab Emirates**)

Green Climate Fund board meeting (**Bahrain**)



## Deepening our Roots, Owning our Knowledge

2018 was a year of deep learning and reflection at AWDF. As a learning organisation, AWDF is committed to continuous self-reflection, analysis and re-strategising our processes in order to support African women's movements more effectively. AWDF was able to conduct three internal audits/reviews, which aimed at strengthening our capacity and further grounding our work in feminist commitments. This work is supported by Ford Foundation's BUILD Initiative.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework Review

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Review is an ongoing internal process to assess, evaluate and fine-tune how we reflect on our outcomes as a feminist philanthropic institution. The MEL review set the stage for more effective reporting and tracking of our outcomes, which allows us to better understand our support for the African feminist movement. The process strengthened AWDF's staff ability to provide accurate and evidence-based information when reporting on outcomes. In fact, all staff built capacity on outcome harvesting as it was not just about capturing and analysing data but also interpreting and making meaning out of it. It was also about the ability to link each work stream contribution to the overall organisational result framework to enhance a systematic way of ensuring the implementation of AWDF's strategic plan.



## Communications Audit

At AWDF, we understand that communication is an essential aspect of feminist movement building processes. Clear articulations of our dreams and goals as feminists, as well as the power to effectively influence decision makers requires a carefully crafted and well-rounded approach to communication. In 2018, AWDF reflected on our internal and external communications strategy to better resource and amplify African women's rights movements. We continuously work to enhance our communication strategy because we understand the power of representation. This is a real period of growth for the Communications team as we explore new methodologies and approaches to our work and continue to present AWDF to the world in exciting and impactful ways. Stay tuned for more changes in the future!

## Strategic Human Resources Audit

As a feminist organisation, AWDF believes that we are only as strong as our policies, procedures and organisational culture allow for our employees to thrive. We are dedicated to creating an organisation with a soul. This requires a strategically feminist approach to managing and supporting our human resources department and asking ourselves the difficult questions about feminist leadership, well-being & self-care, accountability and professional development. In 2018, we undertook a deep self-reflexive process of examining our human resources department to provide a stronger, more relevant organisational framework for our staff and our work.



# What are we learning?

AWDF, we believe that an organisation can be made more effective by allowing itself to learn from its successes and failures. As feminists, we understand that learning and unlearning are lifelong processes that help our movements become stronger. Our learning happens in various ways across different initiatives and moments in our organisational life. We are committed to learning how to work with our grantee partners in ways that are more fruitful, expansive and transformative. From the big change stories and site visits to the small acts of resistance of grantees that compel us to think and act differently, AWDF is always on a journey to gain from our experiential learning.

## How to Resource a Movement

**Engaging Grantees, Growing Transformative Limbs:** At AWDF, we value the importance of face-to-face engagement with our grantee partners. As we increase our reach across the continent, we aim to sustain our connection to the movement, providing regular support and taking the opportunity to learn about our grantee interventions. We learn best when we can engage with our grantees about how to better resource their work. In 2018, AWDF embarked on site visits to 4 countries, and engaged with a total of 25 organisations. We also conducted due diligence visits in several countries, including Liberia, Kenya, Jordan, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Togo.

## Here are some highlights of our major learnings in 2018:



- Expand our outreach strategy.
- Better technical support to geographic areas that have been less featured in our work, in particular North Africa and the Middle East, and to increase the quality of applications.
- Webinars and other virtual technologies to explain themes and strategies.



Given the levels of conflict and insecurity in many African countries, we need to enable greater support for women's rights organisations doing advocacy work around leadership, governance, peace and security issues.



Thorough due diligence processes for ensuring good accountability and value for money.



Face-to-face meeting with applicants during the due diligence process.



Enhancing the capacity of small sized organisations.

# Listening to our Grantees

African women know what they need. As AWDF, we are committed to being deep listeners. One way we do this is through providing core capacity building workshops for our grantees to strengthen their growth priorities and standards of professionalism and accountability, as well as by providing space and opportunity through our Grantee Satisfaction and Recognition surveys for our partners to vocalise their needs. In 2018, our capacity building support helped grantees cultivate stronger feminist leadership skills through our Leadership and Governance Coaching Programme and Resource Mobilisation Training and Financial Management Training programmes.

Based on grantees' feedback, we learned that AWDF capacity building work has helped create awareness, visibility and stronger grantee organising strategies. Here's what we are learning from our grantees about the impact of our support:

## Awareness

Neliswa Tshazi of Rape Crisis, Cape Town Trust says "I am new in a leadership role and I feel I'm being eased into the role instead of being pressured into it. I am learning about the power I have and how to exert it on colleagues below or above me in terms of work status; and this has been through our AWDF coaching. [I] am on a great and steady path to gaining confidence in my own feminist stance and leadership".

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Caroline Tabsoba of Association Songui Manegre/ Aide au Developpement Endogene (ASMADE) had abandoned a thesis she was working on and was about to give up the dream of having a Master's degree, even though she was almost done. The coaching gave her the encouragement and courage to get back in the process. She has currently re-registered at the university and has drawn a personal plan to help her finish. She is linking her research to the work of her organisation as she feels this would benefit her both ways. In her own words: "I am now investing my free time for my own personal development...and to finish my degree".

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Moureen Wagubi of the Institute of Social Transformation in Uganda who is in charge of their Market Women's Project also describes her experience: 'I am embracing public speaking to improve my work and balance my throat chakras. I am now giving opening remarks for a Friedrich Eberts Stiftung-funded project and activities because I am coordinating their activities'.





## Organising

Through the leadership and governance coaching project, Young Women's Campaign Against AIDS in Kenya have reviewed their Resource Mobilisation Strategy (RMS) as well as their financial and Procurement Policies. The reviewed RMS document led to the submission of a concept note to UKAID Department for International Development (DFID) and they have passed the first stage for identification of potential Sub-recipients. Their new RMS has enabled them to mobilise 30% of the total funding they needed for the year. They have also been able to directly raise funds to the tune of Ksh 200,000 from the sale of 'The Grandmothers' handmade products, pottery, sale of grains and other farm products.

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The Rural Women's Movement, a women's rights organisation based in South Africa reported that through the training support, the organisation has grown and gained confidence in the ability of its members, evidenced through the organisation of an annual planning gathering without the support of an external consultant. The capacity building programme has also created a valuable space for them to learn from other people's experiences.

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The Institute of Social Transformation (IST) in Uganda have under the governance and leadership project developed sexual harassment and procurement policies as well as a board manual to guide the operations of their board. They are also in the process of reviewing their strategic plan for the next five years, and this is expected to be completed at the end of November. The Institute has also increased their board membership from four members to seven in accordance with their constitution.

## Visibility

The Head of Communications for regional advocacy organisation FEMNET, in a report on the impact of the communications training had this to say: "It is worthy to expound on the Twitter Campaign that I personally instigated online on the last day of our training. On the very last day after the AWDF meeting, we received a video clip from the Ghana team of a woman being viciously attacked at a bank in Accra. It was a brutish and disturbing video. I personally went to the room and ignited a twitter campaign: #Justice4BankMum. I filed it out regionally and widely and even tagged the president of Ghana & other officials. Yes, the Bank Mum did get compensation, the brutish guard was reprimanded and the bank publically apologised".

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Cwengi Myeni from Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust, was named as one of [BBC 100 Women](#) in September 2017 for her influential and inspirational work. In March 2018, Myeni was again featured on [SA Heroes](#), an initiative created by eMedia Holdings to profile individuals who go the extra mile to contribute to their communities in South Africa.

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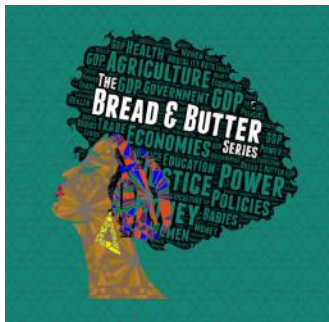
On 1 March 2018, Uganda's New Vision newspaper featured Grace Loumo, Executive Director of grantee organisation, **AWARE-Uganda** as part of their International Women's Day commemoration. The feature highlighted the tremendous work of successful women who had supported other disadvantaged women in the country.

## African Women: Economic Futures Convening

Since the launch of our Futures strategy in 2017, AWDF has been committed to asking ourselves critical questions about our collective feminist futuristic praxis. In 2018, we convened key experts and activists to gain better grounding and insight into African women's strategies for economic justice and security in the future. The African Women: Economic Futures convening was held from 13-15 September 2018 with three core goals:

- Strengthening our internal grant making strategies through learning about new and innovative approaches to economic justice and security
- Amplifying African feminist voices and knowledge on future economies
- Influencing more relevant and effective giving/investment in African women's economic futures

As follow-up to the convening, AWDF launched a knowledge series entitled Bread & Butter: African Feminist Reflections on Future Economies. The series aims to amplify the voices of African women's rights activists working on macroeconomic approaches to justice. Take a look at the knowledge products that we've published on our [website](#).



Bread & Butter cover page



Statement on African Women's Economic Justice

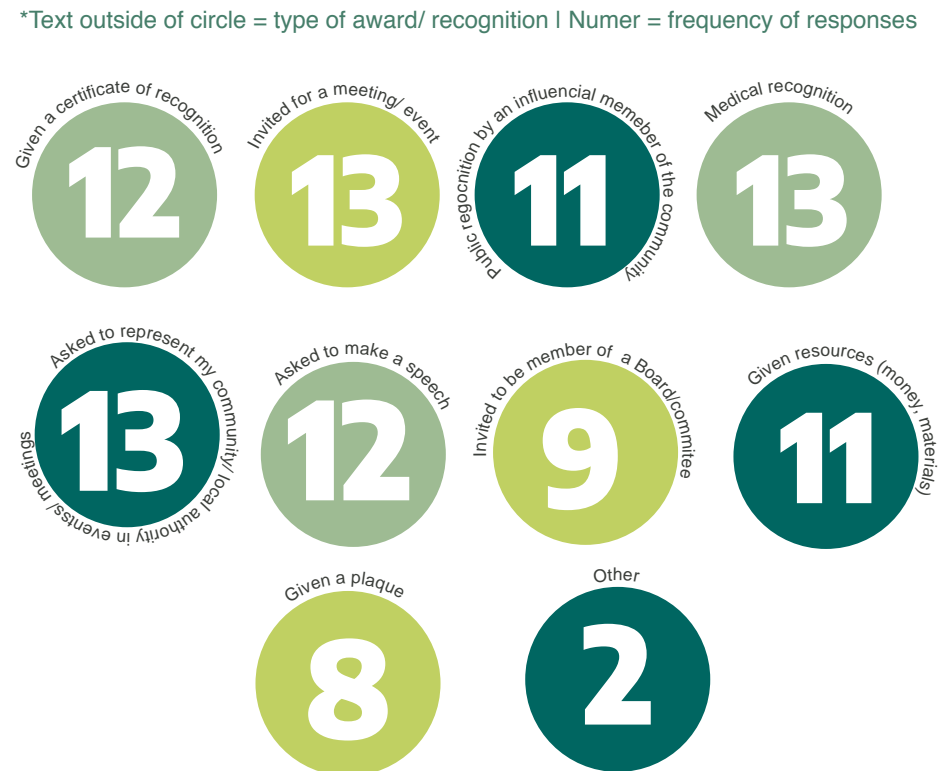


Convening report

## The Shape of our Impact: Satisfaction and Recognition Surveys

In the spirit of feminist accountability, each year, AWDF provides grantees an opportunity to evaluate how our support has helped them gain recognition or contributed to the overall effectiveness of their work. The information provided to AWDF allows us to learn the ways we can better support grantees in the future. For the 2018 Awards/Recognition survey, questionnaires were sent to 42 organisations who received funding above USD 5,000 in 2017. The table below shows the results from the 21 organisations that responded:

The infographic below shows the results from the 21 organisations that responded:



To learn more about the results of the 2018 Grantee Recognition Survey, see the final report [here](#).



# Movement-Building

## IWD: Celebrating generational feminist movement-building

For AWDF's 2018 International Women's Day celebration, we partnered with young feminist collective [PepperDem Ministries](#) to host Intergenerational Conversations on the Evolution of the Feminist Movement in Ghana –a panel discussion about the history, current and future trends of Ghanaian feminism. The day was filled with testimonies from older generation feminists about their history of movement-building, and a renewed commitment to support future generations with feminist activism. A riveting and informative keynote address was provided by Dr. Akosua Adomako-Ampofo detailing the early days of women's activism in Ghana through to the 21st century. This keynote was followed by three panels, aptly titled the Pacesetters, the Bridge, and the Catalyst, which highlighted three generations of feminist activism across Ghana.



The Bridge Panel -discussing how to bring together older and younger generation feminists

# World AIDS Day

Every year on 1 December, we commemorate World AIDS Day, as an act of solidarity with women living with HIV and AIDS, and an opportunity to remind duty bearers and society at large to keep the focus and momentum on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. AWDF instituted the World AIDS Day (WAD) grants programme to support women's rights organisations to actively participate in the global campaign and keep African women's priorities around HIV and AIDS on the African and global agenda. The programme seeks to support women's organisations to raise their voices and support the leadership of women living with HIV and AIDS.

In 2018, AWDF granted USD 20,000 to five organisations to host World AIDS Day events in Rwanda, Malawi, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. AWDF is proud to support the ongoing movement to support women living with HIV/AIDS.

## 16 Days of Activism:

**#Thenightbelongstous**

**In collaboration with Drama Queens**

To commemorate 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, AWDF partnered with our grantee, the Ghanaian feminist theatre collective Drama Queens, to stage *For Colored Girls*, a choreopoem by the late playwright Ntozake Shange. The play captures the experiences of seven women navigating their lives through patriarchal violence. Staged at AWDF House, the play was followed by a provocative discussion about the state of violence against women in Ghana.

# 2018 Financial Report

## Institutional Funding

The total funding inflows in 2018 from fifteen private, public and bilateral donors was USD 11.8 million. The highest inflow of USD 8.9 million (2018/19) was from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Leading from the South project. Comic Relief, Hewlett Foundation and Ford Foundation donated USD 646,165, USD 500,000 and USD 600,000 respectively to AWDF for the financial year 2018.

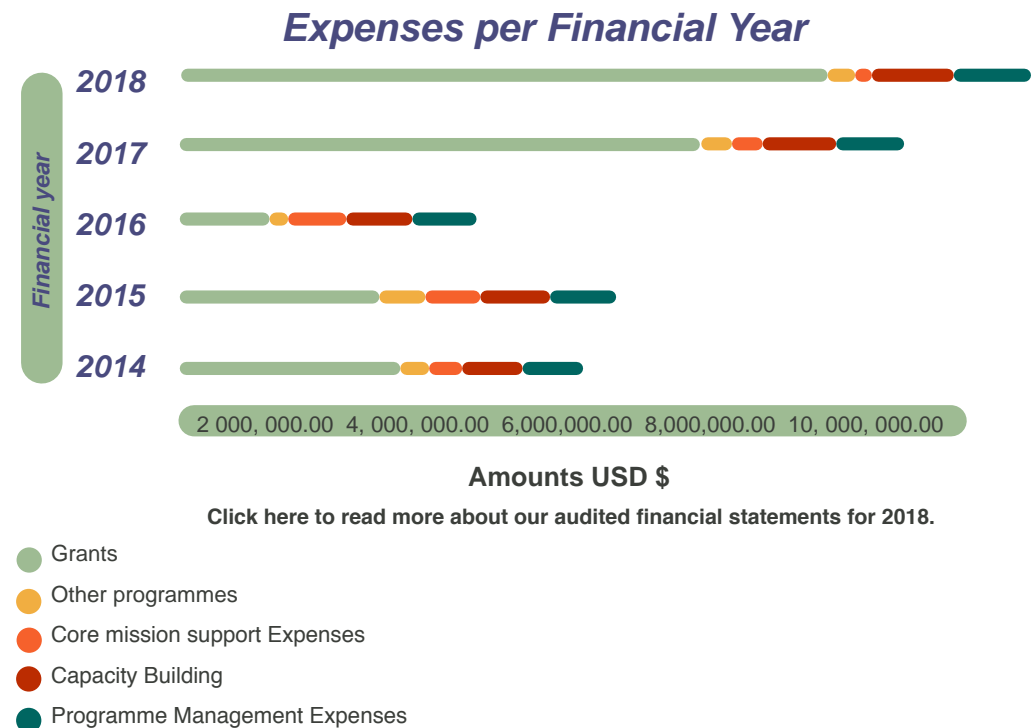
## Institutional Donors in 2018

- Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Stephen Lewis Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Anonymous Institutional Donor
- Foundation for a Just Society
- NoVo Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation
- Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)
- Hewlett Foundation
- Comic Relief
- Women's Foundation of Minnesota
- Safe Abortion Action Fund (AWDF acted as a Fiscal Sponsor)
- MamaCash Foundation
- Both Ends
- Prospera International Network of Women's Funds
- Global Fund for Women

In addition to the above, AWDF had a total of USD 1.5 million from institutional donors brought forward from the 2017 financial year. This brings the total funding available for 2018 to USD 13.3 million, out of which USD 4.4 million was deferred for 2019 activities.

<b>Corporate and Individual giving</b>	Total donations from corporate institutions: USD 26,174.00 (AIS) Total donations from individuals: USD 2,547.00. The highest individual donations were USD 586.00 and USD 549.00 from two African feminists.
<b>Revenue 2018</b>	Out of the total funds raised from the above institutions, the total revenue from non-exchange transactions (donations) recognised in the 2018 financial statements was USD 8.9 million (-an increase from 2017's USD 7.7 million). Other income for the year was USD 216,129 (an increase from 2017's USD 441,710). Finance income amounted to USD 158,598 (an increase from 2017's USD 61,370). This brings the total revenue for the year to USD 9.3 million (an increase from 2017's USD 8.19 million).
<b>Expenses 2018</b>	Total operating expenses for the financial year 2018 was USD 9.02 million compared to USD 7.78 million in 2017. This represents an increase of 16% compared to 2017. Total grants awarded for the year was USD 6.88 million (2017: USD 5.61 million) representing a 22% increase.

## HOW WE INVEST OUR FUNDS (2014 - 2018 COMPARISONS)





# CONCLUSION

2018 was another year of growth, learning and reflection for AWDF. We are taking our lessons forward into 2019 and beyond. The African Women's Development Fund is proud to be resourcing local and regional initiatives by African women. We'd like to thank all of our partners, grantees and sisters in the struggle for supporting and collaborating with us!

- To donate: [http://awdf.org/take-action/#make\\_a\\_donation](http://awdf.org/take-action/#make_a_donation)
- To learn more about our grant programmes: <http://awdf.org/grants/>
- To learn more about our Futures Initiative: <http://awdf.org/futures/>
- For more information about our Leading from the South programme, see our Grants team discussing [how to apply](#).

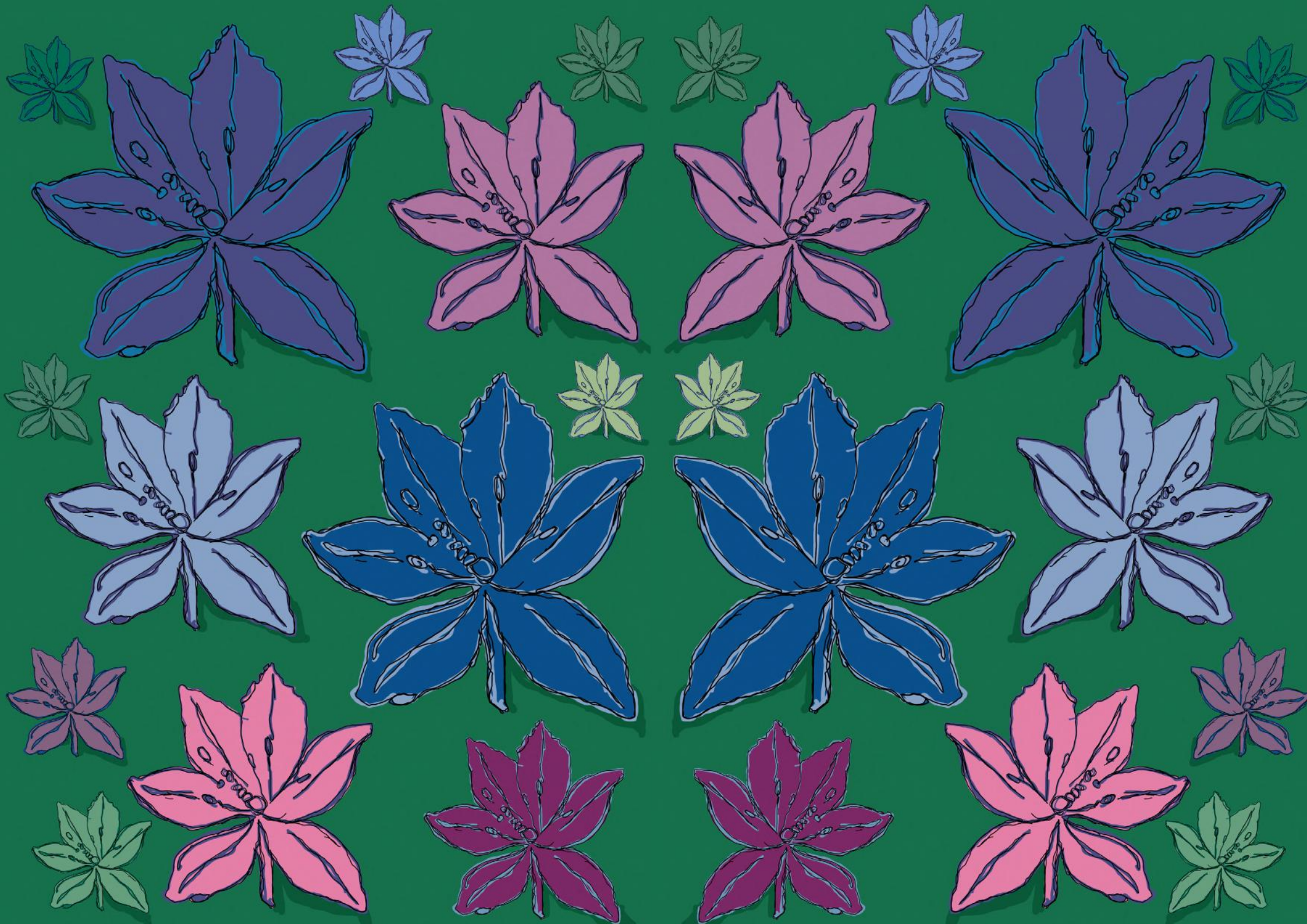
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# DEEPENING ROOTS

Annual Report 2018

African Women's Development Fund

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