
Leading from the South: Cycle 52 Call for Proposals

Historically, women, girls, and gender-diverse people have been excluded from institutions, systems and structures of influence and power in Africa and the world, and intersecting systems of discrimination and violence have undermined women's rights, safety, and freedoms. As a result, these groups are disproportionately harmed by social and environmental conditions, and have restricted access to resources, spaces, and safety to advocate for and lead social change that centres their needs and rights. Despite continuous progress made toward gender equality, patriarchal, capitalist and colonial systems still disproportionately harm millions of African women, girls, and gender-diverse people's rights and lived experiences of structural inequity, violence, and marginalisation.

AWDF borrows the definition of gender justice from the [Global Fund for Women](#): "as the systemic redistribution of power, opportunities, and access for the benefit of people of all genders through the dismantling of harmful structures like patriarchy.." To achieve gender justice, AWDF believes that major shifts are required in gender equality-related individual behaviour, laws and policies, practice and implementation, and narratives - including on issues pertaining to the bodily integrity, economic empowerment, leadership and political participation of Africa women, girls and gender-diverse people, and that a key strategy to achieve this is through advocacy.

The Leading from the South Initiative

The Leading from the South Initiative (LFS) strengthens women's rights advocacy and resources women's rights activism. It does this by strengthening organisations working on the human rights of women, girls and gender diverse people to influence policy, empower and improve women's social, political and economic participation and help reduce exclusion, discrimination violence and inequality.

Our work under the LFS Initiative focuses on:

- Strengthening Southern feminist women's organisations, movements and networks, enabling them to influence policy at local, national, regional and international levels.
- Setting in motion an empowerment process to improve women's social, political and economic participation to influence the government so that barriers to participation are removed.
- Providing women's organisations, movements and networks with the tools needed to reduce exclusion, discrimination, violence and unequal treatment.

For this cycle of funding, AWDF will consider applications for impactful and innovative work and approaches to advocacy, examples of which might include advocating for the enactment or implementation of gender just laws and policies, creating new women's rights and feminist alliances to push for priority gender justice issues, increasing voice and representation of minoritised communities, or any other approach that strengthens the agency and rights of women, girls and other minoritised and marginalised groups.

Who?

Are you a feminist or women's rights organisation working in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine or Yemen, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel Region, French speaking Africa, or in Portuguese or Arabic speaking country? *AWDF is a Pan African organisation and while we recognise the significant needs of women, girls and gender diverse people everywhere we work, for this cycle we are prioritising applications for work in French speaking countries.*

Are you a women led organisation that has been formally registered for at least three years (before June 2020)? *AWDF defines a woman-led organisation as an organisation whose Board Chair and Chief Executive/Director are both women or non-binary, and where at least 70% of the board and staff members of the organisation are women or non-binary.*

Do you have experience doing impactful and creative advocacy work? *Advocacy is an umbrella term that describes various strategies – including campaigning, lobbying, research/communication and alliance-building – that are used to influence decision-makers and policies. Advocacy is engagement aimed at bringing about change. (AWID - An Advocacy Guide for Feminists, December 2003).*

If yes, AWDF invites you to submit an application.

What, When and How?

For this round of grant making, AWDF will award grants for an amount between USD20,000 per year to USD500,000 per year. We are able to make grants for up to 20 months in this cycle, and you can apply for **one** of the following three types of grants:

- A. Pamoja: you can apply for a maximum of US\$500,000 per annum for 20 months
- B. Ananse: you can apply for a maximum of US\$200,000 per annum for 20 months
- C. Yalla: you can apply for a maximum of US\$50,000 per annum for up to 20 months

AWDF expects to receive hundreds of applications for funding. In this cycle we anticipate awarding the following number of each type of grant:

- Three Pamoja grants
- Six Ananse grants
- Eleven Yalla grants

You can apply for up to 50% of your verified 2022 income. *For example, if your confirmed income for 2022 was US\$600,000 you can apply for a maximum of up to USD300,000 per year for 20 months. If your confirmed income for 2022 was \$40,000, you can apply for a maximum of up to \$20,000 per year for 20 months.*

We will be open for applications on 7th July 2023. The deadline for submitting your applications is 11.59pm GMT on **8th August 2023**.

02: 59 AM EAT on the 9th of August 2023 - Eastern Africa Time

01: 59 AM SAST on the 9th of August 2023 - South Africa Standard Time

AWDF can only accept applications through our online portal which you can access [here](#)

Next Steps

If you are interested in hearing more about the AWDF application process and would like to join one of our potential applicant webinars, please register [here](#). The French applicants' webinar will be held on Thursday 13th July 2023 at 10.00am GMT, and the English applicants' webinar will be held on Friday July 14th 2023 at 10.00am GMT.

If you wish to submit an application, please complete the application process [online](#). Guidance for the online platform can be accessed [here](#)

[Our FAQ document can be found here](#)

Successful applicants will hear from us in December 2023.