

African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) Call for Proposals

February 2024

Why?

AWDF is a Pan-African feminist fund that envisions a world and a continent where gender justice, freedom and equality are achieved for all. We launched our ten-year strategic framework, *Lemlem*, in 2023, a framework which centres movements and takes an inclusive approach to feminist funding in Africa. We know that feminist activists and movements are central to social justice work that ensures women, girls and gender-diverse persons across Africa enjoy equal rights and opportunities. We recognise the diversity of the feminist and women's rights organisations and movements and want to be part of the cultural evolution of feminist organising on the continent, ensuring we reach all parts of the movement.

Who?

- Are you an African feminist or women's rights organisation whose mission and work centre gender justice?

"We define gender justice 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, homophobia, and transphobia.... gender justice signifies an intersectional approach that centers the needs, experiences, and leadership of people most impacted by discrimination and oppression." - Global Fund for Women

- Does your work address the structural causes of inequalities in an [intersectional way](#)?

Intersectionality is the acknowledgement that **everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and oppression** and we must consider everything and anything that can marginalise people – gender, race, class, sexual orientation, physical ability, etc.

- Does your work centre the diverse needs, experiences, and leadership of people most impacted by discrimination and oppression?
- Is your organisation led by African women, girls or gender diverse people?

*AWDF funds organisations where **both** the Board Chair **and** Chief Executive/Director are women or gender-diverse persons, and where at least 70% of the Board and staff members of the organisation are women, girls or gender diverse persons.*

The term "gender-diverse" is used to refer to persons whose gender identity, including their gender expression, is at odds with what is perceived as being the gender norm in a particular context at a particular point in time, including those who do not place themselves in the male/female binary.

- Has your organisation been formally registered for at least three years (before January 2021)?

- Was your 2023 organisational income less than USD 150,000?

AWDF acknowledges the specific challenges that organisations and movements with small budgets have in accessing funding. In this Call for Proposals, AWDF are prioritising applications from organisations with budgets of under USD 150,000.

If so, please consider applying!

In this call for proposals, AWDF is prioritising applications from a diversity of feminist and women's rights organisations (WROs) led by historically marginalised and minoritised groups, e.g. refugee and displaced women, indigenous women, gender diverse persons, women with disabilities, among others. To ensure language diversity, we will prioritise applications from organisations and networks working in French, Portuguese and Arabic-speaking countries across Africa. We are also inviting applications from organisations and networks in diverse geographies including North Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

What, When and How?

For this cycle, we have **three funding streams** you can apply for. All applications should be submitted via AWDF's online portal and have the same deadline of **2nd April 2024**. AWDF anticipates awarding 31 grants with 50% going to French-speaking organisations and 50% going to Portuguese, Arabic and English-speaking organisations.

Under this call for proposals, AWDF will prioritise applications from groups that demonstrate strong links to the communities they serve and who are working in collaboration with others in creative ways that address concrete practical needs **and** clearly show the proposed actions to influence the policies and/or culture surrounding them. Specifically, we will prioritise work that builds the agency of diverse communities of women, girls and gender diverse people to take purposeful action in decision-making, leadership and collective action.

- A) The **Open grant call** is open to organisations and networks led by women, girls and gender-diverse persons, and that have been registered and working in Africa for at least 3 years. Their 2023 organisational budget should be less than USD 150,000.

The **Open grant call** is open to organisations and networks led by women, girls and gender-diverse people whose work is building the agency of diverse communities of women, girls and gender diverse people in pursuit of gender justice for all. We will prioritise applications that strengthen the voice of women, girls and gender-diverse people to lead actions that contribute to changes in policies, social norms and behaviours. We will prioritise organisations and networks working in French-speaking African countries. We are also particularly interested in receiving applications from historically marginalised and minoritised groups.

B) The **Kasa! Initiative grant call** is open to organisations and networks led by women, girls and gender-diverse persons that have been registered and operating in Ghana, Nigeria and/or Senegal for at least three years and whose 2023 budget is less than USD 150,000. The initiatives proposed should focus on **addressing sexual violence**. Please note, the Kasa! Initiative is focused on sexual violence and we are unable to prioritise work that addresses general gender-based violence under this initiative.

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative defines sexual violence here <https://www.svri.org/research-methods/definitions>. Sexual violence/abuse refers to any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act, or unwanted sexual comments or acts to traffic, that are directed against a person's sexuality using coercion by anyone, regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including at home and at work.

We welcome applications for work that supports sexual violence prevention, response and accountability initiatives to increase individual awareness and agency among women and girls and gender-diverse survivors of sexual violence; increases access to survivor-centred sexual violence responses including emergency responses; transforms social and cultural norms and practices that underpin sexual violence; contributes to feminist knowledge and narratives that address and challenge the drivers of sexual violence; strengthens evidence-based advocacy for legal and policy reforms to create an enabling environment for the elimination of sexual violence; and advocates for the prioritisation of sexual violence interventions and increases resources and budget allocations by key local and national actors.

C) The **Kombo** grant call is open to women and gender-diverse-led organisations and networks. We especially encourage organisations and networks operating in Southern and Central Africa to apply.

The objective of the **Kombo initiative** is to empower African women, girls, and gender-diverse persons to exercise their voice, agency, and leadership within their communities. It envisions a future where marginalised groups can actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute meaningfully to sustainable development across all facets of their lives. The initiative seeks to bolster feminist endeavours that not only resist anti-rights movements but also cultivate resilient communities where everyone can thrive. The focus of this funding call emphasises critical areas such as advocacy, communication, knowledge sharing, movement building, and capacity strengthening, all of which are crucial components for advancing gender justice and inclusivity in Africa.

Guidance

- **Please note that you can only submit one application in this Cycle - please choose one of either the Open, Kasa! Initiative or Komboa applications. AWDF will only consider one application per organisation.**
- For Open grant applicants, you can apply for a maximum of USD 75,000 per year for two years, (a total of USD 150,000 over two years), depending on your 2023 income
- For Kasa! Initiative applicants, you can apply for a maximum of USD30,000 per year for two years (a total of USD60,000 over two years), depending on your 2023 income

- For Komboa applicants, you can apply for up to a maximum of USD200,000 for between 12 – 24 months depending on your 2023 income
- Applicants must be African and women led, registered and working on the African continent
- Applicants must demonstrate their existence and operation for a minimum of 3 years
- We will receive applications in English and French

AWDF expects to receive hundreds of applications for funding during this call. In this cycle, we anticipate awarding the following number of grants per type of grant:

- For Open Grant – **25** awards
- Kasa! Grant – **10** awards
- Komboa Grant – **6** awards

You can apply for up to 50% of your verified 2023 income. *For example, if your confirmed income for 2023 was US\$100,000 you can apply for a maximum of up to USD50,000 per year for 24 months, making USD100,000 for 24 months. If your confirmed income for 2023 was \$40,000, you can apply for a maximum of up to \$20,000 per year for 24 months, making USD40,000 for 24 months .*

We will be open for applications on **26th February 2024**. The deadline for submitting your applications is 11.59pm GMT on **2nd April 2024**.

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

Next Steps

If you are interested in applying, please read this whole Applicant Guidance Document as it contains essential information to help guide you through the process.

If, after reading the whole applicant guidance document, you are interested in hearing more about the AWDF application process and would like to join one of our Applicant Webinars, please join us for:

- A webinar in [French](#) (with interpretation available in English) on **Tuesday the 5th of March 2024 at 10.00am GMT**. Please register [here](#)
- A webinar in [English](#) (with interpretation available in Portuguese and Arabic) on **Thursday the 7th of March 2024 at 10.00am GMT**. Please register [here](#)

To submit an Open grant application please complete the application process [here](#)

To submit a Kasa! Initiative application please complete the application process [here](#)

To submit a Komboa application please complete the application process [here](#)

Guidance for the online platform can be accessed [here](#)

Guidance for our application form can be found [here](#)

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

For more information on the Kasa! Initiative application please [click here](#)

For more information on the Komboa application please [click here](#)

Please note that because of the significant number of applications we expect to receive, we are only able to contact successful applicants once the review process is completed. Successful applicants will hear from us by mid August 2024. If your application is unsuccessful you will hear from us by the end of June 2024.