



Frequently Asked Questions – January 2024 Call for Proposals

Please ensure that you read the application guidance, which can be found on the AWDF website and is also accessible on the on-line application platform.

Who is AWDF?

The [African Women's Development Fund](#) is a Pan-African resourcing organisation that resources, strengthens and upholds women's rights and feminist organisations and movements across Africa, with the aim of making gender justice a reality for all on our continent and beyond¹.

Type of Grants

2. Which grant should I apply for?

- For this Call for Applications, there would be three types of grants to choose from according to the area of work and goal of your application. The types of grants are described below:
 - **Open Grants** – These are for applications proposing work that promotes the rights of women, girls and gender-diverse peoples' rights. We are prioritising projects that address structural barriers to gender equality and projects building the agency of women, girls and gender diverse people to lead activism towards gender justice. Depending on your 2023 verified income, you can apply for up to a maximum of USD75,000 per year for two years, so an amount totalling USD150,000 or less over two years
 - **Kasa! Initiative Grants** – These are for applications for work specifically addressing sexual violence and only for Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) registered and working in Ghana, Nigeria and/or Senegal. Depending on your 2023 verified income, you can apply for up to a maximum of USD30,000 per year for two years, so an amount totalling USD60,000 for two years.

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative defines sexual violence [here](https://www.svri.org/research-methods/definitions)
 - **Komboa Grants** - These are for applications from women and gender-diverse persons led organisations and networks, operating within the African continent working to empower African women, girls, and gender-diverse people to exercise their voice, agency, and leadership. The *Komboa* Initiative seeks to bolster feminist endeavours

¹ Under the Leading From the South Initiative, AWDF also supports work in five countries in the Middle East – Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq and Yemen.

that not only resist anti-rights movements but also cultivate resilient communities where everyone can thrive. We especially encourage organisations operating in Southern and Central Africa to apply under this fund. Depending on your 2023 verified income, you can apply for up to a maximum of USD200,000 for between 12 - 24 months.

3. How many applications can I submit to this call for proposals?

Please note that you can **only submit one application**. Please choose **one of either** the Open, Kasa! Initiative or Komboa applications. AWDF will only consider one application per organisation.

Eligibility Criteria

4. Does ADWF fund organisations that are registered and/or have their headquarters outside Africa ?

No. AWDF will not consider applications for organisations that are not based and headquartered in Africa and/or organisations that are not led by African women (senior staff and Board)

5. Does AWDF support organisations where the ED/CEO and/or Chair of the Board is male?

No. AWDF will only consider applications from organisations where the Director or Chief Executive Officer of the organisation **and** Chair of the Board identify as female or gender-diverse and where the majority, (at least 70%), of all staff identify as female or gender-diverse.

6. Does AWDF fund organisations that have been registered for less than 3 years?

No. AWDF doesn't generally accept applications from organisations that haven't been registered for at least three years. In extremely rare circumstances however, AWDF will consider applications from organisations that have been registered for less than three years. Some examples are organisations led by and focused on particularly marginalised groups of women and girls, including women and girls living with disabilities, gender-diverse women and girls, sex workers, refugees and migrant women, women living with HIV/AIDS, young feminists and other imposed marginalities. However, with AWDF's new strategic plan, Lemlem, we will be pivoting later in the year and we will have new more expansive eligibility criteria.

7. Does AWDF support community-based organisations (CBOs)?

Yes, AWDF does consider applications from CBOs if they meet all our eligibility criteria

8. Does AWDF consider applications from profit making entities eligible to apply?

No. AWDF does not fund profit making entities or organisations

Current and/or previously AWDF funded organisations

9. If I have a current grant from AWDF, can I submit an application to the **April 2nd 2024 deadline?**

If your current grant ends **before** 31st July 2024, you can submit an application. If your current grant ends **after** 31st July 2024, you can only submit an application under the *Kasa!* initiative (assuming you don't have an existing Kasa! grant) or the *Kombo* programme

10. My organisation has previously had a grant and/or has a current grant from AWDF – can we apply?

If the previous grant from AWDF has ended and there are no outstanding contractual obligations, you can apply. If you have a live grant that ends before 31st July 2024, you can apply. If you have a current grant that ends after 31st July 2024, you are not able to apply to this open grant call for proposals but will be eligible for our second call for proposals in 2024, which is expected to launch in July 2024.

Consortia and/or multi country applications

11. Does AWDF accept applications from organisations working in partnership/ consortia, coalitions, etc.?

Yes. AWDF welcomes applications that are for work delivered by more than one partner organisation as long as the application is submitted by one partner and all the named partners meet all the eligibility criteria, etc. If you are submitting an application for a consortium project or more than two organisations, we will consider the eligibility and income of only the applicant organisation and not the combined income of all the proposed partners. We do also accept applications from organisations that are not working with partners.

12. Will AWDF consider multi-country applications?

Yes. AWDF will consider multi-country applications as long as the rationale for working across more than one country is clear and strategic with well-defined and measurable impact in each country.

13. Can we have multiple profiles on the AWDF online platform or does only one person register for this and only access one profile for the whole organisation or partnership?

For data security reasons, we would recommend that each organisation have only one profile for the organisation on the on-line platform.

Financial Information

14. When AWDF says you can apply for up to 50% of your organisational income, what do you mean?

We are looking to understand the total income for the whole organisation (not individual projects) from any source (not just AWDF and not just grant funding) over the last three years. We have requested information on your last three years total income as we recognise the impact that COVID 19 had on the income of African women-led organisations. As such, we will consider applications with annual income/budgets representing no more than 50% of your last year's income.

15. Does AWDF only accept audited accounts?

AWDF will accept **either** audited accounts **or** unaudited accounts signed by management. If your 2023 accounts have yet to be audited or independently verified, we will accept your 2023 unaudited accounts signed by management. Please be sure to submit your confirmed income for 2023 if you have yet to complete your 2023 audit. If your last audited accounts were for 2022, please submit your audited or management approved accounts for 2022.

16. Does AWDF transfer funds to all countries in Africa? Sudan, Somali, etc.

Because of bank transfer restrictions by the Government of Ghana imposed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and others, AWDF is unable to transfer funds to Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Iraq. Women's Rights Organisations in these countries, if successful, can consider entering into agreement with other Women's Rights Organisations in eligible countries to act as fiscal sponsors for their grant.

Call schedule and application timeline

17. What are the dates for this call for proposals?

AWDF's call for proposals will be launched on **26th February 2024** and will be open until the deadline at 11.59PM/23.59 GMT on **2nd April 2024**.

18. What is the process and how long does it take from submitting an application to having a grant approved?

AWDF typically receives up to 1000 applications to each funding cycle and we have a robust process to consider each one. All applications that meet our eligibility criteria and respond most closely to our stated priorities for the cycle are assessed by our Programmes Department, where necessary, with input from our expert Regional Advisers. Following assessment of shortlisted applications, we request references on applicants, and compile reports on all shortlisted applications which our Board considers and makes the final decision on. If your application is considered ineligible, you will be notified by the end of May 2024. If your application is not shortlisted for assessment, we will notify you by the end of June 2024. Applications submitted to the 2nd April 2024 deadline will be considered by the AWDF Board at the end of June 2024, with applicants receiving notification by mid August 2024.