

EVALUATION OF THE
KASA!
INITIATIVE



**The Campaign Against
Sexual Violence Epidemic
(CASE) in West Africa**

Infographic of Key Findings and
Recommendations

December, 2025



AFRICAN WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT FUND

OUTLINE

- 03** About this Infographic
- 04** Overview of the Kasa! Initiative
- 07** Evaluation Approach & Methods
- 08** Evaluation Reach
- 09** Theory of Change
- 10** Key Findings - Country Contexts
- 11** Key Findings Across Evaluation Areas
- 15** Systemic change contribution
- 16** Lessons Learned
- 17** Recommendations
- 18** Kasa! Grantee Partners Contributing to the Evaluation



About this Infographic

This infographic was prepared by The Social Investment Consultancy Africa (TSIC) Evaluation and Learning Partner.¹ It presents a concise snapshot of an evaluation of the Kasa! Initiative (2021–2024) across Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal, highlighting key findings, achievements, challenges, and priorities for sustainability and scale-up. It forms part of a wider evaluation package, including the Full Evaluation Report (in English and French), which provides detailed evidence, country-specific analysis, and strategic recommendations to inform programming on sexual violence.

¹This report has been prepared by a small team from The Social Investment Consultancy led by Sarah Jane Danchie (TSIC Director for Africa; with critical country reports from TSIC Senior Associates, Fatima Aliyu, Harriet Ahokpossi, while Bashiratu Kamal provided advisory evaluation focused on feminist organising and safeguarding and Adjoa Kudoadzi provided project assistance with preliminary research and interviews



OVERVIEW OF THE KASA! INITIATIVE²

Programme Reach

42

Girls and women's rights organisations (WRO)

57 grants

including 8 travel, 5 Zinariya³, 3 repeat grants, 41 core programmatic grants supporting the delivery of prevention, survivor-centered support, advocacy, and feminist organising across the three countries. These grants form the substantive operational core of the Kasa! Initiative

Strong emphasis on **school-based prevention, youth leadership, and survivor-centred support**

Demographic Focus

39%

of grants targeted at girls < 17 years age

25%

targeted **young women ages 18-21**

21%

supported **adult women (22-64)** facing structural and economic vulnerabilities

15%

of grants were designed as **multi-age interventions**, reflecting the intergenerational nature of prevention, survivor support, and norm change

Majority of interventions focused on **adolescents**, reflecting early prevention and leadership-building priorities because younger girls and adolescents are among the most vulnerable to sexual abuse, coercion, exploitation and early marriage

Inclusion of Marginalised Groups

Reached:

11% sex workers



7% gender-diverse/ LBT⁴ persons



5% women with disabilities



3% women with HIV



Limited but notable efforts to engage:

2-5%

displaced women, widows, ethnic minority groups

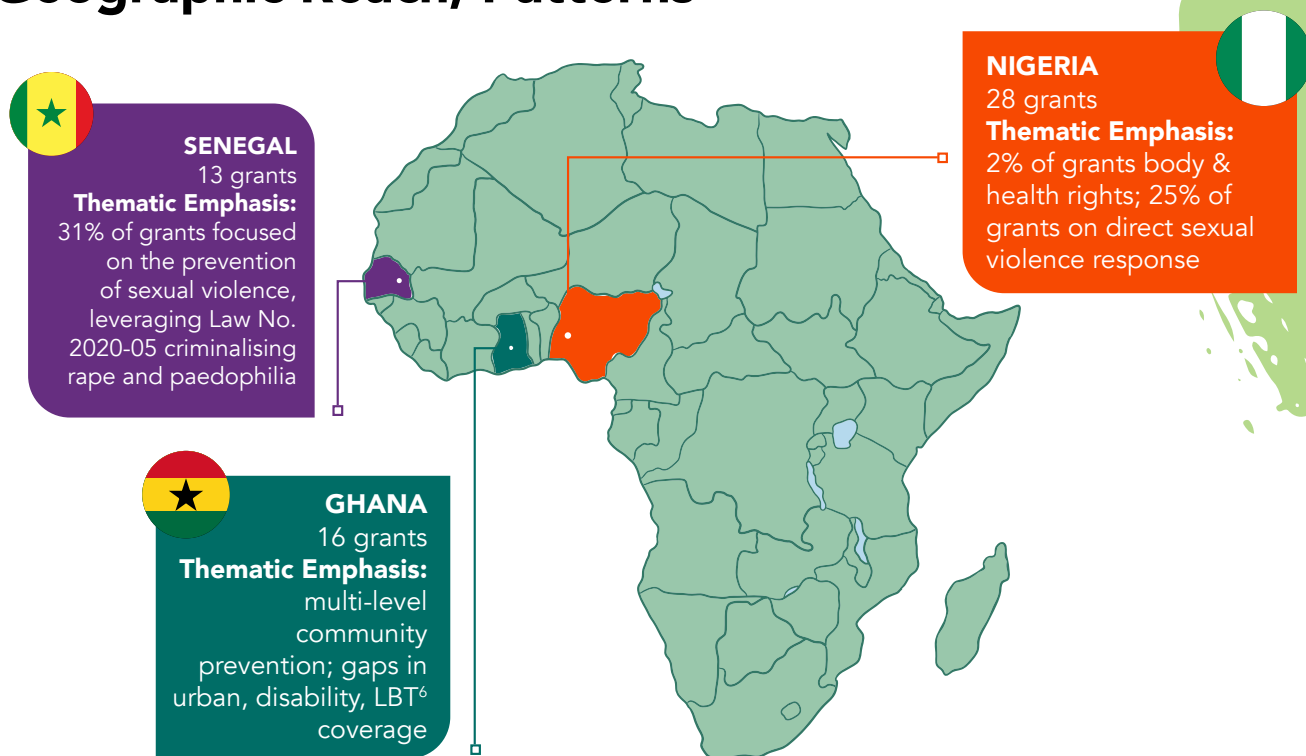


²Using data from AWDF database on all Grantee Partners

³Zinariya" is a Hausa word meaning "gold." Within AWDF, Zinariya Grants refer to flexible, core institutional-strengthening funds provided to feminist organisations. These grants are designed to reinforce long-term organisational resilience, deepen feminist movement-building, and support sustainability beyond project-restricted funding

⁴Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (women and gender-diverse persons assigned female at birth)

Geographic Reach, Patterns⁵



Rural-focused work (16% of grants), particularly in **Northern Ghana, Northern Nigeria, Casamance (Senegal)**

Urban-focused work only 4%, despite significant reported need and differing urban drivers of violence

~80% – Mixed, multi-site, or nationally scoped

The majority of grants operated across both rural and urban settings, or were designed at district, state, or national level (e.g. referral systems, youth networks, faith platforms, radio reach, policy advocacy). These grants did not restrict implementation to a single geography type.



⁵Using figures from AWDF database on all Grantee Partners

⁶Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (women and gender-diverse persons assigned female at birth)

Scale of Beneficiary Reach⁷

47%
of grants reached
<1,000 people -
prioritising depth
and relational trust

16%
reached 1,000–
5,000

11%
exceeded 5,000,
typically through radio,
school networks, or
coalitions

Pattern emphasises transformational change over mass outreach

Overall Insight

Kasa! has built a strong youth-centred, community-rooted, survivor-focused feminist infrastructure across West Africa. The demographic evidence highlights clear pathways for **greater equity, deeper reach, and stronger regional cohesion** in the next phase.

⁷Using figures from AWDF database on all Grantee Partners



EVALUATION APPROACH & METHODS

- **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with total of 20 grantees (Nigeria: 9, Ghana: 6, Senegal: 5)
- **Site visits in all three countries (one visit/country)** with 3 organisations including 6 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with programme target audiences/beneficiaries and programme implementors
- **Online Survey:** Responses from 10 organisations (8 Nigeria; 1 Ghana and 1 Senegal) to enable more participant organisations to contribute
- **Interviews and FGDs with African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) leadership and Kasa!** programme team and the safeguarding staff
- **Project documentation review:** Light-touch review of programme documentation shared by AWDF, such as grantee summaries, internal multi-country synthesized reports, and contextual materials outlining the strategic intent of the Kasa! Initiative. Some organisations, especially in Nigeria, voluntarily shared additional project documents to support contextual understanding of their activities and outcomes. These materials were used to complement, rather than drive, the findings.
- **Validation Workshop** with more than 55 participants, including Grantee Partner organisations (GPs) and project partners



Limitations

The evaluation identified few limitations. These were mitigated through extended engagement periods, flexible scheduling, layered data sources, in-depth interviews, and systematic triangulation. By maximising the available budget and combining multiple perspectives across countries, the evaluation maintained strong rigour, credibility, and representativeness.

Evidence triangulated across multiple perspectives:

The evaluation combined Key Informant interviews and Focus Group Discussions with AWDF staff and grantee partners, site visits engaging beneficiaries, community stakeholders, and local institutions, an online survey, and a cross-country validation workshop. Evidence was analysed across Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal to identify recurring patterns, contextual differences, and convergent findings.

EVALUATION REACH

Scope of Evaluation

- Covered all three implementation countries: Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal
- Engaged 34 of 42 Grantee Partners (83%)
- Mixed-method feminist evaluation: Key Informant Interview (KIIs), FGDs, site visits, online survey, document review, validation workshop

From the organisations participating in the evaluation

- Among the organisations that contributed to the evaluation, an estimated 120,992 beneficiaries represent direct reach only, using data provided by Kasa! Grantee Partners and compiled in the AWDF Grantee Partner database; indirect or secondary reach is not included
- Beneficiaries included: girls, adolescents, young women, adult survivors, and community members across rural and urban settings

Depth of Inquiry

- Evaluation conducted on activities in schools, community spaces, health and justice systems, youth groups, survivor-support settings, not only organisational offices
- Approach aligned with Kasa!'s relational, community-rooted Theory of Change



Who Was Reached?

(Demographic & Contextual Representation)

Geographic Diversity

- Urban and rural communities
- Hard-to-reach and high-risk settings including Casamance, Northern Ghana, and Northern Nigeria

Stakeholder Spectrum

- Survivors, adolescent girls, young women
- Chiefs, queen mothers, imams, pastors
- Teachers, school counsellors, district assemblies
- Health officers, Domestic Violence (DV)/ police units

Why This Matters

- Evaluation findings reflect real system-level experiences, not only programme reporting
- Demonstrates a movement that is deepening dignity, shifting norms, and strengthening feminist infrastructure across West Africa

Range of Organisations

- Long-standing feminist institutions
- Youth-led organisations
- Grassroots, community-based responders

Marginalised Groups Represented

- Girls facing early marriage risks
- Women experiencing Domestic Violence (DV) and workplace harassment
- LBT communities facing criminalisation or stigma
- Women with limited economic means or restrictive family pressures

THEORY OF CHANGE

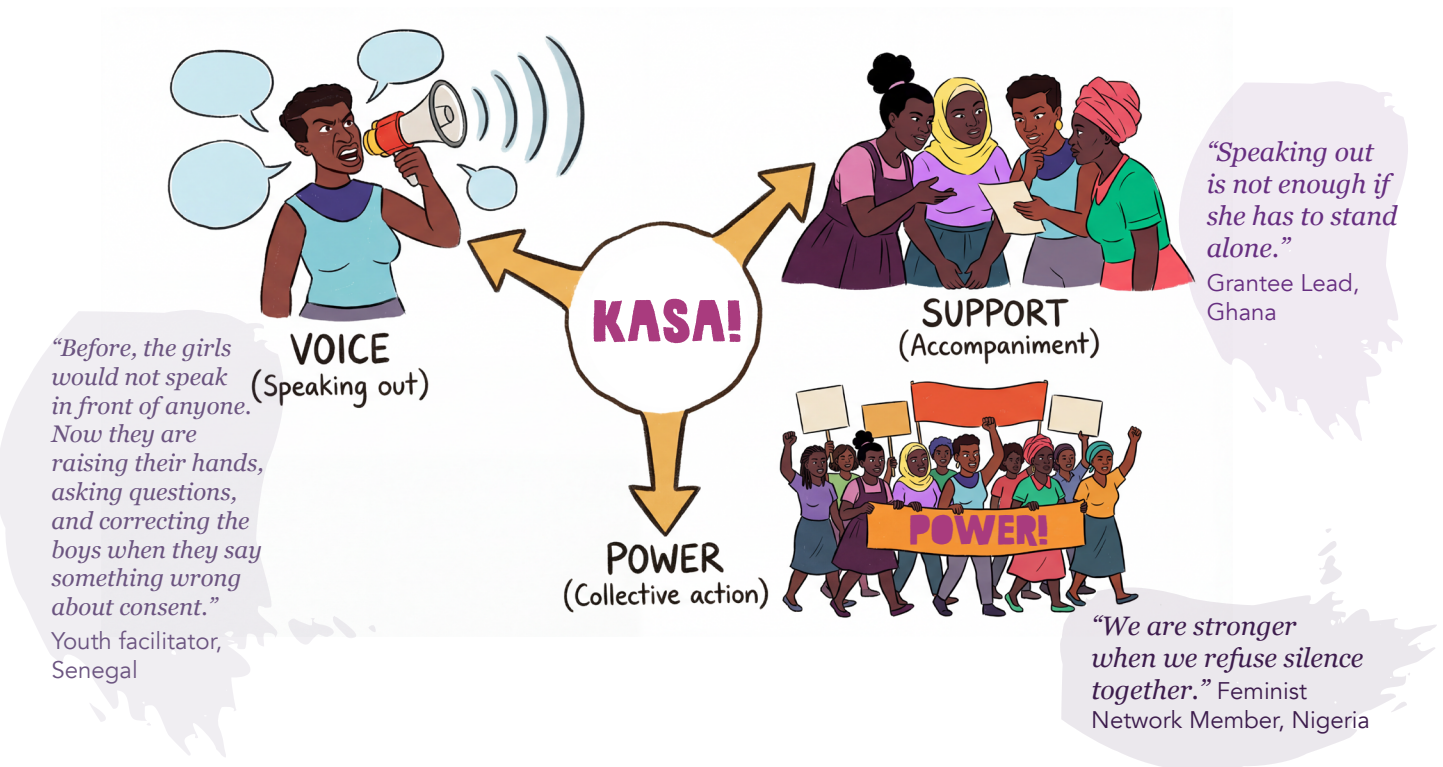
The Kasa! Initiative is grounded in the understanding that sexual violence persists not only because individuals cause harm, but because social norms, power dynamics, and institutional responses enable silence, impunity, and vulnerability. Therefore, preventing sexual violence requires both individual and structural change, rooted in collective agency and feminist organising.

At its core, Kasa! assumes that when women's rights organisations and feminist collectives are resourced,

trusted, and able to build solidarity and voice within communities, they can:

- Shift social norms that normalise or excuse violence,
- Support survivors to access dignity, safety, and justice,
- Strengthen collective power to challenge systems and institutions, and
- Sustain change beyond project cycles.

How the Theory of Change Plays Out in Practice



1 Building Voice and Confidence (Prevention)

Grantees create safe, trusted spaces - especially for adolescent girls and young women - where harmful norms can be questioned and new forms of self-recognition can emerge. The initiative also supports agency and action.

2 Strengthening Protection through Accompaniment (Survivor Support)

Rather than relying only on referrals, organisations stay with survivors, navigating family pressure, school or religious authority, police systems, and emotional trauma.

3 Expanding Collective Power (Movement-Building)

Kasa! positions individual change within collective organising. Organisations work together to increase visibility, legitimacy, and advocacy leverage.

KEY FINDINGS - COUNTRY CONTEXTS

- Kasa!’s model—accompaniment, grassroots leadership, cultural fluency—remains essential.
- Sexual violence pervasive, underreported, socially minimised.
- Shared barriers: stigma, victim-blaming, informal resolution, weak accountability systems.
- Rising disclosures—but systems unprepared.
- Economic precarity, youth unemployment, religious authority, digital harassment shape risk.
- Feminist organisations are the **de facto first responders**.



NIGERIA

- Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Act strong but inconsistently applied.
- Youth mobilisation high; backlash also high.
- Survivor access depends on personal networks.



GHANA

- Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of Ghana Police Service exists but influenced by local power dynamics.
- Anti-LGBTQ+ climate heightens risk for Women’s Rights Organisations.
- Poverty amplifies vulnerability.



SENEGAL

- New Law 2020-5 on the criminalisation of rape and paedophilia increased openness.
- Strong influence of marabouts; conservative norms persist.
- Casamance model⁸ shows promising referral improvements.

Priorities for Sustainability, Replicability & Scale-Up

- Strengthen **multi-year, flexible feminist resourcing** to sustain momentum and deepen community-rooted change.
- Expand **feminist accompaniment models** (survivor support, family mediation, counter-referral systems) across the region.
- Build **cross-country learning hubs** on faith engagement, youth organising, and digital safety.
- Formalise **collaborative referral standards** with police, health, justice and shelter actors.
- Embed **risk management and security planning**, especially in contexts of backlash or restrictive political climates.

⁸A coordinated local referral system linking community groups, health, legal, and psychosocial services to ensure survivors receive timely, accompanied, and continuous care.



KEY FINDINGS ACROSS EVALUATION AREAS

1. Prevention, Advocacy and Narrative change

Key Achievements

- Sustained community dialogue platforms (school clubs, women's circles, youth forums, faith dialogues, radio call-ins) across 3 countries.
- Clear shifts in openness to discuss sexual violence; reductions in victim-blaming; stronger bystander engagement.
- Cultural fluency increased reach (faith framing, traditional values, local idioms).
- Prevention strengthened by integration with accompaniment—communities speak up when they trust survivors will be supported.

Challenges / Gaps

- Rising backlash and online harassment targeting young feminists and organisers.
- Prevention gains fragile without repeated engagement; one-off activities do not shift norms.
- Limited documentation of norm-change outcomes due to informal learning systems.

Evaluative conclusion

Kasa! interventions effectively shifted attitudes where messaging was culturally grounded and repeated over time. Gains remain fragile where systems do not respond consistently.

2. Survivor-Centred Support Systems

Key Achievements



- Feminist organisations emerged as primary and trusted responders across all countries.
- Accompaniment strengthened: walking with survivors through clinics, police, courts, family negotiations, follow-up.
- Improved referral pathways: Nigeria's one-stop models; Ghana's school-based detection; Senegal's counter-referral loop.
- Validation workshop: earlier evidence collection, more reliable referrals.

Challenges / Gaps


- Emotional and practical labour of accompaniment largely unfunded and invisible in budgets.
- Sustainability fragile: continuity depends on staff endurance, transport funds, and informal relationships.
- Limited long-term counselling and reintegration support.

Evaluative conclusion

Kasa! strengthened emergency and ongoing support, but continued investment and state institutionalisation are needed for equitable and sustainable coverage.



We realised our strongest tool is voice.
Facilitator in Ghana



Speaking out is not enough if she has to stand alone.

Programme Lead in Nigeria

3. Collaboration & partnerships

Key Achievements

- Stronger cross-sector alliances across legal, health, education, and traditional governance.
- Improved multi-actor coordination in Ghana (district task forces), Senegal (Ziguinchor), Nigeria (state-level collaborations).
- Increased joint advocacy and shared referral responsibilities.

Challenges / Gaps

- Private sector collaboration remains minimal.
- Coordination mechanisms often informal and dependent on individuals.
- Uneven availability of state services limits referral reliability.

Evaluative conclusion

Kasa! catalysed meaningful coalition-building, but network governance and mechanisms for scale-up require formalisation.



We face the same issues, why should we struggle alone?

Senegalese Participant

4. Feminist Organising and WRO

Key Achievements

- Trust-based funding expanded feminist organising capacity across 3 countries.
- Youth feminist leadership strengthened; cross-organisational solidarity reduced fragmentation.
- Ghana: stronger ties to Network for Women's Rights, Domestic Violence Coalitions.
- Nigeria: stronger mentorship between established and youth-led groups.
- Senegal: links between peacebuilding, legal advocacy, and survivor support.
- Healing and wellness convenings emerged as movement practices.

Challenges / Gaps

- Cross-country exchange remains underdeveloped; limited bilingual learning spaces.
- Emotional burden on organisers risks burnout and attrition.
- Movement-building gains easily weakened by short funding cycles.

Evaluative conclusion

WROs are central drivers of progress; sustained investment in their organisational health is essential.



This is the first fund where we did not have to dilute who we are

Ghanaian Partner during a workshop



5. Grant-making

Key Achievements

- Flexible, trust-based grant-making enabled culturally grounded, adaptive programming.
- Empowered community-based and rural groups traditionally excluded from major funds.
- Flexibility cited in validation as the strongest enabler of relevance and effectiveness.
- Allowed rapid response to political shifts (e.g., Ghana's anti-LGBTQ+ climate; Senegal's new law; insecurity in Nigeria).

Challenges / Gaps

- Short funding cycles undermine survivor accompaniment, movement-building, and system coordination.
- Wellbeing and reflective supervision underfunded despite emotional intensity of work.
- Inclusion inconsistent; LBT survivors and women with disabilities insufficiently resourced.

Evaluative conclusion

Flexible, trust-based grantmaking was a decisive enabler of relevance and impact, allowing partners to adapt quickly to political shifts, community needs, and survivor realities. However, short funding cycles continue to undermine continuity in accompaniment, movement-building, and system coordination.



The work continues every day, whether or not the project period has ended

Ghanaian Implementer

6. Programme design, adaptation & learning

Key Achievements

- Strong feminist reflexivity: partners adapted strategies, language, and methods based on community feedback and political shifts.
- Learning through peer exchanges, WhatsApp groups, informal networks.
- Autonomy allowed rapid adaptation during crises (security, political tension, moral panic).
- Validation highlighted appetite for structured cross-country learning.

Challenges / Gaps

- Learning is rich but informal and rarely documented.
- Limited tools to capture emerging practices and norm shifts.
- Staff have little time for reflection due to crisis-to-crisis workloads.

Evaluative conclusion

Kasa's feminist accompaniment model enabled high levels of reflexivity, with partners continuously adapting strategies in response to context and feedback. Learning was rich but largely informal, highlighting the need to institutionalise cross-country learning and documentation as movement infrastructure.



Our role was not to tell partners what to do, but to support what they already know works

AWDF staff

7. Inclusion, ethics & safeguarding

Key Achievements

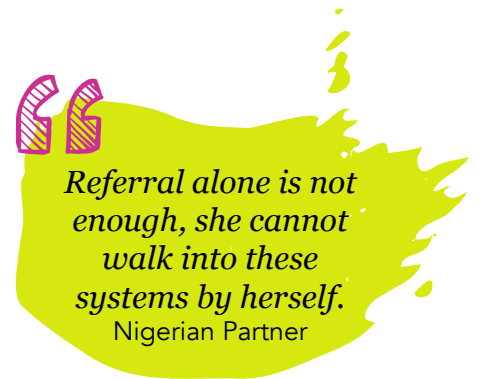
- Strengthened survivor confidentiality, trauma-informed engagement, ethical case handling.
- Increased inclusion of adolescents, rural women, informal workers, and conflict-affected groups.
- Validation: partners built stronger safeguarding awareness and protocols.

Challenges / Gaps

- Persistent gaps for LBT survivors and women with disabilities.
- Staff safety is the major unaddressed safeguarding gap; widespread burnout and secondary trauma.
- Rising digital harassment and political hostility.

Evaluative conclusion

The Initiative strengthened survivor-centred, trauma-informed, and ethical practice across partners, improving confidentiality and safeguarding for many marginalised groups. Persistent gaps remain for LBT survivors, women with disabilities, and staff wellbeing, particularly amid rising political and digital risks.



8. Sustainability

Key Achievements

- Youth-led groups, school clubs, community advocates, chiefs' councils, and survivor circles continue activities beyond grants.
- Early signs of institutionalisation: leader-initiated dialogues, proactive evidence-seeking, independent peer support.
- Sustainability rooted in relationships, not activities.

Challenges / Gaps

- Gains fragile due to short-term funding; trust-building interrupted.
- Staff turnover and burnout weaken continuity.
- Referral networks and youth pathways still not formalised.

Evaluative conclusion

Early signs of sustainability are visible through youth groups, community leaders, and survivor networks continuing beyond grant periods. However, sustainability remains fragile and relationship-dependent, requiring longer-term funding, staff retention, and formalised referral and leadership pathways.



9. Emerging Issues & Preparedness

Key Achievements

- Partners identify rising backlash, economic precarity, political volatility, and digital threats.
- Opportunities emerging to influence policy, referral protocol standardisation, and state accountability.
- Validation: urgent need for feminist preparedness strategies.

Challenges / Gaps

- Visibility–protection gap widening; activists exposed.
- Economic dependence remains a major driver of vulnerability.
- System opportunities under-resourced and risk becoming symbolic.

Evaluative conclusion

The evaluation identifies a widening gap between visibility of sexual-violence advocacy and protection for activists and survivors, driven by backlash, economic precarity, and digital threats. Future impact depends on adopting a feminist preparedness approach that integrates safety, economic protection, and political-risk anticipation into programme design.



The struggle is no longer only about recognition of the issue, but about protecting the space to act on it
AWDF staff

SYSTEMIC CHANGE CONTRIBUTION

Key Achievements (High Level)

- Shift from fragmented responses to community-rooted, system-aware feminist protection ecosystems.
- Accompaniment emerging as a regional model; youth-led prevention accelerating norm change.
- Leader-led messaging transforming community legitimacy structures.
- Strengthened multi-sector coordination across geographies.

Challenges / Gaps

- Gains uneven; systems fragile in politically volatile environments.
- Reliance on emotional labour and under-

resourced staff limits scalability.

- Inclusion and documentation gaps restrict influence and policy leverage.

Priorities for Sustainability, Replicability & Scale-Up

- Consolidate rather than expand: deepen the relational infrastructure driving change.
- Protect and invest in feminist organisations as system anchors.
- Scale replicable models (accompaniment, youth networks, leader pathways, referral loops).
- Build regional feminist infrastructure through learning hubs and shared tools.

LESSONS LEARNED

Transformation is relational, not event-based.

Sustained change emerged from repeated engagement, trust-building, and long-term presence, not one-off campaigns. Communities shifted norms when organisations returned consistently, listened deeply, and followed up over time, especially in contexts shaped by silence and stigma.

Accompaniment is the core of protection, not referral.

Survivors were protected not by referrals alone, but by advocates walking alongside them through reporting, healthcare, family negotiations, and recovery. Accompaniment requires time, emotional labour, and resources; without it, survivors often disengage from justice pathways.

Youth leadership accelerates cultural change.

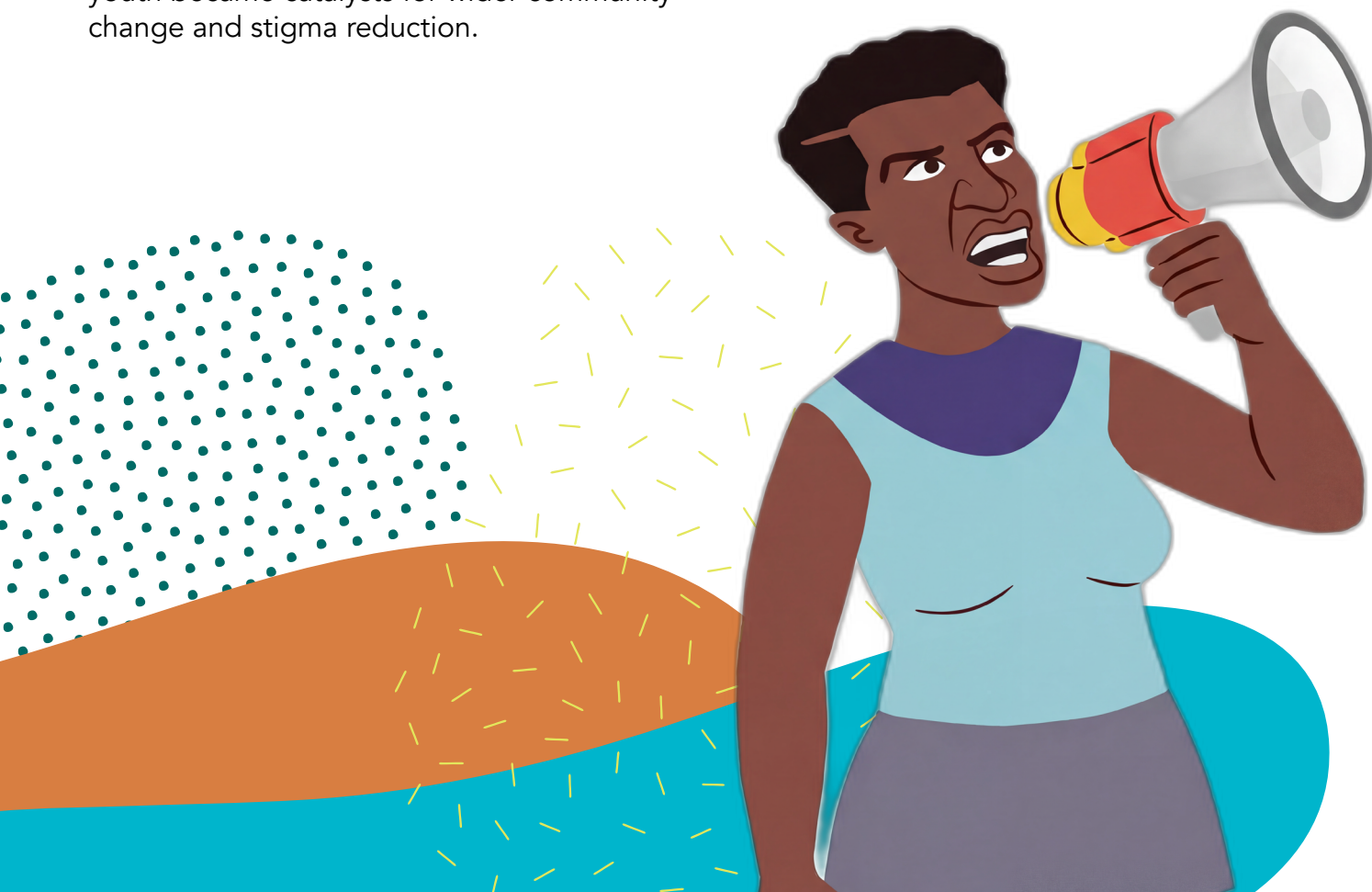
Young feminists, peer educators, and school-based clubs were among the most effective norm-shifting actors. When trusted with meaningful roles, not just awareness-raising, youth became catalysts for wider community change and stigma reduction.

Legitimacy multiplies impact.

Norm change deepened and endured when trusted leaders, chiefs, queen mothers, imams, pastors, and market leaders, publicly supported survivor protection. These alliances, built through patience and co-creation, reframed sexual violence as a collective concern and sustained momentum beyond project timelines.

Staff wellbeing is central to programme success.

Frontline workers face high emotional strain, secondary trauma, and burnout. Staff care, supervision, and wellness support are not internal HR issues, they are essential to survivor safety, sound decision-making, and the sustainability of feminist protection systems.



Key Priority Evaluation Recommendations for AWDF and the ecosystem for feminist funding on programming for addressing sexual violence: What to Sustain, Strengthen, and Scale

1. Sustain Long-Term, Flexible Feminist Funding

- **What AWDF is already doing:** Trust-based, flexible grantmaking
- **Evaluation shows:** Norm change and survivor trust require continuity
- **Priority:** Move from short cycles to multi-year funding covering core + programme costs

2. Resource Accompaniment as the Core Intervention

- **What AWDF is already doing:** Organisational accompaniment
- **Evaluation shows:** Survivors are protected by presence, not referral alone
- **Priority:** Fund accompaniment directly (time, transport, emergency support, coordination)

3. Protect Frontline Feminist Workers

- **What AWDF is already doing:** Values care and dignity
- **Evaluation shows:** Burnout threatens survivor safety and programme quality
- **Priority:** Invest in staff wellbeing, supervision, and safety planning as programme essentials

4. Design Inclusion Intentionally

- **What AWDF is already doing:** Intersectional feminist funding
- **Evaluation shows:** Some groups are reached unevenly
- **Priority:** Use targeted grant design and accompaniment for disability, LBT, urban poor, displaced and informal-sector groups

5. Consolidate Learning and Collective Power

- **What AWDF is already doing:** Strong partner relationships
- **Evaluation shows:** Learning is rich but informal
- **Priority:** Establish regional learning hubs & thematic clusters (accompaniment, youth, faith, digital safety)

6. Prepare for Backlash and Political Risk

- **What AWDF is already doing:** Funding in hostile environments
- **Evaluation shows:** Visibility is rising faster than protection
- **Priority:** Build a feminist preparedness framework (digital safety, political risk, economic protection)

Kasa's impact comes from depth, care, and durability — not scale alone. These recommendations strengthen what already works, positioning AWDF and the sector to protect survivors, sustain movements, and withstand backlash

KASA! GRANTEE PARTNERS CONTRIBUTING TO THE EVALUATION



KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS



ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS



SITE VISITS PARTICIPANTS



KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS



Women and Youth Forum for Sustainable Development

ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS



SITE VISITS PARTICIPANTS



KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS



ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS



SITE VISITS PARTICIPANTS



For more information, please contact:

The African Women's Development Fund

Post: P.M.B CT 89 Cantonments, Accra, Ghana
Email: AWDF@awdf.org or grants@awdf.org
Tel: + 233 242700881



AFRICAN WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT FUND