Memories of Water

The AWDF 2020 Annual Report

Introduction to the Theme

A glimpse into the past can be a powerful tool for understanding the present and envisioning a future. As we look back on the events of 2020, we are reminded of the resilience and determination of women's rights organisations across the globe. From the COVID-19 pandemic to ongoing violence and discrimination against women's rights, 2020 was a year of significant challenges. Despite these challenges, women's organisations continued to work tirelessly to protect and advance the rights of women and girls.

Message from the CEO

As we enter 2021, we are encouraged by the commitment and creativity of our grantee partners and staff. They demonstrated an incredible ability to adapt and respond to the needs of their communities in a time of crisis. This adaptability is a testament to the strength and resilience of women's organisations.

Grantee Adaptations

In 2020, AWDF funded 136 grants to organisations in 32 countries (including 32 Francophone countries) in the areas of leadership, economic security, rights, health and education. These grants aimed to address emerging needs, and many grantees reported successful adaptations.

Achievements

- For AWDF and women's rights organisations, 2020 was more than just a year of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a year of rapid action in the anti-rape campaign.
- One of our grantees, the Uwaila Omosuwa and Barakat Bello, sparked a campaign in Nigeria, leading to the conviction of the perpetrator.
- In 2020, AWDF launched the CREATE Initiative, bringing together the grantees of the AYNI Fund (FIMI), and Women's Fund Asia, (WFA) and the Women's Fund for Africa in collaboration with the Women and Girls Africa Summit, and the Women’s Leadership Forum to lend support to the collective and shared learning.

Capacity Building Activities

- The Constant Chaos
- Prepping the Waters,
- Cleansing the Soul
- Healing the Healers
- Reimagined feminist organisations of African women's rights

Impact

In 2020, AWDF awarded USD $8,902,980 in grants to organisations in 32 countries (including 32 Francophone countries) in the areas of leadership, economic security, rights, health and education.

Grants awarded:

- USD $5,577,000
- USD $2,772,700
- USD $748,633
- USD $365,950
- USD $195,133

Impact Stories

- In Rwanda:
  - Through its Feminist Popular Education program, the Women's Rights Education Program (WREP) worked to ensure that local leaders working on shifting norms and policies around child marriage and early pregnancy were able to access training and support.
  - In Zimbabwe:
  - Through its Feminist Popular Education program, the Women's Rights Education Program (WREP) launched a pilot project in the localities of Guinguinéo, Dara Mboss and Gandiaye.

Funding Sources

- The alchemy of the work is done by those who brave the waters.
- Those who hold the moon's reflection, who choose the herbs, who work with the elements and make the change, those who
- The water remembers, 2020 was the proof. This was the year of proof.
- For AWDF and women's rights organisations, 2020 was more than just a year of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a year of rapid action in the anti-rape campaign.
- One of our grantees, the Uwaila Omosuwa and Barakat Bello, sparked a campaign in Nigeria, leading to the conviction of the perpetrator.
- The COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated existing challenges, but women's rights organisations continued to work tirelessly to protect and advance the rights of women and girls.

Grantee adaptations

- Grantees noted that while every context has its own peculiarities, they were able to adapt and respond to the needs of their community in a time of crisis.
- Grantees did what so many were doing globally; they attempted to take the work online and address emerging needs.
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2020 in Numbers

- 136 grants awarded
- USD $8,902,980 total amount awarded
- 32 countries (including 32 Francophone countries)

The Future

In 2021, AWDF will continue to support women's organisations working to advance women's rights and improve the lives of women and girls. We look forward to seeing how women's organisations will continue to adapt and respond to the challenges of the world.

Acknowledgments

AWDF is grateful to all those who have supported our work in 2020. We would like to thank our donors, partners, and grantees for their ongoing support and commitment to women's rights.

Global Impact

- North Africa: 3
- West Africa: 8
- East Africa: 9
- Central Africa: 8
- South Africa: 9
- South America: 9
- East Asia: 7
- South Asia: 10
- Europe: 10

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