

# BUILDING STRONG ORGANISATIONS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFRICA



2011  
ANNUAL  
REPORT





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**"In 2011, we awarded a total of US\$2,727,440 to 192 women's organizations in 29 African countries, directly reaching over 80,000 people and indirectly impacting an estimated 3 million more."**

“

AWDF has been that group that has stood by the Women, Peace and Security Network since we started... they gave us our first grant, but beyond that you rarely see donors who are concerned about the welfare of an institution, who are concerned about the little day to day things that are happening, who are concerned about the people who run the organisation, so I say they [AWDF] walk the talk...The women who work there are fantastic...The Women Peace and Security Network has been in existence for five years, and for five years AWDF has stood by us. ”

**LEYMAH GBOWEE, 2011 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE<sup>1</sup>**

## MESSAGE FROM AWDF

In 2011, the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) celebrated with the world when it was announced that Leymah Gbowee and President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia were two of three Nobel Peace Prize Laureates for the year. Also in 2011 another exceptional African woman, AWDF co-founder and former executive director, Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, was recognised for her service to women and girls on the continent with a David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award.

These extraordinary African women who do extraordinary things to strengthen their communities and nations are just some of the many with whom AWDF works and whom we exist to support. In 2011, we awarded a total of US\$2,727,440 to 192 women's organisations in 29 African countries, directly reaching over 80,000 people and indirectly impacting an estimated 3 million more. These awards were given under our six new thematic areas of grantmaking – current and emerging issues in Africa which we believe require greater feminist engagement, from HIV/AIDS, governance and peace to arts and culture.

In addition to funding we supported our grantees in 2011 through capacity building programmes, particularly to empower them to raise funds from diverse sources. Our efforts to build and invigorate the African women's movement through the platform of the African Feminist Forum (AFF) recorded success, too. The AFF expanded to include two new countries and plans were laid to hold a Central African sub-regional forum in 2012.

For us at AWDF, 2011 was also a year of significant internal review and renewal. We finalised and began to implement our new Strategic Plan 2011-15 (SPIII).

Key aspects of our work outlined in this plan are grantmaking, partnership and outreach, building AWDF as a financially sustainable feminist institution and promoting a culture of philanthropy in Africa for Africans.

While we made significant progress in what was a difficult year for many women's organisations as a result of the global economic downturn,

<sup>1</sup> Television interview on The Standpoint on GTV, hosted by Gifty Anti in Accra, Ghana, aired 28 October 2011.

a number of challenges remain to be addressed. Our need to strengthen our knowledge management systems is critical, likewise to bolster our own resource mobilisation.

With gratitude we received support totalling \$35,000 from two donors for our endowment in 2011. Growing our endowment and broadening our sources of funding will be a major focus over the next five years. We will also multiply our efforts to engage women in countries on the continent where our outreach has been low.

As we now look back on 2011, our thanks go to all who supported and partnered with AWDF during the course of the year. Your support has been invaluable. We look forward to continued collaboration as we work to build strong women's organisations to advance women's rights in Africa.



Theo Sowa, CBE  
CEO, AWDF

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US\$2,727,440 to 192 women's  
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Two members of Nafa Women's Group



# ABOUT AWDF

## WHO WE ARE

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) is a grantmaking foundation that supports local, national and regional women's organisations working towards the empowerment of African women and the promotion and realisation of their rights.

Since our inception in 2001, AWDF has provided over US\$19 million in grants to over 800 women's organisations in 42 African countries. Our grantmaking processes are uniquely designed to meet the needs of African women, including the provision of small grants to community-based organisations, main grants and capacity and movement building support.

## Vision & Mission

The vision of AWDF is for women to live in a world where there is social justice, equality and respect for women's human rights. Our mission is to mobilise financial, human and material resources to support African women and the work of the African women's movement to advance women's rights and gender equity in Africa.

## PROGRAMMES

### GRANTMAKING

AWDF's core programme is grantmaking. Our grantmaking comprises six new thematic areas: women's human rights; HIV/AIDS; health and reproductive rights; governance, peace and security; economic empowerment and livelihoods; and arts, culture and sports.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

AWDF's capacity building work includes strengthening the leadership, communication and resource mobilisation capacities of our grantees. We achieve this through dedicated capacity building grants and technical and skills building trainings.

### MOVEMENT BUILDING

AWDF works to build the African women's movement primarily through the biennial convening of the African Feminist Forum (AFF). The AFF is a space for diverse African feminist activists to meet, discuss and develop strategies to continue to advance African women's rights. AWDF also supports the convening of national feminist forums.

### STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-15 (SPIII)

Based on a review of our first ten years of operation, AWDF has developed a strategic plan for 2011-15.

- **Strategic Goal 1:** To support African women's organisations and the African women's movement in their work to promote, protect and realise women's human rights, through grantmaking, capacity building, advocacy and movement building.
- **Strategic Goal 2:** To build AWDF as a financially sustainable feminist philanthropic institution.
- **Strategic Goal 3:** To implement a multi-purpose communications strategy.
- **Strategic Goal 4:** To strengthen knowledge management and organisational learning.
- **Strategic Goal 5:** To promote an African agenda for philanthropy.

# GRANTMAKING IN 2011

## WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

**A**WDF has a vision in which all African women are able to enjoy their full human rights. Yet there remains a wide gap between political and legislative commitments to women's rights in Africa and the everyday abuse of these rights with impunity. Moreover, African women, especially in marginalised communities, often lack sufficient knowledge of their rights and access to justice when these rights are infringed.

In 2011 AWDF's grantmaking for women's human rights supported organisations fighting gender-based violence (GBV) and religious and cultural fundamentalisms, and advocating for women's property rights and citizenship. We funded projects to develop women's leadership skills to more effectively engage in decision-making in their communities, particularly concerning GBV. Grants also served to raise community awareness about women's rights. For women survivors of violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (the DRC), grants were awarded to pursue justice, as well to provide support services and post-trauma counselling.

Thanks to our 2011 grants thousands of African women now have better access to justice, including holding their local authorities accountable for fuller protection under their countries' laws. Women are speaking out more about the scourge of GBV and other abuses in their communities. They are also educating each other on their rights and the processes to report abuses. Strong alliances between women's rights organisations and women parliamentarians have emerged in countries such as Malawi, Togo and Uganda to draft wider and more substantive legislation to protect women from GBV. We expect that legislation will pass in at least two of these countries in 2012.

### AT A GLANCE

#### Grants for Women's Human Rights in 2011

**US\$896,000**

Total grants disbursed

**67**

Grantees

**23**

Countries

**27,151**

Women directly impacted and empowered

**2,360 in 9 countries**

Women trained to ensure the enforcement of women's rights with regards to GBV in their communities

**4,624**

Women educated on the processes for reporting GBV to authorities and accessing social and legal support

**810**

Women in the DRC supported to receive legal redress for past violence

**1,150**

Women survivors of GBV in the DRC who have received psychosocial support to rebuild their lives

## Consulting Women on Community Matters

Women in communities within the Malem chiefdom of Sierra Leone have over the years suffered from an unrelenting wave of violence – physical, sexual, emotional and economic. Women’s rights to education, property and decision-making received little, if any, attention.

A 2011 grant from AWDF enabled the Foundation for Integrated Development, Sierra Leone, to undertake an initiative to educate community and women leaders, as well as other community members, on women’s rights. The project also worked with women to strengthen their ability to demand their rights.

Only six months in, the project has already paved the way for better recognition of women and their rights by traditional and other opinion leaders in the area. Recently community leaders consulted with women about a land deal for palm oil production. This has never happened before in the community!



A member of the “Inter African Committee on Traditional Practices”, Sierra Leone.



Salamatu a beneficiary of AWDF’s Economic Empowerment Grant to “Northern Friends for Development.”



Esther Mwaura Muiro , National Coordinator- Grassroots Organisation Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS)



A member of the Tieshuma group

# HIV/AIDS

**A**frican women continue to bear the brunt of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa, making up 61% of the estimated 22 million people living with the disease in the region. HIV/AIDS has multiple ramifications for African women's rights. It not only denies women their right to health, but sickness and stigmatisation may further cause women to lose income generation opportunities or to be shunned by their communities.

In 2011 AWDF supported initiatives that promoted the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, including raising awareness about the disease, voluntary counselling and testing. For HIV-positive women, increased prevention of mother-to-child transmission services were made available as was treatment adherence education.

Additionally AWDF-funded projects providing support to women living with HIV/AIDS, including initiatives to generate income and to advance their rights and leadership capacities. We also supported projects marking World AIDS day and fighting the stigmatisation of people living with the disease.

In all, the projects funded by AWDF in 2011 under our HIV/AIDS grantmaking activities reached a broad spectrum of African women in 18 countries: from the young to the elderly, from commercial sex workers to rural women living in remote communities. Indirectly the projects will benefit many more women, men and children. Project beneficiaries are already helping to multiply the positive impact of AWDF grants. 300 HIV-positive women in Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Togo who were trained in leadership skills in 2011 are now spearheading a campaign named 'Zero New HIV Infections' in their respective communities. Their aim is to educate others on HIV prevention measures.

## AT A GLANCE

### Grants for HIV/AIDS in 2011

**US\$487,340**

Total grants disbursed

**47**

Grantees

**18**

Countries

**22,911**

Women directly supported to access HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment care

**300 in 6 countries**

Women living with HIV/AIDS trained in leadership skills and educating their communities about the disease

**6,650 in 7 countries**

Women living with HIV/AIDS supported through income generation projects

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AWDF awarded a grant of \$30,000 to Women United Against AIDS Ghana (WUUAG) to provide vocational training to women living with HIV and their dependents.

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## The Power of Determination

AWDF awarded a grant of \$30,000 to Women United Against AIDS Ghana (WUUAG) to provide vocational training to women living with HIV and their dependents. 17 year old Portia Mensah, a mother of two, whose deceased mother used to be a member of WUAAG support group, is a beneficiary of the vocational training. Portia is presently enrolled as an apprentice hairdresser. In addition, to support herself while learning the trade, she was given some money to start selling iced water in the evenings.

With more autonomy and a clearer vision of her future, Portia has been empowered to become more assertive in her relationship with her 45 year old partner, with whom she has been in an abusive relationship since she was 13. She is now no longer living with him and has been able to insist that he supports her by caring for their children while she is at work. Portia has been diligently attending her apprenticeship training and looks forward to when she will graduate and set up a business of her own, to gain greater financial independence.

## Effects of HIV Integrated Service

AWDF awarded \$20,000 to Women and AIDS Support Network (WASN) to provide HIV prevention and treatment education to the rural community of Chirumanzu in Zimbabwe. WASN was formed in 1989 in Zimbabwe to respond to the challenges facing women and girls in the area of HIV/AIDS, sexual, reproductive health and rights.

Through mobile clinics, WASN provided basic medical treatment to 1,687 women, girls and children under five. These treatments were integrated with HIV prevention and TB treatment education. Beneficiaries also received counselling and support on issues related to domestic violence. These beneficiaries, many of whom are the most needy in the society, included the aged, widows, and commercial sex workers.



A training session organised by Positive Women's Network in South Africa on the proper use of the female condom.

# HEALTH & REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

For the advancement and well-being of African women it is critical that they are able to make safe, informed and unforced choices about pregnancy and childbirth. Likewise good mental health is vital to African women's general well-being and vitality. However mental health is a particularly under-resourced and stigmatised issue in Africa.

AWDF, through our grantmaking, supports African women's organising for mental health, the protection of their reproductive and sexual rights, and the promotion of reproductive health through education, disease screening and family planning services.

During 2011 grants were made to strengthen advocacy, create awareness and promote research on women's health and reproductive rights issues. A research project explored the factors negatively impacting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women. The findings contributed to the establishment of a communication platform which will be used to advocate for greater national budgeting for these health issues.

AWDF grants in 2011 also aimed to empower women and young people with knowledge about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to create an enabling environment for women to enjoy these rights. Through our funding, services such as breast, cervical and other cancer screening and support, peer counselling to prevent transactional sexual exploitation, and mental health care were made available to over a thousand women.

## AT A GLANCE

### Grants for Health and Reproductive Rights in 2011

**US\$265,000**  
Total grants disbursed

**12**  
Grantees

**7**  
Countries

**1,808**  
Women directly supported to access mental health or reproductive care

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During 2011 grants were made to strengthen advocacy, create awareness and promote research on women's health and reproductive rights issues.

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## Creating Awareness of Breast Cancer in Swaziland

Swaziland Breast Cancer Network (SBCN) was formed in 2001 in Mbabane, the capital, by four women survivors of breast cancer. In the face of rising breast cancer rates and little effective response in Swaziland, the aim of SBCN is to provide information, guidance and support services to women affected by the disease.

An AWDF grant in 2011 supported SBCN to train 30 breast and cervical cancer counsellors, and to select a number of rural health motivators and nurses from two regions of the country. The grant was also used to produce and disseminate information, education and communication materials, including cervical and breast cancer brochures, examination campaign posters and a breast cancer-themed calendar in both English and Siswati – the latter allowing greater reach to rural communities.

Through such activities, SBCN has expanded awareness of breast and cervical cancer among women in Swaziland and in the corporate sector. The organisation also offers holistic counselling and a support group to women with breast cancer. Many of the counsellors recruited and trained are breast cancer survivors themselves.

Doreen Mangongo  
Breast cancer survivor

# GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

African women have vital roles to play in improving governance, peace and security in their local communities, countries and on the continent as a whole. AWDF is committed to working with women's organisations to strengthen women's political participation and civil society leadership. We also support the protection of women's rights in conflict and post-conflict situations, and seek to advance women's agendas in security sector reform.

Grants awarded in 2011 went towards civic education projects, for instance mobilising women in Ghana to vote in the 2012 elections and educating them on their rights as citizens. AWDF also supported initiatives aimed at increasing women's roles in preventing conflict and maintaining peace and security in their communities.

Organisations working to increase both the quantity and quality of African women's political representation at all levels also received grant support. In Uganda, 260 newly elected women local councillors received training to positively influence legislation, budgets and government programmes. This has made them more able to respond to the needs and interests of women and girls in their communities.

Complementing such interventions, grants were made to projects building the leadership capacities of young women. In Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, over 300 young women drawn from tertiary education institutions and civil society groups, especially in rural areas, benefitted from leadership and mentoring programmes. The programmes sought to equip the young women to assume future political leadership positions.

## AT A GLANCE

### Grants for Governance, Peace and Security in 2011

**US\$528,400**

Total grants disbursed

**20**

Grantee organisations

**9**

Countries

**2,350**

Women directly reached

**2000**

Women in Ghana mobilised to participate in the 2012 national elections

**356 in 5 countries**

Young women trained in leadership and mentoring programmes

The workshops created an opportunity for participants to learn and share ideas on the effects of violent conflict, early warning systems, mechanisms and strategies for conflict prevention and for promoting non-violence.



Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, running a workshop in Liberia for young Liberian women.

## Mobilising Women for Peace in Northern Ghana

The Northern Region of Ghana has experienced protracted ethnic, chieftaincy and inter-party conflicts, with disproportionate effects on women. In 2011 AWDF supported the Women in Peace Building Movement (WPBM) to undertake a series of activities to enhance women's capacity to promote peace and sustainable development and to minimise violence during elections in the region.

Investing technical and financial resources in local women's peace building capacity, WPBM organised educational workshops and fora on peace building issues for various stakeholders including youth, political leaders such as assembly women, and opinion leaders including queen mothers. The workshops created an opportunity for participants to learn and share ideas on the effects of violent conflict, early warning systems, mechanisms and strategies for conflict prevention and for promoting non-violence. A media campaign was also conducted to educate communities and stakeholders on the issue.

Following this project, attitudes have begun to shift. Many opinion leaders and other stakeholders in the region have come to realise the critical role of women in promoting peace, and have pledged full support to make this happen. Youth activists pledged to also promote peace and the respect of all people's rights, irrespective of gender, ethnicity or religion.

# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

Women's economic empowerment and security are a precursor for the advancement of their rights in Africa. Without sustainable economic options for women, broader development goals and targets simply cannot be attained or sustained. This is particularly true in relation to women's willingness and ability to take up both formal and informal leadership positions.

In 2011 AWDF grantmaking for economic empowerment and livelihoods supported micro-enterprise and food security initiatives at household and community levels, as well as strategic and policy interventions.

To ensure food security and increase household income for marginalised and rural women, grants were awarded to build their business and money-management skills. In addition, over two hundred women received start-up capital for their businesses, to better enable them to support their households and meet their social obligations.

We expect that in addition to a measurable increase in these women's personal economic security, they will be empowered to contribute to the development of their communities and to take up public decision-making roles.

## AT A GLANCE

### Grants for Economic Empowerment & Livelihoods in 2011

**US\$440,700**

Total grants disbursed

**44**

Grantees

**11**

Countries

**2,717**

Women directly impacted

**854**

Women benefitted from skills building or business and financial management training

**230**

Women received start-up capital for their business

In 2011 AWDF grantmaking for economic empowerment and livelihoods supported micro-enterprise and food security initiatives at household and community levels, as well as strategic and policy interventions.

**“I AM VERY HOPEFUL AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MY NEW FOUND SKILLS”**

AWDF grantee, New Skills for Women (NSW), provides practical livelihood skills for women from underprivileged communities in Ghana. It runs two fully residential, three month training programmes each year, training women in bead making, hairdressing and bread making. The women also receive entrepreneurship and business skills training. When they graduate, they are given start start-up capital and materials to launch their own businesses.

In 2011, 20 young women graduated from the NSW programme. The majority of these women were former ‘trokosi’ – girls who have been freed from a life of ritual servitude to a shrine priest, but often liberated without any means of livelihood or of improving their economic or social standing.

In the words of one such young woman: “After being liberated from my servitude, I had nothing doing to earn income. I therefore resorted to subsistence farming from which I earned little income which could not support family needs... I got to know about NSW and learned hairdressing and bead making. I am very hopeful and enthusiastic about my new found skills. They will enable me to reach economic independence.”

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I am very hopeful and enthusiastic about my new found skills. They will enable me to reach economic independence.

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Kaolin processing by members of “Anfoega Atawoe Group”, Kpando



Trainees under the hair dressing module of the “Girls’ Growth and Development Programme”.

# ARTS, CULTURE AND SPORTS

Representations of African women shape not only how they are seen by others, but also how they see and imagine themselves, their rights and opportunities. By supporting African women in creative endeavours and in sport, AWDF seeks to challenge patriarchal depictions of African women and mobilise greater public engagement and support for their rights in Africa. We also showcase the creativity and innovation of young women especially.

In 2011, our grantmaking in arts, culture and sport supported projects for women to access new skills and new audiences through participating in film festivals, musical concerts, artistic skills building, television shows and team sports. We also supported our grantee organisations to nurture young women artists and musicians who use their art to raise awareness of women's rights and GBV in particular.

While 600 people benefitted directly from AWDF-funded project in arts, culture and sports, it is expected that audiences of millions more across the continent will be indirectly reached through live viewings and media coverage of the project activities.

## AT A GLANCE

### Grants for Arts, Culture and Sport in 2011

**US\$110,000**  
Total grants disbursed

**5**  
Grantees

**4**  
Countries

**600**  
People directly benefitted  
(it is expected that millions will be reached indirectly)



Lady Jay Wah performing on International Women's Day.



The Stand Point third anniversary "Femithon" at the El-wak stadium.

## Standing for Women on Ghanaian National Television

The Standpoint is a 45 minute discussion television programme that aims to create a platform for Ghanaian and African women from all social backgrounds to talk about issues affecting them such as women's health, family life, child sexual abuse, violence, women in business and governance. The programme also works with other AWDF women's rights grantees to offer support to women and girls who raise difficult and sensitive issues on air.

The Standpoint is aired twice a week, including at peak time on Fridays. It is broadcast on Ghana's only national TV channel which is thought to attract four million viewers. The overwhelmingly positive response to the show has led to the host being invited to speak at tertiary institutions on the use of media to tackle social problems. The personal and policy impacts of the show will be formally assessed in 2012 or 2013.

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Participants of the Proposal Writing workshop in Kenya.



# CAPACITY BUILDING IN 2011

For AWDF's grantee organisations to maximise their impact for African women and remain sustainable, they need strong organisational, operational and financial capacity. In 2011 AWDF's capacity building work focused on strengthening our grantees' leadership, operations and communications, as well as their resource mobilisation skills.

Institutional support grants were awarded to enable grantees to develop strategic plans, long term programmes and staff skills. In some cases we approved grants to cover core overheads to enable organisations to remain operational.

A skills building workshop was held for women leaders of 20 organisations, during which they were trained on proposal writing, reporting and communication. These skills will enable them to increase the visibility and resource mobilisation initiatives of their organisations.

AWDF also held our second Chief Executive Officers' Forum. Women leaders of 28 sub-regional and regional organisations met to develop collective strategies to address the leadership and organisational sustainability issues affecting African women's rights organisations.

With the Resource Alliance UK, we worked to develop an accessible, African model for resource mobilisation training that responds to the context-specific challenges. Again in partnership with the Resource Alliance, we supported the convening of the annual Africa International Workshop on Resource Mobilisation (IWRM) in Kampala, Uganda.

The IWRM provided comprehensive training in all aspects of sustainable fundraising. AWDF sponsored 40 women to attend, eight of whom have since led their organisations to develop resource mobilisation strategies. And, already, five grantee organisations that benefitted from our capacity building interventions during the year have independently mobilised up to \$50,000 in funding from other sources.

## AT A GLANCE

### Capacity Building in 2011

**US\$402,000**

Total institutional support grants disbursed

**17**

Grantees

**8**

Countries

**65**

Women representing 48 organisations who participated in our skills building fora

**37**

Women delegates sponsored to attend the 2011 Africa International Workshop on Resource Mobilisation

Institutional support grants were awarded to enable grantees to develop strategic plans, long term programmes and staff skills. In some cases we approved grants to cover core overheads to enable organisations to remain operational.



A session at the 2nd CEO Forum



Jane Ndairangu, Kenyan Network of Women with AIDS (KENWA) in a session during the skills building workshop in Kenya

A skills building workshop was held for women leaders of 20 organisations, during which they were trained on proposal writing, reporting and communication. These skills will enable them to increase the visibility and resource mobilisation initiatives of their organisations.

# MOVEMENT BUILDING IN 2011

AWDF's key strategy for building the African women's movement is the convening of the African Feminist Forum (AFF). The AFF is a biennial meeting of African feminist activists and actors from different backgrounds and locations to deliberate on issues of key concern to the movement.

After the success of the 3rd AFF in Dakar, Senegal in 2010, AWDF provided technical assistance and financial support in 2011 to national feminist forums and follow up activities in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Reflections from these national activities highlighted that the AFF has strengthened strategic partnerships and coordination amongst women's groups in these countries. It has also enabled greater linkages between 'mainstream' women's groups and more marginalised parties such as those from LGBTI communities.

To build links with francophone women's organisations and encourage them to apply for our grants, AWDF undertook a mission to Bangui in the Central African Republic (the CAR),

## AT A GLANCE

### Movement Building in 2011

5

National feminist forums or activities supported

1

Grant awarded to convene a Central Africa sub-regional feminist forum

where we met with a number of organisations. The mission was successful, providing a better understanding of priority areas of concern for women's development in the country.

Following the visit, AWDF awarded a grant for a Central African sub-regional feminist forum to be implemented in the first quarter of 2012. We have also dedicated a budget to provide grants for the next three years to women's organisations in the CAR working on the issues of governance, peace and security, women's economic empowerment and HIV/AIDS.



AWDF staff with Margaret Vogt, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General Central African Republic during the Mission CAR



Some participants of the third African Feminist Forum in Dakar

# BUILDING AWDF

## BUILDING OUR RESOURCES

AWDF fundraised US\$5.71million for the year 2011 from 15 institutional donors. This was just short of our target of US\$6million and an increase of 9% over our 2010 income. In addition, as part of our endowment building programme for sustainability, we successfully increased our endowment fund by US\$35,000 with support from two donors.

As part of our strategic plan to promote an African agenda for philanthropy, in 2011 we continued to offer support ranging from administrative to technical to the African Grantmakers Network (AGN). AGN is a network that we co-founded in 2009. It seeks to build an indigenous social justice philanthropy in Africa. AWDF also enjoyed the partnership and support of member organisations of AGN, particularly advice on building our endowment and finding alternative sources of funding.

In 2011 AWDF continued to play an influential role in mobilising greater financial and institutional support for women's rights organising in Africa from corporate and philanthropic partners.

## FOSTERING STRONG LINKS

In 2011 AWDF continued to play an influential role in mobilising greater financial and institutional support for women's rights organising in Africa from corporate and philanthropic partners. We are excited to have concluded an agreement with the Newmont Ahafo Development Foundation in Ghana to develop its corporate social responsibility programme. This will include grantmaking within its catchment communities to address women's human rights issues. For us the partnership represents a promising inroad into the corporate sector, a key constituency.

We had a full schedule of advocacy and constituency building activities over the year, organising, chairing or attending a series of strategic and high-level fora. These got off to a flying start when we led a meeting in January between African women's rights civil society organisations and the executive director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet. The purpose was to explore opportunities for collective collaboration. Also in January and February we hosted visitors on an information-finding trip from the Philanthropic Workshop West, a network of US donors. After meeting with a number of our grantees and interacting directly with their project beneficiaries, some of the visitors pledged support for specific projects.

Partnering with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, AWDF coordinated a series of advocacy activities in Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria by the African Women Leaders' Network for Reproductive Health and Family Planning. In Ghana there is now a proposal to include reproductive health and family planning services in the national health insurance scheme. In Ekiti State, Nigeria, the administration has committed financial resources to train health practitioners on family planning and to raise greater community awareness about it.



AWDF staff with winners of the Hawa Yakubu essay writing competition

We continued to build our strong relationship with AWDF USA, our sister organisation. AWDF USA raises funds for women's activism in Africa and works on issues of common interest to women in Africa and in the USA. Over the year we also supported our grantees across Africa in a range of activities, launching their resource mobilisation drives, books and other publications, and speaking at their training, advocacy or outreach events. We were humbled to receive awards from three grantees in recognition of all our support to them.

## RAISING OUR VOICE

It is one of our strategic goals for AWDF to be more widely known, seen and heard in Africa and abroad. We worked hard to grow our traditional and new media presence during 2011. In January our achievements in ten years of grantmaking were prominently covered in a feature in the international English edition of New African Woman magazine. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, our founding executive director, was later cited in this magazine as one of 'the 100 Most Influential People of Africa.'

AWDF's communications officer, Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah, featured on three editions of Network

Africa on the BBC World Service while other programme staff appeared as guests and resource persons on several pan-African and diasporic TV programmes. Each media appearance presented an opportunity to portray the dynamism and strength of African women and to counter negative stereotypes.

Online, traffic on our website increased by 63.3% from the previous year while 45% more Facebook users 'liked' our page – most being young women aged 25-34. Our initial research suggests that AWDF is leading African women's organisations in social media use, and indeed we were able to share our experiences of these vital technologies with our sister organisations at different gatherings over the year.

We released a record of seven publications in 2011, including The Feminist Organisational Development Tool for African women's organisations to operationalise our African Feminist Charter. These publications are freely available to a global audience via our website; we are pleased to note that they were downloaded over 3,000 times over the course of the year.

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## GAINING KNOWLEDGE

Another of AWDF's strategies for 2011-2015 is to continuously invest in our own learning and knowledge management. This is critical to inform the focus of our programmes and to accurately measure the impact of our activities.

A series of staff placements were held in 2011, starting with the posting of our communications officer to the Comic Relief Marketing and Communications team. Outcomes included new linkages with international media houses and new ideas on marketing messages and techniques. Staff also attended relevant capacity building workshops, including the International Fundraising Congress in the Netherlands and an internal writing workshop led by renowned author and academic, Dr. Abena Busia. We also formed partnerships with DFID and the African Biodiversity Network/Gaia Foundation, to strengthen our research and analytical skills for evidence-based programming.

In 2011 as we embarked on 290 grantee site visits in 12 countries. The visits revealed the results highlighted in our grantmaking review above: that African women's organisations are doing remarkable work, particularly small to medium organisations working in marginalised communities with minimal resources. For the first time we included a broader mix of our staff on these field visits, which allowed a greater transfer of skills to the organisations visited.

Following internal reviews of our operational and grantmaking processes and external assessments by four donors, AWDF enjoyed improved organisational performance and enhanced donors' confidence. These, in turn, resulted in our successful leveraging of new streams of funding from two donors, DFID and Oak Foundation, and renewals from existing donors such as Comic Relief and the African Capacity Building Foundation.



AWDF'S Capacity Building Officer and Monitoring Officer and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with members of Creative Centre for Communications and Development (CCCD), Zimbabwe.



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Our initial research suggests that AWDF is leading African women's organisations in social media use, and indeed we were able to share our experiences of these vital technologies with our sister organisations at different gatherings over the year.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In 2011, AWDF's total income was US\$5.71million, representing an increase of 9% over our 2010 income of US\$5.24million. A total of \$50,855 of our 2011 income, less than 1%, was from sources such as return on investments and interest on bank balances, while over \$5.66 million (99%) came from donor agencies, public, private foundations and individuals, demonstrating the importance of these sources for us.

The increase of 9% over our 2010 income was mainly from public foundations. AWDF received support from 15 institutional donors in 2011: the New Field Foundation, the Stephen Lewis Foundation, an anonymous institutional donor in the US, the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Mama Cash, the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, HIVOS, Comic Relief the Global Fund for Women, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the Dutch MDG 3 Fund, UN Women, DFID, the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD) and DANIDA, Denmark's development body. For the first time in our history, we received a grant from DFID for a special gender mapping project for 2011/2012.

Comic Relief renewed its funding to AWDF through a multi-year grant. An anonymous institutional donor from the United States also renewed its annual grants to AWDF. NORAD, which has been supporting AWDF over the past three years, also renewed its annual grant in 2011 to support our grantmaking and grant management activities.

In 2011, AWDF received income from our existing multi-year commitments through DANIDA, John's Hopkins University School of Public Health, the New Field Foundation ACBF and the Dutch MDG 3 Fund. Our multi-year funding from the last two of these institutions ended in December 2011. AWDF is extremely grateful to our donors who continue to give us multi-year funding, as

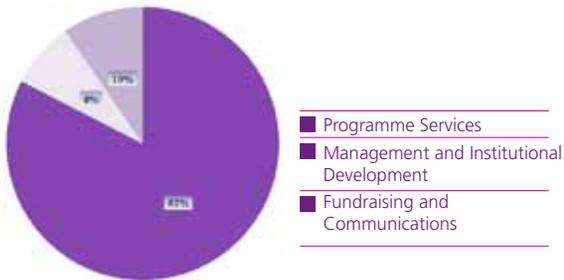
this enables us to undertake robust long term planning, thus enabling us to leverage additional income from other sources.

A significant percentage of our income for the year was restricted for specific project activities as per the grant conditions of the donor. AWDF fully respects these conditions and is very grateful to all our donors for this form of support. Unrestricted funding is equally very important for AWDF as it gives us flexibility to support other core initiatives. We take this opportunity to thank the institutional donors who gave us unrestricted funding in 2011: we are grateful to the Ford Foundation and an anonymous institutional donor in the US, and most especially to Comic Relief who gave us flexibility to use their grant to support key areas of our strategic plan.

Our individual giving programme was boosted when we received a major gift of \$33,249 from a donor. We will continue to increase our strategies for attracting individual donors. Our endowment campaign continued in 2011 with contributions from two institutional donors: Mama Cash and Oak Foundation, totalling US\$40,000.



Out of the total operating expenses for 2011, programme expenses constituted 83% while fundraising and institutional development costs made up 17%.



Out of our total programme costs of \$4.3million, \$2.72 million (2010: US\$2.5million) was for direct grantmaking, representing an increase of 9% from 2010. These grants were awarded in all six of our thematic areas and the grant sizes ranged between \$1,000 and \$50,000.

## THANK YOU

2011 was an extremely busy and productive year for AWDF. It was a year in which the founding Executive Director, Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, stepped down from her post at the end of 2010. It was the year in which we began to implement our new strategic plan.

Our achievements and the advances we enabled for women's rights in Africa during the year would not have been possible without the contributions of so many: from our donors to staff to grantees and partner organisations.

Once again, we say a heartfelt thank you.

## DONORS

Africa Capacity Building Foundation  
 Anonymous Institutional Donor  
 Comic Relief  
 Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Department for International Development  
 Dutch MDG 3  
 Global Fund for Women  
 John Hopkins University School of Public Health  
 Mama Cash  
 New Field Foundation  
 Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation  
 Stephen Lewis Foundation  
 UN Women  
 Urgent Action Fund Africa  
 Women's Foundation of Minnesota

## BOARD

Dr. Hilda M. Tadria  
 Joana Foster  
 Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi  
 Elizabeth Lwanga  
 Professor Sesae Felicity Mpuchane  
 Mary Wandia  
 January Nozipho-Bardill  
 Abena Amoah  
 Ndeye Sow

## AWDF STAFF

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