



strengthening women's political participation and challenging violence against women

- Provide funding for grantee organisations in the 16 countries to strengthen aspects of their organisational/institutional development.
- Convene a forum of Chief Executive Officers of regional and sub-regional women's networks and organisations in Africa. Good practice guidelines and models as well as development tools for the leadership and management of women's organisations and those seeking to ensure gender equality will be a major part of this project's outcomes.

### 3. Movement Building

AWDF believes firmly and invests heavily in the long term efforts to build an autonomous and strong women's movement in Africa considering that it is through the development of a ground swell of women seeking accountability at all levels that many of the gender based violations will be overcome. This will follow up from the African Feminist Forum (AFF) hosted by AWDF in 2006 and 2008. The AFF has been recognised as a key strategy for building a strong and autonomous movement on the continent, by providing a space for reflection, learning and exchange, debate and agenda setting, and has inspired women from other parts of the world to organize similar forums. In relation to movement building, AWDF will:

- strengthen regional and national movement building work in order to ensure the ongoing conceptual clarity and focus of women's rights activists in Africa through convening the regional African Feminist Forum and support for the national feminist forums.

### 4. Education and Knowledge Building

AWDF is seeking new and innovative ways to challenge discriminatory practice and thinking against women. Thus through this activity AWDF will create links with film makers and producers in the African film industry, especially the 'Nollywood' film industry (The Nigerian film industry), which is the third largest film industry in the world behind the US and Indian film industries. AWDF seeks to challenge negative and stereotypical depictions of African women in this industry. AWDF will:

- Convene a dialogue with key actors in the 'Nollywood' film industry to create alternative images of African women.
- Pilot an African Feminist Film festival that will bring together African women film makers and other artists to portray their work, and to showcase the contributions that African women have made over the years to development, peace and equality.

- Produce and repackage films and documentaries that challenge gender discrimination.
- Produce materials and publications showcasing women in leadership and their achievements.

AWDF will execute this project working in collaboration with other key actors and partner organisations to form opportunities for achieving greater scale and impact, learning and sharing, and for the development of knowledge and expertise.

**DURATION:**  
**OCTOBER 2008 - JUNE 2011**

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# MD3 Fund

## The African Women's Development Fund

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) is a grant making foundation, which aims to support the work of the African women's movement. The vision of the AWDF is for African women to live in a world in which there is social justice, equality and respect for women's human rights. To this end, our mission is to mobilise financial resources to support local, national and international initiatives led by women, which will lead to the achievement of this vision. The Fund has been set up by three African Women who have been active in various institutions within and outside Africa, and who have a track record of successful empowerment interventions, which have helped strengthen the African women's movement.

AWDF awards grants to African women's organizations working in the following thematic areas:

- Women's Human Rights
- Economic Empowerment
- Political Participation
- Peace-Building
- Health and Reproductive Rights
- HIV/AIDS

These thematic areas have been chosen because they feature very highly on the agenda of the African women's movement. The themes are specific enough to be able to focus on work that is being prioritised by many women's organizations, and they are also flexible enough to enable potentially good projects to qualify for support. AWDF also funds programs which develop and promote women's leadership across all these themes.

Between 2001, and December 2008, AWDF has funded over 600 women's organizations in 41 African countries

with grants worth just over US\$11,000,000.00 and is adding immense value to the field of social change philanthropy in Africa.

## The MDG 3 Fund

The MDG3 Fund was established by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2008 to support the development of Millennium Development Goal 3 (Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) which seeks to eliminate gender disparity at all levels. In 2008 AWDF was awarded a grant by MDG3 to strengthen the capacities of African women's organisations working to end violence against women and to broaden women's participation in political processes at local, national and regional levels.

### The Aims and Objectives of this project

The overall aim of the project is to strengthen the leadership and infrastructure of the African women's movement to advance the principles of gender equality and women's rights through grant making and capacity building.

This project has three principle aims:

1. To scale up AWDF's grant making capacity in support of small-medium sized women's organisations.
2. To build the capacities of grantee organisations through skills building training and convenings.
3. To develop innovative education and knowledge building programs which challenge negative stereotypes and perceptions of women.

## Activities

There are a number of key activities that will be undertaken as part of this project. These are:

### 1. Grant Making

AWDF will support women's organisations in 16 countries in Africa working to increase the effective participation of women in politics at local, national and regional levels, as well as those working to eliminate violence against women<sup>1</sup>. The key objectives for the grant making are:

To strengthen the quantitative and qualitative representation and participation of women in political processes and public office.

- To strengthen the efforts to bring an end to violence against women.

AWDF intends to build on the gains made for women in politics however small. A few examples of the kinds of grant making that will be made include:

- Skills building of prospective women seeking political office
- Development of policy and legislation that will advance the principles of gender equality as well as challenge discriminatory laws and practice.
- Building cross party alliances and coalitions between women in politics and civil society for reflection and agenda setting,
- Support for organisations seeking accountability from the state to commitments made in treaties, conventions and agreements made at international, regional and national levels for the advancement of women's rights.

<sup>1</sup> The 16 countries are: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe



- Support for shelters for women who have experienced violence,
- Legal service provision for women who have experienced gender based discrimination/ violence and violation.
- Provision of counselling services for women.
- Projects challenging sexual abuse and harassment of women running for political office and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

AWDF will award grants of up to US\$50,000.00 over a one year period, and multi year grants of up to US\$120,000.00 over 3 years.

### 2. Capacity Building

AWDF will work with grantee organisations to deepen their analysis and advocacy, assess the impact of their work as well as organise critical organisational skills training and information. AWDF is also keen to strengthen links and collaboration amongst key regional and sub-regional women's networks in Africa and facilitate a strong, vibrant women's movement. Thus as part of its activities for Capacity Building, AWDF will:

- strengthen grantee institutional capacities through skills building and technical assistance
- convene thematic meetings, bringing grantees together to reflect, exchange experiences and develop models of good practice for