



STICHTING AFRICA HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK FOUNDATION

AHRN Foundation

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## THE YOUNG FEMINIST FUND PROJECT INFORMATION

### INTRODUCTION

The African Human Rights Network (AHRN) is a dedicated organization that empowers and supports individuals and organizations committed to human rights and activism throughout Africa. Through our flagship initiative, the Young African Feminist Fund, we provide support to numerous young feminist movements across 14 African countries, both registered and non-registered. Our funding opportunities are primarily closed, but we also offer open opportunities based on fund availability and agreements with our donors. As an influential platform, we collaborate with over 115 local organizations operating within Africa.

AHRN is deeply committed to fostering a vibrant community of young activists. In pursuit of this, we have established the Young African Defenders in Actions (YADA Network), the first-ever network of its kind in Africa, as well as the Activist Lab - Africa, which serves as a global connection for young activists. These networks play a crucial role in identifying and engaging with our beneficiary partners.

In our efforts to support feminists, we prioritize the nurturing of young feminist founders who are engaged in impactful projects and initiatives. We actively seek out individuals who have demonstrated a track record of success but face limited access to funds or require additional skills in areas such as communication, fundraising, and project implementation. To address these needs, we provide comprehensive training to these young feminists and subsequently invite them to apply for funding through our closed funding opportunities.

At the core of our mission is the advancement of women's rights and the empowerment of young activists, including land rights and environmental defenders throughout Africa. We offer comprehensive training on human rights and assist participants in drafting and implementing their own human rights projects. Following the training, we provide financial support and ongoing guidance to grassroots organizations and individual human rights defenders, helping them bring their projects to fruition.

We are wholeheartedly dedicated to championing human rights, amplifying voices, and creating lasting impact across Africa. Together with our partners and supporters, we are tirelessly working towards a future where equality, justice, and dignity are upheld for all.

### FUND MISSION

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The mission of AHRN Fund is to support and empower grassroots movements or individual activists who work and/or are part of marginalized groups, particularly women, and indigenous communities to have a voice in decision making processes related to environmental and any other human rights issues and are able to advocate for policies that prioritize their needs. The goal is to create a sustainable equitable, inclusive real impact on the lives of these marginalized communities by providing resources and support to help them advocate for their rights and well-being.

Our fund aims to support projects and initiatives led by young feminist women that promote sustainable development, clean energy and conservation of natural resources, sexual reproductive health and education. We believe in the power of grassroots young women-led solutions and we prioritize funding opportunities that involve empowering grassroots feminists in Africa. Additionally, we will focus on supporting education and awareness programs that educate people about the importance of environmental stewardship and the impact of our actions on the planet.

## VISION

To create a world where all people have equal access to the benefits of healthy environment, sexual reproductive health, education and a sustainable future.

## OBJECTIVES

**EMPOWER**



Objective 1: Empower and support young feminist movements: The first objective of the Young African Feminist Fund is to empower and support young feminist movements across Africa. This involves providing financial support, comprehensive training, and ongoing guidance to young feminist founders who are working on impactful projects and initiatives. By nurturing these movements and addressing their needs, we aim to strengthen their capacity to advocate for women's rights and contribute to social change.

**FOSTER**



Objective 2: Foster a vibrant community of young activists: AHRN is deeply committed to fostering a vibrant community of young activists throughout Africa. Through initiatives like the Young African Defenders in Actions (YADA Network) and the Activist Lab - Africa, we create platforms for young activists to connect, collaborate, and share their experiences. These networks serve as essential channels for identifying and engaging with beneficiary partners, fostering a sense of community, and amplifying the voices of young activists across the continent.

**ADVANCE**



Objective 3: Advance women's rights and empower young activists: At the core of AHRN's mission is the advancement of women's rights and the empowerment of young activists, including land rights and environmental defenders. We offer comprehensive training on human rights and assist participants in drafting and implementing their own human rights projects. By providing financial support and ongoing guidance to grassroots organizations and individual human rights defenders, we aim to help them bring their projects to fruition and create lasting impact in their communities. Through these efforts, we strive to uphold equality, justice, and dignity for all.

### **FUNDING APPROACH**

As a feminist fund or women-led fund our organization prioritizes funding for grassroots feminist organization that are led by and serve marginalized communities. We take an intersectional approach to funding, meaning that we recognize and address the ways in which different forms of oppression, such as racism, intersect and impact the experiences of individuals.

In practice this means that our funding prioritizes and ensures that decision making processes are informed by an understanding of the intersections of race, class gender, sexuality, ability, and other identities. We actively seek out and prioritize funding for organizations that are led by individuals

from marginalized communities, and that are working to address the specific and unique needs and struggles of those communities.

Additionally, we make sure to engage with the grassroots young women led feminist organizations we fund and their communities through meaningful consultation and feedback to support their self-determined goals and priorities, and are open and responsive to feedback and criticism on our funding practices and policies.

## **FUNDING MECHANISM**

Our funding mechanisms include a combination of individual donations and foundation grants. Our organization specializes in providing funding to grassroots young women-led feminist organizations that are working towards gender equality, climate justice and the empowerment of marginalized communities.

Our grantee partners are typically small to medium-sized organizations that are led by young women and focus on grassroots activism and community-based work. They work in areas of climate justice, gender-based violence prevention, and economic empowerment for marginalized communities.

We manage accountability and reporting through a thorough grant application process, where grantee partners are required to submit detailed project proposals, budgets, and measurable outcomes. Additionally, we conduct regular check-ins and evaluations to ensure that grantee partners are meeting their project goals and using funds appropriately.

We also have two types of application calls where grantees choose whether the funds they are applying for is rapid or general funding and once the fund is approved to meet the rapid requirement we give out the funds in a period of 5 days.

Once a decision has been made for the general funding we are able to quickly disseminate funding within a timeframe of 2-4 weeks. All this is done to ensure that grantee partners can begin their work as soon as possible and make a meaningful impact in the communities they serve.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The selection criteria for the Young African Feminist Fund are based on the following factors:

**Alignment with the Fund's Mission:** The projects and initiatives being considered for funding should align with the mission of the fund, which is to support grassroots movements or individual activists who work and/or are part of marginalized groups, particularly women, and indigenous communities. The projects should aim to have a voice in decision-making processes related to environmental and human rights issues and advocate for policies that prioritize the needs of these marginalized communities.

**Young Feminist-Led:** The fund prioritizes projects and initiatives that are led by young feminists, particularly young women. The applicants should demonstrate a commitment to feminist principles and the advancement of women's rights.

**Impact and Sustainability:** The fund seeks projects that have the potential for real impact and can contribute to sustainable development. The applicants should demonstrate how their projects address critical issues, create positive change, and have a lasting impact on the lives of marginalized communities.

**Innovative Approach:** The fund values innovative and creative approaches to addressing social issues. The applicants should present unique and effective strategies that challenge existing norms and systems of oppression.

**Capacity Building Needs:** The fund looks for individuals or organizations that have demonstrated a track record of success but face limited access to funds or require additional skills in areas such as communication, fundraising, and project implementation. The applicants should be open to receiving comprehensive training and capacity building support.

**Intersectionality:** The fund recognizes and addresses the intersections of various forms of oppression, such as racism, classism, gender discrimination, and ableism. The applicants should demonstrate an understanding of intersectionality and how their projects address the specific needs and struggles of marginalized communities.

**Financial Accountability:** The fund expects applicants to demonstrate financial accountability and transparency. This includes providing detailed project proposals and budgets, as well as a commitment to using the funds appropriately and reporting on the outcomes achieved.

**Community Engagement:** The fund values meaningful consultation and engagement with the communities being served. Applicants should demonstrate a strong connection and involvement with the communities they work with, and their projects should reflect the self-determined goals and priorities of those communities.

**Potential for Collaboration:** The fund encourages collaboration and partnership among organizations and activists. Applicants who demonstrate a willingness to collaborate and share resources and knowledge with other organizations and activists are given preference.

**Evaluation and Learning:** The fund seeks applicants who are open to feedback and willing to engage in continuous learning and improvement. Applicants should demonstrate a willingness to participate in evaluation processes and share lessons learned from their projects.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

These selection process ensures that the Young African Feminist Fund supports impactful projects led by young feminists, with a focus on addressing the needs of marginalized communities and promoting sustainable development, gender equality, and climate justice in Africa.

**Application Submission:** Interested individuals or organizations that meet the eligibility criteria are invited to submit their applications. The application process typically involves completing a detailed form that includes information about the project or initiative, its goals, expected outcomes, budget, and the organization or individual's background and experience. The application form may also require supporting documents such as references, financial statements, and work samples.

**Board Review:** Once the application deadline has passed, the submitted applications are reviewed by a board or panel of experts. This board consists of members who have experience and expertise in feminist activism, human rights, and related fields. They evaluate the applications based on predefined selection criteria, which may include factors such as the project's alignment with the fund's mission and objectives, its potential impact, the feasibility of implementation, and the applicant's track record or potential for success.

**Interviews:** After the initial review, shortlisted applicants may be invited for interviews. These interviews serve as an opportunity for the board to have a more in-depth discussion with the applicants, ask clarifying questions, and assess their commitment, passion, and capacity to carry out the proposed project. The interviews may be conducted in person, over the phone, or through video conferencing platforms.

**Fund Allocation:** Following the board review and interviews, the final selection of grantee partners is made. The selected individuals or organizations are notified about their successful application and the amount of funding they will receive. The fund allocation decision is typically based on the evaluation of the project's merit, alignment with the fund's mission, available budget, and the fund's strategic priorities. The funding may be allocated as a one-time grant or disbursed in installments, depending on the project's duration and milestones.

It's important to note that the specific details and timelines of the selection procedure may vary depending on the fund's policies, available resources, and the volume of applications received. The Young African Feminist Fund aims to ensure a fair and transparent selection process that aligns with its mission of empowering young feminist movements and supporting impactful projects and initiatives.