



AWDF'S HIV /AIDS FUND



THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT FUND
'A grant-making foundation for African Women'



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ABOUT AWDF

African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) is a grant-making foundation which supports local, national and regional organisations in Africa working towards women's empowerment. AWDF through institutional capacity building and programme development seeks to build a culture of learning and partnerships within the African women's movement.

The vision of 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 regional initiatives led by women, which will lead to the achievement of this vision. AWDF funds women's groups across Africa working in the areas of Women's Human Rights, Political Participation, Peace Building, Health and Reproductive Rights, HIV/AIDS and Economic Empowerment.

AWDF has funded over 600 women's organisations in 41 African countries and as the first region-wide Women's Fund in Africa is adding immense value to the field of social change philanthropy in Africa.

BACKGROUND

All the available literature and evidence affirms that there are social, cultural and economic factors which exacerbate the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection in Africa. Not only are women biologically more prone to HIV infection than men, for a variety of social, cultural and economic reasons they suffer more trying to cope once infected. This takes place within a context of feeble political will, scarce resources, and an inability to carefully analyse and address the gendered dimensions of the pandemic.

Sexual and reproductive rights are the key neglected dimension on HIV/AIDS policy, programming and resource allocation. Failure to protect girl's and women's sexual and reproductive rights leads to infection, therefore, access to sexual and reproductive health services, education and protection of sexual and reproductive rights are an essential part of the struggle against the pandemic.

African women's organisations working on

these issues across the continent have varying capacities to address these complexities, most of which need to be tackled at policy/national level, by governments and large agencies. Many of AWDF's grantee partners are community based, grassroots initiatives, and do not have access to resources from large donors. There are also larger women's organisations who find it difficult to access funding for sexual and reproductive rights if there are few donors in their community willing to support work in this area. Meanwhile, African women and girls continue to be infected and they continue to die.

The role of AWDF's HIV/AIDS Fund, which was launched in November 2005, is to provide access to resources for African women's local, national or regional initiatives to fight the pandemic, and to enable the many women who are infected live lives of dignity and hope. The HIV/AIDS Fund was launched with the prize money of £100,000 awarded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust in 2005, who recognized the Executive Director of AWDF, Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi for her work in promoting women's rights in Africa. The HIV/Fund received an additional boost at the official launch in November 2005 with a U\$1m grant from the Nelson Mandela Foundation- 46664 Project.



Since then several other funders as well as many individuals have supported the fund.

When we established this special fund, we had the following goals in mind:

- a) To promote a culture of awareness, compassion and responsibility around HIV/AIDS issues, particularly where they affect women and girls in Africa
- b) To establish the links between gender inequality, the low status of women and girls, and the implications for the extreme vulnerability of women.

AWDF's priority areas for the HIV/AIDS Fund

AWDF's HIV/AIDS Fund is meant to complement existing resources available to African women's organisations working on these issues, and to increase access for those who are currently unable to carry out effective programs due to lack of funding. We prioritise the needs of small

and medium sized organisations with modest budgets, though we also address the needs of larger organisations who are doing work that is difficult to fund. The Fund provides grants to women's organisations working on the following issues in three key areas:

Enhancing the status of women and girls and protecting their rights

- Harmonization of national laws and constitutions in line with regional and international commitments and standards to avoid inconsistencies
- Protecting women's rights to own and inherit property and land
- Programs to combat harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, widowhood rights, child marriage, etc.
- Promoting a culture of non-tolerance to all forms of violence against women



- Eradication of discrimination and violations of women's human rights through legal and policy reform.

Creating opportunities for women and girls to make empowering choices

- Economic empowerment and skills building programs to lift women out of dire poverty and break the cycle of vulnerability.
- Leadership development programs for women in communities to give them more access to decision-making.
- Capacity building to strengthen women's organisations working on HIV/AIDS issues in order to make them more visible, better resourced and more effective.

Women's needs and circumstances in prevention, treatment and community care.

- Advocacy and campaigning for gender sensitive treatment access and health care delivery systems.
- Home based care and all forms of support necessary for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, to ensure women's dignity and well-being

- Access to treatment for women who are victims of sexual violence
- Treatment literacy programs for women living with HIV/AIDS
- Voluntary testing and counselling
- Anti-stigma campaigns
- Support for treatment activists
- Targeting young women and young men in tertiary institutions
- Adoption counselling

The achievements of AWDF's HIV/AIDS fund

Since the HIV/AIDS Fund was launched in November 2005, the fund has:

- Disbursed U\$2,013,375 in grants to 107 African women's organisations in 25 countries.
- Provided grant-making and technical support for organisations, networks and support groups of women living with HIV/AIDS in several countries
- Invested in multi-year funding in order to scale up some of the struggling initiatives of African women's organisations working on HIV/AIDS



- Provided capacity building grants and institutional support to meet specific capacity building needs of grantee partners.
- Through our grant-making, capacity building and convening programs, we have tried to build a bridge and strengthen ties amongst women’s rights/advocacy organisations and networks in Africa and those groups working exclusively on HIV/AIDS.
- Created opportunities for grantee partners to attend important conferences and seminars within and outside Africa for networking and advocacy.
- Provided training on resource mobilisation and monitoring and evaluation to grantee partners working in the HIV/AIDS sector.
- Supported movement building amongst networks of women affected with HIV/AIDS.
- Collaborated with other organisations to produce ‘The Johannesburg Position on HIV/AIDS and Women and Girls’ Rights in Africa, 2006’.
- Launched The 13 Campaign, a fundraising, communications and donor education initiative to mobilise resources for the HIV/AIDS Fund.

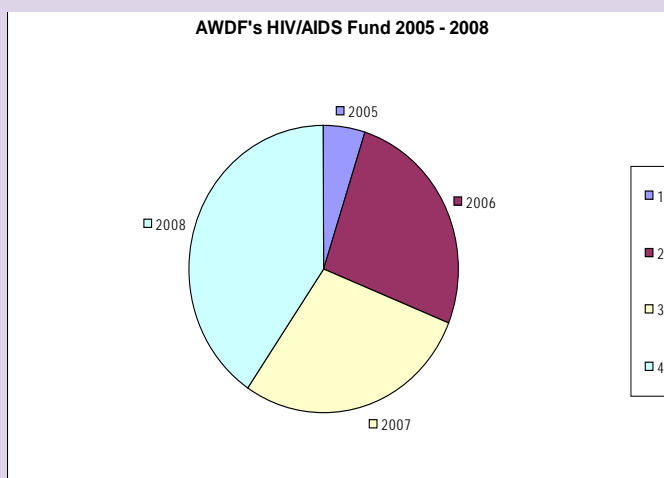


Fig 1: Pie Chart illustrates the increase in funding given to African women’s organisations through the HIV/AIDS fund



THE GRANTEE PARTNERS OF AWDF'S HIV/AIDS FUND

107 organisations in 25 countries have benefited from AWDF's HIV/AIDS fund. 5 regional organisations working on a regional or sub-regional basis have also received support from AWDF's HIV/AIDS fund.

Benin

Action pour le Financement, le Developpement, l'Environnement et la Vie (ONG FIDEVIE) - \$8,000 to support the setting up of a voluntary screening centre.

Burkina Faso

Association des Femmes pour le Developpement Teg Wende - US\$1000 to promote voluntary HIV screening within the community through a sensitization program.

Burundi

Association Burundaise des Amis de l'Enfance (AMADE) - US\$10,000 to support a Prevention of Mother to Child transmission HIV/AIDS Project.

La Famille pour Vaincre le SIDA (FVS) – US\$10,000 to support a Prevention of Mother to Child transmission HIV/AIDS Project.

Cameroun

Women of Hope Educational Foundation (WHEAF) – US\$10,000 to undertake income generation activities for women living with HIV/AIDS and initiate a campaign to fight stigma and discrimination.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Association des Jeunes Femmes du Maniema - US\$5,000 to produce a radio programme and organise a training workshop on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.

Grace Vie Positive - US\$8,000 for training of peer educators and awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS.

Ethiopia

Negam Lela Ken New Association of Women Living with HIV/AIDS - US\$30,000 to form an HIV/AIDS support group in Debre and train members in income generating skills.

Negate Ethiopia Deaf Association for Prevention of AIDS (NEDAPA) - US\$10,000 to deliver HIV/AIDS awareness training to the deaf community and to produce suitable training materials.

Young Women's Christian Association of Ethiopia (YWCA) - US\$10,000 for HIV/AIDS awareness campaign and skills training for vulnerable women.

Ghana

Afoega Agatawoe Miwoenyo Habobo - US\$3,000 for a representative to attend an HIV/AIDS conference in Kenya.

Ahenbronoso Care Foundation - US\$8,000 to set up a poultry project led and managed by women led support groups.

Ative Women's Vocational Centre - US\$500 for awareness raising activities including a play on World Aids Day 2006.

Deprived Single Mothers Assistance Scheme (DeSMAS) - US\$10,000 to undertake an educational drive on the use of the female condom in the Tema municipality.

Foundation for Female Photo Journalists - US\$5,000 to produce IEC materials and develop anti stigma campaigns as well as producing a film on anti stigma campaigns, providing care and support issues around HIV/AIDS.

Ghana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS - US\$10,000.00 to establish a Gender Desk at the National Secretariat and train 12 HIV positive women in Advocacy and Communication.

Home for Women and Children - US\$1000 for World Aids Day activities.

International Federation of Women Lawyers FIDA (Ghana) - US\$10,000 to carry out research in selected high risk areas to identify solutions to legal challenges faced by women living with HIV/AIDS.

Life Care Association - US\$10,000 for the expansion of income generation activities and provision of home based care for members.

Lihop Organization - US\$5,000 to purchase office equipment and erect a structure for training PLWHA.

Muslim Women & AIDS Association - US\$5,000 to produce and air 25 radio advocacy programmes on gender based violence and HIV stigma and discrimination targeting Moslem women.

Nana Yaa Memorial Trust for good quality reproductive health - US\$20,000 for institutional support including the construction of a borehole, connecting electricity to the centre and purchasing office equipment.

Pro-Link Organization - US\$15,000 to implement an HIV/AIDS and reproductive health programme for women and girls.

Sight for Africa - US\$1675 to conduct eye tests for members of Women United Against Aids in Ghana.

Society for Women against AIDS in Africa (Ghana) - US\$1000 to run events on World Aids Day 2006.

The Ark Foundation - US\$15,000 awarded for the publication of a training manual on gender violence and HIV/AIDS.

The Inter African Network for Women, Media, Gender Equity and Development - US\$20,000 to support the training of women journalists on HIV/AIDS issues.

Women United Against AIDS in Ghana (WUAAG) - US\$15,000 for institutional support.

Women, Media and Change - US\$20,000 to support the training of women journalists on HIV/AIDS issues.

Kenya

Association of Kenyan Housewives against HIV/AIDS - US\$5,000 for general support.

Kenya Network of Women with AIDS (KENWA) - US\$15,000 for providing 40 women living with HIV/AIDS with income generating activities and support 20 girl orphans with vocational training.

Kenya Widows and Orphans Support Programme (KWOSP) - US\$4,000 dollars for participation in the XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada, 2006.

Kiambu People Living with HIV/AIDS (KCBHCP) Self Help Group - US\$15,000 to undertake a memory book and will writing project.

Ripples International - US\$10,000 to provide care and support for women living with HIV/AIDS.

Single Mothers Association of Kenya - US\$10,000 for institutional support.

Women's Concern Centre - US\$6,000 to equip the community resource centre with IT resources and IEC materials.

Young Widows Advancement Program - US\$20,000 for institutional and programme support.

Young Women Campaign against Aids (YWCAA) - US\$10,000 for HIV/AIDS awareness campaign targeting bar waitresses in selected slum areas in Nairobi.

Liberia

Society for Women and Aids in Africa, Liberia - US\$10,000 to support training in loan management and the institution of a micro-credit scheme for income generation activities.

Malawi

Society for Women and Aids in Africa, Malawi - US\$20,000 for institutional capacity building, training and support for the establishment and running of a Charity shop.

Mali

Association pour le progress et la defence des droits des femmes (APDF) - US\$1000 to stage an HIV/AIDS campaign in the border town of Kati.

Niger

Union pour la promotion de la femme Nigerienn - US\$1000 to organise a public forum and documentary on HIV/AIDS and migration for World Aids Day, 2006.

Nigeria

Community People's Action against Aids (Cope-Aids) - US\$5,000 for an HIV/AIDS awareness and health advancement project for community women in the south west of Nigeria.

Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD) - US\$20,000 to conduct a workshop for policy makers, develop community specific HIV/AIDS educational materials, organise 24 radio discussion programs and for training community health personnel.

Information Aid Network - US\$10,000 to support training sessions targeted at trans-international truckers and commercial sex workers.

Multiview Advocacy Network (MANET) - US\$ 8,000 to enhance the skills of sex workers through training and micro credit facilities to help them access alternate employment.

NigeriaHIVinfo.com - US\$10,000 to train women journalists to build their capacity in reporting on HIV/AIDS issues.

Positive Action for Treatment Access (PATA) - US\$30,000 to train women in book-keeping skills.

Society for Women and Aids Africa, Nigeria - US\$25,000 to conduct awareness raising

activities and skills training for brothel based sex workers and volunteer peer educators.

Women against Rape, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Exploitation (WARSHE) - US\$60,000 over two years to support the institution and to run a program on the links between violence and HIV/AIDS.

Women and Youth in Development (WYD) - US\$5,000 to provide micro credit for 50 women.

Women Protection Organisation (WOPO) - US\$10,000 to provide women / widows living with HIV/AIDS with income generating skills.

Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) - US\$1,000 to hold a sensitization campaign on HIV/AIDS to highlight the linkage between HIV/AIDS issues and trafficking of women and children in Nigeria.

Rwanda

Bamporeze Association - US\$12,000 to train peer educators and mentors among child-headed households and provide them with income generating skills.

Benishyaka Association - US\$10,000 to support income generation activities (goat rearing) and access to medical services through health insurance for people affected and infected with HIV/AIDS.

Ejo Nzamer Nte asbl - US\$10,000 for sensitizing people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and the community on HIV/AIDS issues.

Senegal

Society for Women and Aids in Africa, International - US\$7,000 to support participation at the International Aids Conference in Mexico.

Sierra Leone

Muloma Women's Development Association (MUWODA) - US\$10,000 to train peer educators, form a drama troupe and undertake HIV/AIDS awareness education.

Women in Action Development Project - US\$4,000 to promote condom usage especially the female condom, promote Voluntary Counseling and Testing and initiate a care and support programme for women living with HIV/AIDS.

Somalia

Coalition of Grassroots Women - US\$5,000 for the training of 30 midwives and traditional leaders on the harmful effects of FGM and its linkage to HIV/AIDS.

South Africa

Development Gender Network (DGN) - US\$15,000 to increase access to voluntary counselling and testing; strengthen networks and organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS and mobilize community leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Gumpe Community Fund - US\$24,000 for strengthening of women's support groups through skills development programs, training of volunteer counsellors and community workers to effectively work with people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Positive Women's Network - US\$15,000 for an outreach programme to support women and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Sudan

Zenab for women in development - US\$1000 to organise a seminar on the impact of HIV/AIDS on women's economic and social status.

Swaziland

Nguuguumane Support Group - US\$10,000 to help improve the health status of members through the establishment of gardens that will provide a source of nutritious food.

Swaziland Positive Living for Life (SWAPOL) - US\$100,000 over two years to strengthen the capacity of care givers and outreach activities.

Tanzania

Kawe Ridhika Shinda HIV/AIDS (KARISHIA) - US\$8,000 to care for and support women living with HIV/AIDS.

Kigurunyembe Women Group for Alleviation of Poverty (KIWOGA) - US\$10,000 to provide income generation projects for 25 out of school girls and 25 women in Morogoro region.

National Network of Tanzanian Women with HIV/AIDS - US\$10,000 to undertake a treatment literacy campaign in two project sites of Southern Highlands Zone in the Iringa Region and Central zone in the Dodoma region.

The Association of Women Busy Workers (AWBW) - US\$10,000 to provide skills training and income generation activities for women living with HIV/AIDS and support orphans.

Wanawake Wanaoishi na Virusi vya UKIMWI (WAWAVU) - US\$5,000 to purchase a computer and start an income generation project.

Women's Research and Documentation Project Association (WRDP) - US\$15,000 to support research into the effects of cultural practices on the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Zanzibar Youth Forum (ZYF) - US\$5,000 to implement a micro credit scheme for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Togo

Action et Initiative pour la Promotion et le Developpement - US\$1000 to sensitise young girls especially sex workers, on risky behaviours that can facilitate the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Association ODJOUGBO - US\$1,000 to organize a one-day workshop to educate traditional nurses on the consequences of female genital mutilation.

ONG Femme de Demain - US\$1000 to organise a one-day workshop to educate traditional nurses in Anie on the negative effects of female genital mutilation.

Uganda

Action for Women in Development and Awakening in Rural Environment (AWARE) - US\$1,000 to organize an HIV/AIDS march and a radio program for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Busia Widows and Orphans Association (BWOA) - US\$10,000 for the training of home based care givers, training of memory project documentation specialists and women's right advocates.

Busia Women Producers Association (BUWOPA) - US\$1000 for HIV/AIDS awareness raising activities on World Aids Day, 2006.

Buwaate Single Mothers Group - US\$1,000 to organize a one-day seminar for women's groups, religious and opinion leaders on HIV/AIDS.

Disabled Women's Network - US\$10,000 for designing and modifying a training manual on HIV& AIDS and for holding a two-day workshop for 30 women with disabilities.

Gaba Women's Group - US\$5,000 to train volunteers who will also train other women on HIV/AIDS awareness.

Gender Integrated Development Program (GIDP) - US\$10,000 to undertake HIV/AIDS education campaigns.

Grassroots organizations operating together in sisterhood (GROOTS) - US\$5000 to organise an event at the 14th International AIDS and STIs conference in Africa (ICASA).

Kisimbiri HIV/AIDS Group - A grant of US\$5,000 to support the setting up of small projects and training.

Lesgay Association - US\$1000 support the construction and display of a bill board with anti HIV/AIDS messages and photographs on a busy highway in Uganda.

Lugeye Primary School Women's Association - US\$6,000 for HIV/AIDS education, adult literacy, skills training and women's human right issues.

Namayina Rural Development Project- US\$5,000 to train peer educators and form a drama troupe to undertake community education on HIV/AIDS issues.

National Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda - US\$5,000 to strengthening the governance and communication systems of the organisation, and to develop a fundraising strategy by building the capacity of its branches in relation to organisational policies.

Ngora AIDS Women's Association (NAWA) - US\$5,000 to run a workshop and community sensitization activities on HIV/AIDS.

Organisation for Good Life of the Marginalised (OGLM) - US\$20,000 to implement a memory book project.

Positive Women Leaders of Uganda (POWL-U) - US\$20,000 to implement a memory book project.

Teso AIDS Programme - US\$15,000 to train home care givers and for institutional support.

Zambia

Action for Social Development Foundation (ASDF) - US\$10,000 to train 20 community caregivers, 15 community based adherence treatment counselors; conduct 15 treatment campaigns; provide start up capital for 30 women/youth and form women support groups.

Busia Widows and Orphans Family Health Trust - US\$15,000 for organisational strengthening and the support and care of women living with HIV/AIDS.

Heal Project - US\$15,000 to undertake a micro finance project.

Lugeye Primary School Women's Association - US\$6000 for HIV/AIDS education, adult literacy and skills training.

Ndola Nutrition Group - US\$5,000 to provide nutritional supplements to children and women living with HIV/AIDS.

Zimbabwe

Gweru Women's AIDS Prevention Association - US\$40,000 over two years to improve the quality of life and health of commercial sex workers.

Mama Milazi Fund of the Women's Trust - US\$10,000 towards the Mama Milazi Scholarship Fund that supports young girls orphaned by HIV/AIDS to enable them continue their education.

Women & AIDS Support Network - US\$20,000 to undertake awareness raising activities on sexual reproductive health and rights issues through public meetings and exhibitions in selected provinces.

Women for Peace Development Empowerment (WOPDE) Platform Trust - US\$15,000 to train women, orphans and vulnerable children on conflict resolution skills as well as skills for starting and sustaining income generation activities.

Regional

Regional Network & Capacity Building for HIV/AIDS (In collaboration with Action Aid International) - US\$50,000 to convene, build

movements and enhance the capacities of women activists living positively with HIV/AIDS.

Society for Women and AIDS in Africa, Regional Secretariat (Senegal) -US\$45,000 for organizational development process and institutional support.

International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (Southern Africa) - US\$25,000 to support the ICWSAR governance body to have two meetings in the year to strategically plan and evaluate the current strategic objectives and also support development of fundraising strategies for ICWSAR.

The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians (Cameroun) - US\$10,000 to organize a training seminar on the Girl Child, Women, Religion and HIV/AIDS.

World, YWCA - US\$25,000 to sponsor YWCA Africa country chapters to attend the July 2007 World YWCA Congress in Nairobi, Kenya.

...build movements and enhance the capacities of women activists living positively with HIV/AIDS. 



CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR HIV/AIDS GRANTEE PARTNERS

Capacity building training has been provided to grantee partners working in the areas of HIV/AIDS through regular site visits by members of the Capacity Building Unit. Our site visits enable our Capacity Building Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, as well as our Information and Documentation Officer to find out first hand what the needs of grantees are, to provide initial advice, identify trends and challenges, and to organise convenings and training sessions on issues identified by grantees. Many of the challenges faced in regards to the capacity of our grantees include the inability to retain staff due to challenges in funding staff salaries and other institutional costs. For this reason AWDF has provided institutional support grants to organisations such as the Nana Yaa Memorial Trust in Ghana, Kenya Widows and Orphans Support Programme (KWOSP) and Society for Women and AIDS in Africa- Nigeria.

Support for organisational development has also been provided to regional bodies such as SWAA

International. SWAA International is one of the leading Women and AIDS advocacy networks on the African continent and was supported by AWDF to conduct an organizational development process over a two month period in order to strengthen SWAA International's structures and strengthen internal processes between the executive and staff of SWAA International. AWDF also funded the position of Advocacy and Communications Officer for the network.

HIV/AIDS grantee partners also benefited from a resource mobilization strategy meeting held in Johannesburg in November 2007. This meeting was convened by AWDF with other partners, the Association for Women's Rights in Development, Action Aid International, Urgent Action Fund-Africa and the International Network of Women's Funds. This capacity building event enabled participants to identify the building blocks of a resource mobilization strategy and to participate in several skills building sessions on resource mobilization.

... provide
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MONITORING AND EVALUATION TRAINING FOR HIV/AIDS GRANTEE PARTNERS

AWDF organised a three day skills building workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation from the 13th to the 15th of September 2007 in Accra, Ghana for our regional and sub-regional grantee partners. The aims of the workshop were to craft M&E models that capture impact of interventions made to create social change (in this case the achievement of gender equality) and to build organizational skills to be able to apply these M&E models effectively.

The workshop developed an agreed framework with grantees to monitor and evaluate projects accurately, clarify key concepts, identify useful tools and ways of communicating the impact of one's work to a wider audience. This process is critical to enable our grantee partners to account accurately for use of donor funding, and demonstrate in both quantitative and qualitative terms social change impact of our work. AWDF shared with our grantee partners, an M&E model: 'Making the Case' that was developed by the Women's Funding Network to respond to the needs of women's organizations in relation to documenting social change impact. AWDF through subsequent reports produced by our grantee partners will monitor how effective

'Making the Case' is as a monitoring and evaluation tool in the African context.

AWDF grantee partners working on HIV/AIDS issues attended this workshop which will hopefully add immense value to the quality of their work.



'Making the Case'

MOVEMENT BUILDING AMONGST GRANTEE PARTNERS

AWDF in partnership with Action Aid International has been working to strengthen movements of women living with HIV/AIDS in Africa. Movement building provides solidarity, support and strengthens the voices of women affected and infected by HIV/AIDS so that their voices can be heard loudly and clearly on issues which affect HIV positive women.

In April 2006, AWDF in association with partner organisations Action Aid International, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) organised a convening for African women organisations working in the area of HIV/AIDS. This convening resulted in 'The Johannesburg Position on HIV/AIDS and Women and Girls' Rights in Africa'. This position paper is a milestone for women in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic and outlines African women's rights and perspectives with regards to HIV/AIDS as well as consensus on key issues of concern to women around HIV/AIDS in Africa. This position paper is included as an appendix in this document.

Movement building amongst women living with HIV/AIDS continued in May 2008 in Freetown, Sierra Leone. This convening by the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) and ActionAid International brought together women living with HIV/AIDS and other activists from 7 countries in West Africa (Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroun, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Ghana). Participants at this convening were women who work in their communities to provide support to women living with HIV/AIDS and raise awareness of the HIV virus. The majority of these women work in local communities, far beyond most capital cities. Many were attending such a meeting for the very first time.

The quote below from Sarah Mukasa, Director of Programs at AWDF, captures how important

meetings such as this are to movement building amongst women living with HIV/AIDS.

'Throughout the meeting, the women shared their experiences, pain and triumphs with such generosity of spirit. I heard stories of rape and other forms of sexual abuse and degradation, domestic violence, of abandonment, and of mental abuse. I heard tears of anguish, sorrow and pain that come from a deep sense of loss and bereavement. I saw women overburdened with the responsibilities of care for their families and communities. I saw women, tired, weary, seeking refuge.

And from these same women, I saw determination to live their lives with dignity - hence their insistence on sharing their stories and disclosing their HIV status - come what may. I witnessed the strongly held faith, rooted firmly in the knowledge that change will come, and that it is they who will make it happen. I saw them draw on the deep reserves of their power within; the inner strength that echoed wherever they went - There is no stopping us now - we are here and we are here to stay, their every move seemed to say. I saw them reach out to one another to give comfort, support; a shoulder to lean on - the sisterhood that cushions the blows of disappointment and adversity. I witnessed their deep sense of fun and mischief - they had some of the most scurrilous jokes and anecdotes! I marvelled at their willingness to listen, to live, let live and let be. These women, who have been stigmatised and ostracised; denied space and voice, wanted nothing other than to accept difference. Some were deeply religious, indeed were leaders in their respective religious institutions. But all readily embraced the notion that, every woman has a right to live, love and be as she chooses.'

CREATING SPACES AND AMPLIFYING VOICES

Women United Against AIDS Ghana (WUAAG)

AWDF's support for WUAAG has helped the organisation evolve from a small women's group into a dynamic women's organisation that plays a crucial role in the area of women and HIV/AIDS in Ghana. WUAAG is currently the only support group for women living with HIV/AIDS in Ghana and prior to receiving institutional and capacity building support from AWDF was restricted to carrying out meetings in a shed. However with the support of AWDF, WUAAG now has a well furnished and multi-purpose office including an infirmary to care for women taking anti-retroviral drugs for the very first time. There is still a lot of stigma associated with HIV/AIDS in Ghana and some women have to hide their condition from family members for fear of being ostracised. WUAAG has in these situations acted as a temporary refuge for many women needing short-term housing or a place where they can recover from the effects of anti-retroviral drugs.

WUAGG has 75 very active members who participate in various income generating projects including a micro credit scheme, a batik tie and dye and snail farming. With AWDF's support WUAAG has achieved the following:

- A multi purpose resource centre with a recreational unit; an administrative unit, a counselling and referral unit; a store room for storing food items for monthly distribution to members, working space for income generating activities and a show room. These additional facilities have enabled WUAAG to increase their membership and to provide more support to women affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Purchase of office equipment including a photocopier and a binder

- The acquisition of the office helped the organisation to receive additional funding from other donors including Global Fund for Women organisations
- Provided eye care for all its members
- Micro credit loans to 26 members
- A snail farm which generates income for members of WUAGG



Lucy Mensah, Executive Director of WUAAG wearing an outfit made with tie & dye fabric produced by members of WUAAG. Lucy is showing snails from WUAAG's snail farming activities.



Members of WUAGG with colleagues from AWDF's sister fund on the continent, Urgent Action Fund – Africa during a peer exchange visit to AWDF.

'At first we women with HIV thought we had no hope or life. It was like we were no more human beings and African Women's Development Fund

came in and supported us with a revolving fund. Every woman here now has her own money...'
Lucy Mensah, WUAGG

YOUNG WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST AIDS – KENYA

Young Women's Campaign Against AIDS is a community based organisation of young women working with vulnerable women and girls to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic. AWDF's technical and financial support and mentorship to YWCAA has helped it to evolve into a strong young women's group fighting to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS amongst marginalised groups

of young women. With AWDF's support YWCAA is now able to run their office and programmes more efficiently and effectively. AWDF has supported YWCAA in diverse ways including the following:

- Procurement of office equipment including a photocopier, computer and printer, scanner, UPS, Fixed telephone line and e-mail system and computer desk.
- Development of information, education and communications (IEC) materials for HIV/AIDS education
- Supported their participation in the International Resource Mobilisation workshop, Malaysia, organised by Resource Alliance (UK)
- Supported their participation in the International Women's Summit among other forums.



Members of YWCAA in Kenya



A self help group for Kawangware, facilitated by members of YWCAA in Kenya

The fact that it is a women based organization is also a contributing factor to our strength. We are all women and we face similar challenges that sometimes require similar responses. This has enabled us to bond as a team and organization.

Support from partners especially those who have been consistent in funding our projects – AWDF has been a pillar of support to us’.
Abeka Perez, YWCAA

KAWE RIDHIKA SHINDA HIV/AIDS (KARISHA)

Karisha is a group of women living with HIV/AIDS. Karisha had a farming land that had laid fallow for a number of years as a result of lack of funds. AWDF supported the organisation to cultivate 10 acres of land (rice, vegetables and fruits). In addition 50 women living with HIV/AIDS were given micro credit for individuals to undertake into income generation ventures. Karisha has leveraged on the funding received from AWDF to source for funding from other organisations such as Friends of Tanzania in USA. Karisha is evolving into a very strong women’s

group supporting community women living with HIV&AIDS in Tanzania. Members can be supported with nutrition and the extra income can support the running of the association.

‘The grant from African Women Development Fund has been very helpful to us in obtaining donors who were impressed with our activities, one of them are Friends of Tanzania in USA whom donated 600 dollars to help in purchasing seeds and insecticides.’

Magreth Kalembo, KARISHA

KIAMBU PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV&AIDS- KENYA (KIPEWA)

KIPEWA is a group of very dynamic women living with HIV/AIDS with most of them ejected from their matrimonial homes after the death of their spouses. Most of them are either single mothers or widows. With the support of AWDF members of KIPEWA have trained 12 single mothers living with HIV/AIDS, 17 widows living with HIV/AIDS and 2 women living with HIV/AIDS on how to write wills, and documenting a memory book to ensure that women living with HIV/AIDS live more positively and properly plan for their children and their transition.

Susan's Story

Susan is a pioneering member of KIPEWA who lives and works as a casual labourer in a tea estate. She is also a community and health worker with more than 30 clients. During the memory book training programme Susan did not go to the tea plantation to attend to her usual duties but rather dressed up smartly to attend the training programme. Her fellow colleagues were soon curious about what she was up to so she promised to tell them on a Saturday. One Saturday after work 3 women came to her house and Susan shared with them about the memory book training. The women were very eager and told Susan to hold on so they could call their friends. Susan shared with these women what she had learnt about children and their development, marriage, disclosure and memory book training. The following day when she attended Church Sarah requested for the opportunity to share the memory book training with her congregation and encouraged her fellow church members to write a memory book for their children even if they are not infected with HIV. The following week Susan's Pastor visited the office of KIPEWA to ask whether his congregation could be trained in writing memory books. In total Susan reached about 200 people and plans are now underway to provide memory book training to the church. Other individuals who also heard about the project are also making enquiries as to whether they can receive memory book training.

SWAZILAND POSITIVE LIVING (SWAPOL)



SWAPOL is an umbrella organisation of women living with HIV/AIDS support groups in rural areas. SWAPOL has been fighting the cause of rural women living with HIV&AIDS through direct support and influencing policy. With AWDF's support SWAPOL has been increasing its visibility and amplifying the voices of women both nationally and internationally. AWDF has supported SWAPOL to expand its home based care project, given the organisation institutional support and supported them to participate in international conferences and forums on HIV&AIDS.

Women supported by SWAPOL

NEGATE ETHIOPIA DEAF ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF AIDS (NEPADA)

NEPADA is an association formed by women who are hard of hearing who have come together with the goal of disseminating information on HIV/AIDS to others in particularly women in the rural parts of Ethiopia. AWDF supported NEPADA with implementing an HIV/AIDS awareness raising project for deaf women as well as with institutional support. With AWDF's support NEPADA has been able to:

- Prepare a training manual on HIV/AIDS for deaf women
- Employ project staff
- Purchase office equipment
- Prepare suitable information and educational materials for deaf women
- Purchase visual equipment to use for conducting training programmes

NEPADA's training of trainers for the HIV/AIDS education campaign for women who are hard of hearing was supported by the Addis

Ababa city government women's affairs with a representative attending the official launch of the workshop. The purchase of a computer and printer as well as support from AWDF has enabled NEPADA to attract additional funding from other international donors including The Global Fund for Women and Urgent Action Fund – Africa.

'We would like to say that the grant making process of the AWDF is fully accessible for women with disabilities and the process is attractive and a role model for other funding agencies who has not still given serious attention for women's with disabilities up to now. What is more, the fund from the AWDF was helpful to our association and for the development and the benefits of our deaf women members. Therefore, the AWDF is the first respected and biggest donor of NEPADA after it's establishment and we remember the AWDF in history.'

Muluye Abeje, NEPADA



Nepada's members on World Aids Day 2007



Nepada's beneficiaries receiving HIV awareness training by trainer using sign language



THE 13 CAMPAIGN

In 2004, the UNAIDS report 'Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis', stated that for every ten African men infected with HIV, there were 13 African women infected. There were 13.1m women were infected with HIV/AIDS, and approximately 13 million HIV/AIDS orphans.

During the launch of AWDF's HIV/AIDS Fund in November 2005, one of the special guests, the then Secretary-General of the World YWCA, Dr Musimbi Kanyoro, drew the attention of the audience to the above statistics which AWDF had provided in the launch packs. Dr Kanyoro challenged the audience to mobilise around the recurrent number 13 and turn it around into something positive. This is how the 13 Campaign was born. The 13 Campaign is the fundraising, communications and donor education campaign which mobilises financial resources and awareness for our HIV/AIDS Fund.

Even though the statistics have changed since this UNAIDS report, AWDF will continue to use the number 13 as a brand for the campaign. By doing this we are symbolically freezing these grim statistics. The 13 Campaign seeks to use the number 13, to get individuals and groups to mobilise thirteen others, and also to make donations with the number 13 in mind. People

can, therefore, make a donation of US\$13, US\$130, US\$1,300, U\$ 13,000, US\$130,000,000 etc.

So far AWDF has achieved the following with the 13 Campaign:

- Leveraged funding from a wide range of institutions and individuals for the HIV/AIDS Fund. For example the Stephen Lewis Foundation supported the campaign with U\$131,000, while UNAIDS contributed \$130,000.
- Organised 13 Campaign events in Toronto, Accra, Nairobi, and South Africa
- Raised awareness around Africa and internationally about African women's leadership to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Created communications tools such as a website for information sharing about the 13 Campaign and HIV/AIDS Fund, as well as a 13 Campaign promo and specially designed red and white campaign beads.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF THE HIV/AIDS FUND

- Most of the HIV/AIDS organisations being supported by AWDF have very dynamic leadership but are unable to mobilise resources as a result of their capacity which includes their level of proposal and report writing skills and their inability to retain skilled personnel. The HIV/AIDS fund in future therefore seeks to provide skills training for these organisations at the country level to enable them mobilise resources both locally and internationally to ensure their sustainability and maximise their impact.
- Supporting HIV/AIDS umbrella organisations, especially women's networks in

the various countries and providing them with the resources to reach out to smaller groups is another priority. These umbrella organisations will be able to provide both programmatic and organisational management support to the smaller groups to ensure effectiveness.

- AWDF intends to scale up its funding in this area by expanding its multi year funding for HIV/AIDS groups in Africa to more organisations. This will assure them of institutional and programmatic support to enable them concentrate their energies on amplifying their voices at the local and international levels.
- The HIV/AIDS fund will continue to reach out to more women's organisations working in the area of HIV/AIDS to ensure that a lot more women living or affected by HIV/AIDS are empowered to live positively and contribute to the mitigation of the effect of HIV/AIDS on society.
- The HIV/AIDS fund will continue to provide the space for organisational learning and sharing amongst both big and small organisations working on HIV/AIDS issues.

DONOR PARTNERS FOR THE HIV/AIDS FUND

Comic Relief (UK)
Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
HIVOS (The Netherlands)
Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)
The Nelson Mandela Foundation – 46664 Campaign (South Africa)
The Sigrid Rausing Trust (UK)
The Global Fund for Women
The Stephen Lewis Foundation (Canada)
UNAIDS

THE JOHANNESBURG POSITION ON HIV/ AIDS AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' RIGHTS IN AFRICA, APRIL 2006

We, African women including HIV positive women, women's rights activists, feminists, scholars, professionals, community workers and policy makers from the African continent participating in the African Women's Regional Consultation on Women's and Rights and HIV/AIDS in Africa, in Johannesburg, South Africa, April 6-7, 2006 are:

Deeply concerned that despite various interventions aimed at prevention, care, support and treatment of HIV and AIDS, the global pandemic has had and continues to have a devastating impact on the lives of African women and girls;

Further concerned that in spite of the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls, governments are yet to recognise the centrality of promoting and protecting women's and girls' human rights in all HIV and AIDS interventions;

Mindful of the fact that the assault on women's human rights continues through various forms of violence against women and girls, including, but not limited to: rape, marital rape, domestic violence, trafficking, harmful customary and traditional practices, violence and torture during conflict, forced marriages and early marriages. These forms of violence take place: within homes, at work, in schools, in clinics and hospitals, at police stations and many other places and they are continuing and increasing at an alarming rate fuelling HIV infections amongst women and girls;

Recognising that violence against women and girls is a key driver of increased risk and vulnerability to HIV infection among African women and girls;

Aware that unequal power relations between women and men result in the inability of many African women and girls to negotiate safe and pleasurable sex;

Acknowledging that women living in militarised communities and zones of armed conflict face peculiar and heightened risks of HIV infection as a result of violence, sexual crimes and torture perpetrated against women and girls, in war and emergency situations or as refugees and internally displaced persons, with extremely limited protection of their human rights;

Further acknowledging that women's: low socio-economic status, lack of access to and control over empowering and emancipating resources such as land and property increases women's and girls' exposure to many dehumanising cultural norms, beliefs and practices that undermine women's and girls' emotional, spiritual and psychological well being, choices and agency, bodily integrity and self esteem and increase their vulnerability to HIV infection;

Noting with grave concern, that little investment has been made in securing women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights in the context of a pandemic that robs many women of their choices related to childbearing and rearing, and the enjoyment of their full sexual rights;

Concerned that diminishing investments at the national and international level in the education of women and girls has an adverse effect on the ability of women and girls to access HIV and AIDS information, education and services that are critical for: the prevention of new infections, re-infections, for treatment and care knowledge and protection of women's and girls' human rights;

Further concerned that women and girls, and in particular; HIV positive women, women living with AIDS and orphaned girls, have been forced to become the backbone of the community, family based care and nursing systems; with limited knowledge and skills, without resources, remuneration or other forms of state support, further adding to their already disproportionate burden of care and support for PLWHA, in contexts of extreme poverty and inadequate state health services;

Dismayed that, notwithstanding the firm commitment to the indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights, and the crisis of HIV/AIDS in Africa, women's and girls' human rights are ignored by international financial and trade institutions-WTO, IMF, World Bank. The aforementioned institutions urge African governments to withdraw investment from health; to privatise basic services such as health and to prioritise debt repayments in the face of two major pandemics in the continent-HIV/AIDS and violence against women. These multilateral donors are yet to commit significant resources to institutionalise women's rights as central pillars for halting the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

Mindful of the fact that both the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Infectious Diseases of 2001 and the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS of 2001 are under review in 2006, presenting clear opportunities for heads of state and government to promote and protect African women's and girls' rights in order to mitigate the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic on women and girls, and to halt the pandemic in Africa by taking action to:

Reaffirm commitments heads of state and government have made through regional and international agreements on HIV&AIDS, and women's human rights, in particular, the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979); Vienna Declaration on Human Rights (1993); International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD Plan of Action (1994); Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), All the African Regional Conferences on Women;

The Millennium Declaration (2000); Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003); Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) amongst others;

We acknowledge that limited progress has been made in the response to AIDS at global and national levels in respect of raising resources and extending access to services;

We Stress with deep concern that in spite of the various commitments to action, the provision of resources and the promotion and protection of the human rights of African women and girls, given the devastating scale and impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic on African women and girls, there is need for renewed urgent actions, at all levels and in all sectors, to promote and protect the human rights of African women and girls.

We note with urgency that there is a critical need to move from rhetoric to action if we are to see a major change in the spread of the HIV and AIDS pandemic and its increasing and alarming feminisation.

We therefore urge all African heads of state and government and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the following:

1. Women's and Girls' Human Rights

African heads of state and government take all necessary measures to create a national and international community that places top priority on the development of policy, legislative and administrative environment in which the human rights of Africa women and girls, especially those living with HIV and AIDS are actively promoted, fully enjoyed and protected within and through national, regional and continental responses to violence against women and girls, and through HIV and AIDS policies, programmes and interventions.

2. Leadership and Accountability

We urge all African heads of state and government to provide the necessary leadership for the fulfilment of women's and girl's human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS.

We urge all African heads of state and government to bear full accountability for the commitments they have made to women's human rights as signatories to various national, continental and global women's and girls' human rights and HIV and AIDS agreements.

We urge African heads of state and government to be exemplary, in both their public duties and private lives on the matter of the promotion and protection of the human rights of African women and girls.

We call upon all African heads of state and government to intensify the protection of the rights of African women and girls by enacting and implementing laws that protect women from all forms of violence that increase the legal age of marriage for young girls and that protect women's and girls' access to, ownership of and control over resources, including land.

African heads of state and government should create mechanisms to provide solidarity and support that enable HIV positive women and girls can meaningful and effective participate in and provide leadership, by occupying strategic positions of leadership and power, to strengthen movements of women living with HIV and AIDS so that their voices are heard loudly and clearly on issues affecting HIV positive women.

They should further address policy and legal gaps that exist with regards to discriminatory, statutory, customary and religious laws that deny women and girls their full and equal rights and increasing their vulnerability to HIV infection and burden of AIDS. These include but are not limited to enactment and implementation of laws against violence against women and girls, for land and property rights and women's and girls' sexual and reproductive rights.

3. HIV and AIDS Programme Interventions

African heads of state and government strengthen HIV and AIDS programming by giving pivotal priority to women's and girls' rights in:

Prevention strategies, in particular, expand the current prevention paradigm to promote

and protect women's and girls' sexual and reproductive rights, legislate and implement interventions that protect against violence against women and girls, legislate and implement property and inheritance rights of women and girls, ensure access to appropriate and evidenced based prevention information, provide PEPs to all women and girl survivors of sexual violence and invest in fast tracked development of microbicides.

Treatment. Ensure that women and girls have access to, appropriate, free and comprehensive treatment-including but not limited to nutrition-services on HIV and AIDS. Further ensure that women and girls have an equitable share of treatment services.

Remove social and institutional barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing HIV and AIDS treatment and services, including violence they face as a result of their status

Expand PMTCT interventions beyond protecting the foetus to include comprehensive pre and post natal treatment of women.

Ensure interventions such as VCT and PMTCT do not contribute to increased risk of women and girls to stigma and violence.

Care

Invest in reducing the burden of care on women and girls through programmes that provide enhanced access to palliative care and that compensate women and girls equitably for their contribution.

Prioritise the strengthening of health services and infrastructure through adequate resources to reduce the burden of care and medical costs of HIV and AIDS on women and girls in Africa.

Ensure that women's access to appropriate treatment and care facilities is scaled up, especially rural areas, where a majority of African women live.

Given the limited resources African governments are directing to public health care, in part because of the aid restrictions and conditionality of the World Bank and International Monetary

Fund, governments should take back their mandate and responsibility to provide quality, affordable public health care to its citizens so as to effectively eliminate the burden on women and girls of home based care.

Further governments should compensate women and girls for the care work they perform in respect of HIV and AIDS as this burden takes women and girls away from other forms of economically productive and income earning activities.

End the bias that currently exists in AIDS treatment programmes which, especially in the commercial sector, benefit predominately male work forces, by ensuring that HIV positive women and girls have access to treatment as citizens in their own right.

Provide sex disaggregated data clearly illustrating how women and girls are benefiting equally in care programmes and access to health facilities that are specifically designed to address women's care and treatment requirements.

4. Resources

That all African heads of state and government increase investment and resources for the protection and promotion of women's and girls' rights, concerns and priorities in HIV and AIDS at the national, regional, continental and international levels through the following mechanisms:

Specific Women's and Girls' Resource Facility from existing global funding mechanisms targeted at ensuring that women and girls have access to and control over HIV and AIDS resources, with clear, pro-HIV positive women policy guidelines for the management and disbursement of the resources that formulates specific guidelines of the kinds of resource disaggregation.

Ensure that from this facility governments establish resources targeted at prevention mechanisms that enhance women's human rights, such as, programmes that are aimed at preventing violence against women through:

- strengthening the role of the police force in preventing violence against women;

- the raising of consciousness among women and girls against violence
- strengthening the role of the judiciary in preventing violence against women by providing a clear legislative framework criminalizing violence against women and girls and providing training on approaches to criminalization of violence against women in the context of HIV and AIDS;
- Ensure that special resources are availed for the protection of the rights of sex workers from violence.

Develop, at continental level, a HIV specific target within the Abuja commitment to allocating 15 per cent of national budgets on health, of which at least 50 per cent must directly address rights of African women and girls.

Ensure that all forthcoming international financing commitments on HIV and AIDS, made to global, continental and national initiatives, at a minimum channel 50 per cent of all resources to programmes that protect women and girls from rights violations, for instance, violence against women.

Targeted support for women's organizing at local and community levels. Providing financing for the development of sustainable, viable and independent initiatives that ensure HIV positive women and girls have access to prevention, treatment, care and support that is designed specifically for their needs and requirements as citizens.

Scaling up HIV and AIDS Special Efforts and Interventions Proven to be Effective in Preventing New Infections in Women and Girls. These include universal access to Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), programmes aimed at the prevention of parent to child transmission and extending the lives of mothers (PPTCT+) and fast tracking the development of microbicides, vaccines and other new women-controlled technologies.

Ensure that resources are availed to enable women to access VCT facilities that are specifically designed to provide information and services that are appropriate to female clients with HIV and AIDS related queries of a specifically

feminised nature.

Ensure that there is widespread access to Post Exposure Prophylaxis for women who have been exposed to HIV transmission through acts of sexual violence and aggression

Promoting and Protecting Women's and Girls' Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Ensure that women in their own individual right as citizens have access to appropriate services that address their reproductive health and care needs beyond the limited frame of child birth and pregnancy, as there is increasing evidence of opportunistic infections of a reproductive health nature being witnessed in women who many not necessarily be pregnant or in child birth.

Scaling up Broad-based Women's and Girls' Rights Programmes. Particularly in areas known to minimize women's and girls' vulnerability to HIV infection, including but not limited to: prevention of violence against women and girls and promotion of women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights, expanding girls' access to education, increased access to and control over land and property and economic empowerment.

5. International Institutions of Development

We stress the need for international institutions whose policies and interventions have a strong impact on the social and economic position of African women and girls to actively advance and protect the human rights of women and girls as outlined in international norms and standards, as they are intrinsic to halting the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in all their policies and programmes.

Their policies discouraging governments from investing in social services, particularly health, and privatisation of basic services should stop to reduce the burden of care and cost for HIV/AIDS on African women and girls.

International institutions must in particular pay due heed to the rights of African women and girls living with HIV and AIDS by ensuring that they have administrative and policy procedures that respect and protect the human rights of HIV positive African women and girls.

Conclusion

We, African women are profoundly concerned and aggrieved that it has taken so long for governments to fully appreciate the centrality of African women's rights and voices in dealing with HIV/AIDS, which is one of the greatest threats to our collective existence as a people and the continent. As African women, we demand meaningful participation and involvement in institutions and processes that shall guide the global responses to HIV and AIDS. As women of Africa, we fully commit ourselves to working with our heads of state and government and other stakeholders to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on African women and girls, the continent and the world. Women's rights are not negotiable. The women and girls of Africa deserve more. The time to act is now!

April 7, 2006

Signed:

Actionaid International, African Union, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Akina Mama Wa Afrika (AmWA), African Network for Religious Leaders Living With or Personally Affected by HIV/AIDS (ANERELA), African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Association for Women in Development (AWID), Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC)- Nigeria, Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW)-Kenya, Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO)-Tanzania, Empinsweni Aids Centre-South Africa, Equality Now-Africa, Inter-African Network of Women in the Media and Development (FAMEDEV)-Senegal, FIDA-Ghana, Gambia Committee against Traditional Practices (GAMCOTRAP), Gender AIDS Forum-South Africa, International Coalition of Women Living with AIDS (ICW)-Southern Africa, Friends of Cannon Gideon Foundation (FOCAGIFO/ICW)-Uganda, International Centre for Reproductive

Health and Sexual Rights (INCRESE)- Nigeria, Medical Research Council (MRC)-South Africa, Musasa Project-Zimbabwe, National Human Rights Commission – Abuja, OPIC, Open society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), Positive Women’s Network-South Africa, Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAFAIDS)-Zimbabwe, Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) – Nigeria, Sierra Leone and International, Swaziland Positive Living (SWAPOL), Treatment Action Campaign(TAC)-South Africa, The Women’s Trust-Zimbabwe, United Nation’s Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Women and AIDS Support Network(WASN)-Zimbabwe, Women in Law in Southern Africa

(WLSA)-Zambia, WOLDDOF- Sierra Leone, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), Women’s Aid Collective (WACOL)-Nigeria, Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA)-Switzerland, World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)-Kenya, Young Women Leaders Network (YWLN)-Malawi

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