
INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

2026 - 2028

RFLD

Women Leaders Network for Development

Building the Permanent Machinery for Gender Justice in Africa

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Executive Summary: The \$15M Vision

"The question isn't whether RFLD's model works—it's how fast we can scale it."

The Network of Women Leaders for Development (RFLD) is launching a **\$15 Million USD Scaling Phase (2026-2028)**. We are offering institutional partners and philanthropists the opportunity to invest in proven, pan-African feminist infrastructure.

By investing in RFLD, you are not funding a single project. You are capitalizing a certified intermediary that distributes wealth, legal protection, and technical capacity to over **450 grassroots organizations across 55 African countries**.

SECTION 1

Who We Are

Pan-African Feminist Infrastructure

Our Identity & Scale

RFLD is a leading Pan-African force dedicated to empowering women and youth, championing gender justice, and protecting human rights across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our Footprint:

- **55 Countries Activated:** Operating across West, Central, East, Southern, and North Africa.
- **3 Regional Headquarters:** Strategically located in Ghana, Benin, and The Gambia.
- **450+ Partner Nodes:** A deeply rooted network of local grassroots organizations.
- **156,000+ Beneficiaries:** Successfully transitioned from aid recipients to active community leaders.

Unmatched Institutional Trust & Accreditations

We operate at the highest levels of global compliance and diplomatic recognition, eliminating risk for our funding partners.

1. **NGOsource Certified (US 501(c)(3) Equivalent):** RFLD holds an active Equivalency Determination. US foundations can make direct, tax-deductible grants to us without expenditure responsibility.
2. **ACHPR Observer Status:** Officially recognized by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Union). We sit as a Member in the Working Group on Human Rights Defenders.
3. **World Bank Partner:** We are a strategic consultative partner in the World Bank Group's Gender Strategy.

SECTION 2

The Crisis & The Urgency of Now

Why this investment cannot wait

The Landscape of Crisis

In the diverse landscape of the African continent, the struggle for gender justice is a battle against entrenched, interlocking systems of oppression.

- **Closing Civic Space:** Rising fundamentalism and conservative nationalism are rolling back hard-won rights. 66% of countries show unfavorable safety conditions for activists.
- **Bodily Control:** Persistent Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage, and severe restrictions on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).
- **Economic Dispossession:** Discriminatory inheritance laws and lack of collateral keep millions of women trapped in systemic poverty.

The Francophone Funding Gap

There is a critical failure in global philanthropy that RFLD is uniquely positioned to solve.

The Reality: Less than **3% of global gender funding** reaches grassroots organizations in Francophone Africa. Language barriers, stringent donor compliance requirements, and lack of banking infrastructure prevent local NGOs from accessing global wealth.

The RFLD Solution: We serve as the ultimate bridge. We handle the rigorous international compliance, audit, and reporting standards at our regional hubs, allowing us to seamlessly sub-grant capital directly to unbanked, frontline feminist activists.

SECTION 3

Theory of Change & Programs

Shifting Power to the Grassroots

Our Multi-Level Theory of Change

We don't just fund isolated projects. We build the **permanent machinery** required for gender justice to succeed.

1. **Capital Input:** Donors invest in RFLD's intermediary platform.
2. **Infrastructure Creation:** We provide legal shields, digital safety tech, and direct sub-grants to 450+ grassroots organizations.
3. **The Multiplier Effect:** Local leaders, now protected and funded, amplify the work 100x in their own communities.
4. **Systemic Change:** National laws change. Harmful norms shift. Gender-based violence decreases. Women's political power rises.

Pillar 1: Gender Equality & Human Rights

Advancing women's rights and ensuring comprehensive protection for Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs).

- **Objective:** Dismantle discriminatory laws and fight impunity for Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- **Action:** Documenting human rights violations in real-time and providing direct legal aid to women activists facing state or community backlash.
- **Advocacy:** Presenting shadow reports directly to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to hold states accountable.

Pillar 2: Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHR)

Bodily autonomy is the prerequisite for all other forms of equality.

- **The Challenge:** High maternal mortality, lack of contraceptive access, and the persistence of FGM and child marriage.
- **The RFLD Approach:** We engage traditional leaders, religious clerics, and youth networks to deconstruct patriarchal narratives around women's bodies.
- **The Maputo Protocol:** We relentlessly advocate for the full domestication of Article 14, defending access to safe, medicalized abortion where lives are at risk.

Pillar 3: Economic & Climate Justice

There is no gender justice without economic independence and climate resilience.

- **Economic Empowerment:** Developing rural women's entrepreneurship, providing financial literacy, and advocating for equal access to land and credit.
- **Climate Action:** Women bear the brunt of the climate crisis in Africa. RFLD ensures women are included in national environmental decision-making and sustainable agriculture initiatives.

Pillar 4: Civic Space & Peacebuilding

Defending democracy and ensuring women are at the negotiation tables.

- **Protecting Civil Liberties:** Strengthening the resilience of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and independent journalists against authoritarian crackdowns.
- **Women, Peace & Security (UNSCR 1325):** Actively placing women leaders at the center of conflict prevention, mediation, and post-conflict transition processes across fragile African states.

Our Compass: The Maputo Protocol

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa is our ultimate legal weapon.

"We do not beg for rights; we enforce treaties."

RFLD utilizes its ACHPR Observer Status to monitor, evaluate, and force governments to comply with the Maputo Protocol. We train local judges, parliamentarians, and police forces to translate this continental treaty into local judicial realities.

SECTION 4

Our Core Infrastructure Assets

What your funding physically builds

Asset 1: The WAFFF Fund

Women's Africa Feminist Fund (WAFFF)

- **The Mechanism:** A specialized financial infrastructure designed to channel resources directly to grassroots feminist organizations, primarily in Francophone Africa.
- **The Impact:** We handle the donor compliance; local NGOs handle the impact. It provides multi-year, flexible, core funding that small organizations desperately need to survive.
- **Scale Target:** Expanding from 50 to 200 fully-funded grassroots organizations by 2028.

Asset 2: Dònuèsè Data Center

The Regional Digital Hub against Tech-Facilitated GBV.

- **The Threat:** 58% of young African women face harassment online, silencing their political voices.
- **The Product:** The RFLD African Digital Safety Compendium is a unified platform monitoring legal frameworks, safety resources, and real-time violence data across 55 countries.
- **The Result:** Cited by 12 African governments, the hub provides digital hygiene tools, rapid cyber-response, and a secure legal aid directory for women activists.

The Power of Intermediaries

Why should a major foundation fund RFLD rather than funding local groups directly?

Traditional Donor Challenge	The RFLD Solution
Cannot legally fund unregistered or un-banked rural groups.	RFLD sub-grants cash securely to the most remote activists.
High administrative burden of managing 100 small grants.	One \$2M grant to RFLD = 100 organizations funded and monitored.
Lack of deep cultural context in Franco-phone Africa.	Led by African women, deeply embedded in 55 local contexts.

Trusted By Global Leaders

We have a proven track record of managing multi-million dollar portfolios with zero compliance issues.

Our Institutional Partners include:

- Foundation for A Just Society
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Global Fund for Women
- USAID & US Embassy
- Sida (Sweden) & GIZ (Germany)
- AmplifyChange & World Bank
- CIVICUS & Defend Defenders

SECTION 5

The \$15 Million Investment Call

Capitalizing the Future of African Feminism

The \$15.0M Scaling Phase (2026-2028)

RFLD is raising \$15 Million USD to execute its 3-Year Strategic Plan. This capitalization will permanently shift the landscape of gender funding in Africa.

Allocation of the \$15M Fund:

- **55% (\$8.25M) - Direct Sub-Granting (WAFFF):** Direct cash flow sustaining 150+ grass-roots organizations.
- **20% (\$3.0M) - Capacity Building & Training:** Empowering the next generation of feminist leaders.
- **15% (\$2.25M) - Operational Infrastructure:** Strengthening our 3 Regional HQs to manage scale.
- **10% (\$1.5M) - Monitoring, Data & Advocacy:** Powering the Dònuèsè Data Center.

Investment Tiers: Data Infrastructure

\$500,000 USD

The Technology & Data Investor

Impact / ROI:

- Fully powers the **Dònuèsè Data Center** for 3 years.
- Expands real-time digital violence monitoring to 15 new countries.
- Provides digital security training to 5,000 Women Human Rights Defenders.
- Influences national cyber-security policies protecting over 8 million women.

Investment Tiers: Movement Multiplier

\$2,000,000 USD

The WAFF Fund Multiplier

Impact / ROI:

- Massively expands the **Women's Africa Feminist Fund (WAFF)**.
- Provides multi-year core funding and technical capacity building to **200 grassroots organizations** in Francophone Africa.
- Prevents the collapse of local NGOs facing shrinking civic space.
- Unlocks an estimated \$10M in locally delivered socio-economic programs.

Investment Tiers: Systems Partner

\$5,000,000+ USD

The Transformational Systems Partner

Impact / ROI:

- Co-underwrites the execution of the **Full 3-Year Strategic Plan**.
- Secures permanent legal defense infrastructure for WHRDs across 55 countries.
- Drives systemic law reform regarding SRHR and the Maputo Protocol, directly improving the legal status of over **50 million women**.

Uncompromising Financial Stewardship

We treat donor capital with the utmost rigor and transparency.

- **Rigorous Compliance:** RFLD adheres to strict International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- **Annual Audits:** Independent external audits are conducted annually and published for all institutional partners.
- **Due Diligence Capacity:** We possess dedicated grant-management software and compliance teams to vet, monitor, and audit all 450+ sub-grantees, ensuring zero tolerance for fraud or mismanagement.

Why Funders Trust RFLD

"RFLD's sub-granting model is one of the most efficient we've seen. Their ability to reach grassroots organizations in fragile contexts while maintaining rigorous international compliance is exceptional."

— Representative, Major European Development Agency

Begin the Conversation

We invite foundations, philanthropists, and bilateral partners to join this historic capitalization phase.

Next Steps for Institutional Investors:

1. **Request our Due Diligence Pack:** Includes 2024-2025 Audited Financials.
2. **Review NGOsource ED:** Verify our US 501(c)(3) equivalency determination.
3. **Schedule a Briefing:** Book a strategic alignment call with our Executive Director and Partnership Team during CSW70 in New York.

Contact Us

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RFLD

**Investing in Women & Girls.
Building the Future of Africa.**

US 501(c)(3) Equivalent | NGOsource Certified | ACHPR Observer Status
