

# RFLD

*Francophone African feminism at continental scale — law, policy, community organising, data, and re-granting, in service of women's rights across Africa.*

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## ORGANISATIONAL DOSSIER

## FROM THE LEADERSHIP

# A network that moves with the work.

This dossier is an invitation — to funders, peers, and partners — to see RFLD as we see ourselves: not a single organisation, but a pan-African network of 670 women-led groups, grounded in francophone West Africa, reaching across the continent, and anchored in the institutions that set the rules for women's rights in Africa.

Thirteen years after our founding in 2013, RFLD holds Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, leads the 2026 Presidency of the GIZ Africa SEA-T Advisory Council, and sits inside the Working Group of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders. We publish the continental tools — the African Digital Safety Compendium, the Maputo Protocol Hub, the ACDEG Hub, the AU Mechanisms guide, and the West Africa Legislative Tracking Platform — that civil society across Africa uses to do its work.

In 2025, we managed US\$ 1,768,026, with 85 % moving directly to field activities. €250,000 of that moved through our WAFF Fund to ten feminist organisations in francophone West Africa. Our donors — GIZ/BMZ, Sida, AmplifyChange, Packard, FJS, Expertise France — trust RFLD to hold resources in trust, and to move them closer to the women who need them.

The work described in the pages that follow is not finished. It cannot be finished: women's rights in Africa is a generational project, and the ground keeps moving under us. What this dossier can offer is a clear-eyed account of what RFLD has built, what we deliver, and where we believe the next five years of the Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028 will take us. Read it as a capability statement. Read it also as a commitment.

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**RFLD Leadership**

*On behalf of the Board, Secretariat, and 670 Member Organisations*

Cotonou · Dakar  
Accra · Banjul  
2026

## DOSSIER STRUCTURE

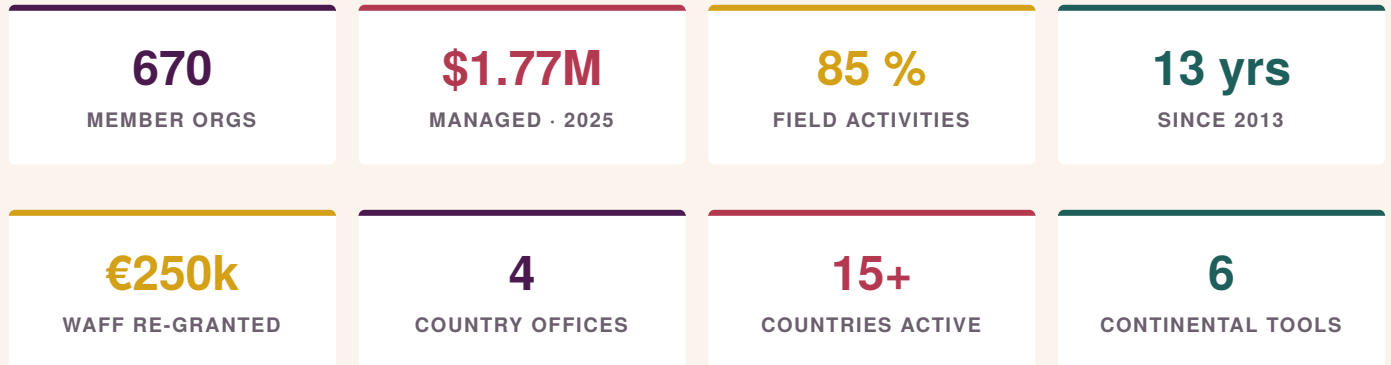
# Contents

Fifteen pages, four parts. Identity and governance first; programmes and partnerships at the core; tools, impact, and forward-looking commitments at the close.

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# RFLD at a Glance

The headline numbers, the continental footprint, and the one-sentence account of what RFLD does and who we exist for.

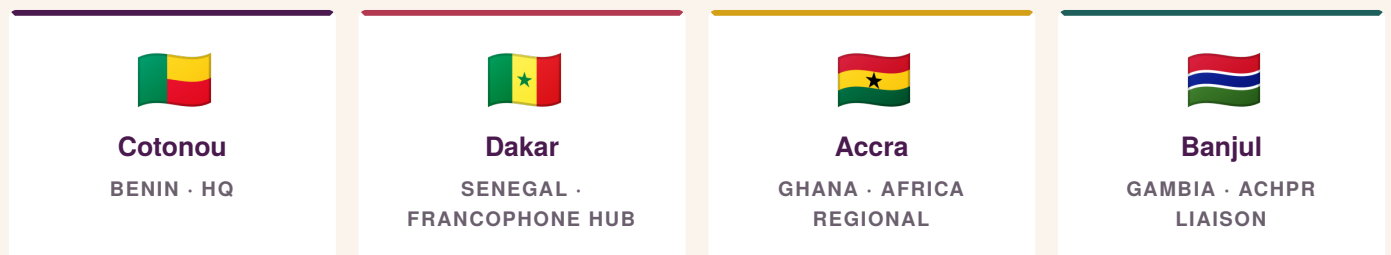


## POSITIONING

RFLD is a leading francophone African feminist network combining legislative advocacy, community organising, re-granting, and open-data tools to advance women's rights, sexual and reproductive health, civic space, and climate justice across Africa — backed by 13 years of programme delivery, 670 member organisations, and Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

*"Francophone Africa is one of the most systematically under-funded regions in global feminist philanthropy. RFLD exists to change that — not by asking louder, but by building the infrastructure that makes francophone African feminism impossible to ignore."*

## OFFICES



# Who We Are

## ORIGIN

RFLD — the Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement — was founded in **2013** by a coalition of francophone African women leaders committed to closing the distance between grassroots women's organising and the continental legal and policy frameworks that are supposed to protect women's rights.

We were born of a conviction that francophone African feminism needed its own pan-African infrastructure — not translated from anglophone models, not dependent on Northern intermediation, but rooted in the languages, the legal systems, and the political traditions of the francophone continent.

## MISSION

To defend and expand the rights of women and girls across Africa by combining **legislative advocacy, community organising, re-granting, and open-data tools** — with a continental reach and a francophone anchor.

## VISION

An Africa where every woman and girl lives free of discrimination and violence, exercises full bodily autonomy and economic agency, and shapes the decisions that affect her life — from her household to the African Union.

## OUR VALUES

### FEMINIST

Women's lived experience is the starting point of everything we do. Every programme centres women's voices and agency.

### PAN-AFRICAN

Rooted in francophone Africa, reaching anglophone and lusophone communities. Continental in ambition.

### EVIDENCE-LED

Our DONUESE data centre anchors programming in verifiable data, published openly for the field.

### TRUST-BASED

We re-grant to smaller organisations with minimal friction, mirroring the philanthropy we wish to see.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

### Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028

Our current five-year plan sets three continental priorities: **expand the francophone feminist infrastructure, move more resources to grassroots women-led organisations, and secure women's gains against democratic backsliding and climate disruption.** Every programme in this dossier maps to this plan.

*"Francophone African feminism is not a minor translation of anglophone feminism. It is its own tradition, its own movement, and deserves its own infrastructure."*

# Governance & Recognition

RFLD is a legally registered pan-African organisation with formal standing before the African Union's human rights architecture — a rare and load-bearing credential.

## AFRICAN UNION STANDING

### Observer Status — African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

RFLD holds **Observer Status** with the ACHPR, the African Union's human rights body. We sit as a **Member of the Working Group of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders** — placing RFLD at the heart of continental protection mechanisms for women human rights defenders.

## LEGAL REGISTRATION

### BENIN · SENEGAL — FRANCOPHONE HUB

Registered headquarters anchoring RFLD's francophone West Africa operations, including the Secretariat and Finance function.

### GHANA — AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

Anglophone-francophone bridge. Hosts pan-African programmes and continental partnerships.

### THE GAMBIA — ACHPR LIAISON

Co-located with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul; ensures RFLD is present where continental human rights decisions are made.

## OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- ▶ **Women-led.** Leadership and Board representative of the communities we serve.
- ▶ **Francophone-anchored.** Core operations and working languages reflect our constituency.
- ▶ **Multi-donor.** Diversified funding base — no single donor exceeds a concentration threshold.
- ▶ **Audited annually.** Independent external audit; transparent annual reporting.
- ▶ **Safeguarding.** Written safeguarding, PSEAH, and data protection policies, applied across the network.
- ▶ **Open by default.** Tools, data, and publications are published openly unless safeguarding requires otherwise.

## ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE MOVEMENT

RFLD is accountable first to its **670 member organisations**, which provide strategic direction through regular consultations and the General Assembly process. Our Board includes representatives from across the African regions we serve. Every grant we make — and every grant we receive — is reported to the membership.

# 670 Organisations. One network.

RFLD is not a single NGO — it is a network. Our membership is the single largest asset we hold, and the reason funders trust us to reach organisations they cannot reach alone.

**670**

TOTAL MEMBERS

**+317**

JOINED IN MARCH 2026

**15+**

COUNTRIES

**100 %**

WOMEN-LED OR  
WOMEN-CENTRED

## WHAT MEMBERSHIP MEANS

RFLD members are **women-led or women-centred civil society organisations** across Africa working on SRHR, civic space, governance, economic justice, climate, peace and security, and ending harmful practices. Membership is free, vetted, and renewable.

In **March 2026 alone, 317 new organisations** joined from across West Africa — a reflection of the network's growing legitimacy and of the continued demand for a francophone African feminist platform.

Members access RFLD's continental tools, participate in consultations that shape our policy positions, are eligible for the WAFF Fund, and benefit from advocacy RFLD leads on their behalf before the African Union and ECOWAS.

*"The network is why funders come to RFLD. They could fund one NGO. What they are buying instead is a relationship with 670."*

## MEMBER TYPOLOGY

### GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S GROUPS

Community-based organisations working directly with women and girls in rural and peri-urban areas. The largest share of membership.

### FEMINIST NGOS & COALITIONS

Mid-sized organisations with thematic specialisation — SRHR, ending FGM, political leadership, climate justice.

### WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NETWORKS

Networks that document, protect, and advocate for WHRDs across Africa; participants in our WHRDs programming.

### YOUTH-LED & YOUNG FEMINIST COLLECTIVES

Emerging generation of African feminist organisers, increasingly prominent in digital safety and climate justice.

# Fields of Intervention (I)

RFLD works across six integrated fields. Here we describe the first three — the interventions most closely tied to women's bodily autonomy, voice, and economic life.



## 1 · SRHR · SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (DSSR)

RFLD advocates for the right of every woman and girl in Africa to make free and informed decisions about her body, her sexuality, and her reproductive life. We work through national advocacy, community mobilisation, and continental policy — including the Maputo Protocol — to advance access to contraception, safe abortion where legal, maternal health, and comprehensive sexuality education.

**Flagship programme:** BRAVE · **Tools:** Maputo Protocol Hub, DSSR Challenge Hub, Health Systems in Africa Programme



## 2 · CIVIC SPACE & HUMAN RIGHTS

Across Africa, civic space is shrinking — and women human rights defenders bear a disproportionate share of the cost. RFLD defends civic freedoms, documents attacks on WHRDs, publishes the annual Sub-Saharan Africa WHRDs Report, and co-develops the African Digital Safety Compendium to counter digital violence targeting women activists.

**Key publications:** WHRDs Report 2025, African Digital Safety Compendium · **Advocacy venues:** ACHPR Special Rapporteur on HRDs



## 3 · ECONOMIC JUSTICE & CLIMATE

Women's economic rights and climate justice are inseparable in Africa. RFLD works on **gender-sensitive budgeting**, access to productive resources for women farmers and entrepreneurs, and **climate action** that centres women's lived experience of climate change. Our Climate Action programme trains women leaders on climate policy and mobilises community responses to climate-driven food and water insecurity.

**Programmes:** Climate Justice, EcoJustice in Africa · **Partners:** West Africa ECOWAS member states, pan-African climate feminist networks

## CROSS-CUTTING COMMITMENTS

Every field integrates **data and evidence** (through DONUESE), **youth participation**, **francophone accessibility** (bilingual EN/FR + selected local languages), and **re-granting to grassroots organisations** where the programme design permits. No programme operates in a silo.

# Fields of Intervention (II)

The second half of our intervention architecture: governance, peace and security, and the programmes addressing harmful practices.



## 4 · PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE & WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

RFLD supports women's full participation in the governance of African states through **PAWELE**, our flagship programme on women's political leadership. We train women candidates and elected officials, track implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), and maintain the West Africa Legislative Tracking Platform — the only consolidated public database of women's rights legislation across ECOWAS.

**Flagship programme:** PAWELE · **Tools:** ACDEG Hub, West Africa Legislative Platform, AU Mechanisms Demystified



## 5 · PEACE & SECURITY

Africa's peace and security challenges fall heavily on women — as survivors, as displaced persons, and as peacemakers. RFLD works to **include women in peace processes**, mobilise cross-border women's solidarity in conflict-affected regions, and implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda in francophone African contexts where it has historically been under-resourced.

**Focus regions:** Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, Great Lakes · **Partners:** ECOWAS, regional women's peace networks



## 6 · ENDING FGM & CHILD MARRIAGE (HARMFUL PRACTICES)

RFLD runs a continental programme to **end female genital mutilation** and **child, early and forced marriage** — anchored in community-led abandonment strategies, survivor-centred advocacy, and Maputo Protocol implementation. We work across generations, engaging elders, adolescents, men and boys, religious leaders, and legal systems in an integrated response.

**Programmes:** Ending FGM in Africa, MNCH Programme · **Linked advocacy:** Maputo Protocol Hub, ACHPR

### THE INTEGRATION THESIS

## Six fields. One strategy.

RFLD's six fields of intervention are **deliberately integrated**. A woman who cannot access SRHR services is often a woman whose civic space is shrinking, who lives in a climate-stressed community, who is excluded from political decision-making, and whose daughters are at risk of child marriage. Addressing one issue in isolation cannot move the others. This is why RFLD builds programmes that span fields — and why our tools (DONUESE, the hubs) are designed to be used across them.

# Flagship Programmes

Five named programmes carry the weight of RFLD's direct delivery work. Each is multi-year, multi-country, and evaluated independently.

## PAWELE

Women's Political Leadership across Africa

## BRAVE

Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights

## CLIMATE JUSTICE

Women & climate action in Africa

## HEALTH

Malaria, MNCH, francophone health systems

## ENDING FGM

Community-led abandonment continent-wide

### PAWELE — PROGRAMME ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Training, mentorship, and advocacy support for women in politics across francophone Africa. Tracks gender parity in national parliaments, supports campaign readiness, and connects women politicians to the continental ACDEG framework.

### BRAVE — SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS PROGRAMME

Flagship SRHR programme combining community mobilisation, youth engagement, and policy advocacy. Runs the "Ma Santé, Mon Droit" (My Health, My Right) DSSR Hub. Works with ministries of health and parliamentarians across the francophone region.

### CLIMATE JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Trains women leaders on climate policy, supports gender-sensitive national climate plans, and mobilises community responses. Anchored in the pan-African climate action hub and informed by DONUESE data.

### HEALTH PROGRAMME — ENDING MALARIA, MNCH, FRANCOPHONE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Works on maternal and child health, ending malaria in Africa, and strengthening health systems in francophone African countries. Combines advocacy, community health worker training, and policy engagement.

### ENDING FGM IN AFRICA PROGRAMME

Community-led abandonment of FGM across multiple countries, survivor-centred advocacy, faith-leader engagement, and legal reform support. Linked to the Maputo Protocol Hub and the AU campaign to end harmful practices.

# GIZ SEA-T · Flagship Partnership

The single most significant institutional partnership in RFLD's history — and in 2026, RFLD leads the cohort.

## ★ LANDMARK SELECTION · 2025

### 1 of 12 African Feminist Organisations selected continent-wide

In 2025, GIZ / BMZ selected twelve African feminist organisations — following **institutional audits** — to form the first cohort of the **Society · Equality · Africa · Transformation (SEA-T)** programme. Each cohort member receives **between €1 and €2 million over 30 months**. RFLD was the francophone anchor of the cohort.

## WHAT SEA-T FUNDS AT RFLD

- ▶ **Institutional strengthening** of RFLD's secretariat, audit, and finance systems.
- ▶ **The Francophone Human Rights Hub** — our online learning platform.
- ▶ **Re-granting through the WAFF Fund** — €250,000 to 10 organisations in francophone West Africa.
- ▶ **Civic space and WHRDs programming** — including documentation and protection.
- ▶ **Multi-year policy advocacy** on women's rights across the AU and ECOWAS.

## WHAT IT SIGNALS

GIZ / BMZ institutional audits are rigorous. Selection into SEA-T is effectively a **triangulated vote of confidence** in RFLD's financial systems, safeguarding, governance, and programme delivery — accessible to any funder conducting due diligence.

## 2026 MILESTONE

### RFLD assumes the 2026 Presidency of the SEA-T Advisory Council

In March 2026, RFLD was named **President of the GIZ Africa SEA-T Advisory Council for 2026** — a historic milestone for francophone African feminism and a clear signal of RFLD's leadership role within the cohort of African feminist organisations.

## COHORT HIGHLIGHTS · 2025

- ▶ 12 African feminist organisations selected after institutional audit.
- ▶ Each receives €1–2 million over 30 months.
- ▶ Cohort convenes through the SEA-T Advisory Council.
- ▶ RFLD selected as the francophone anchor and 2026 Presidency.

# WAFF Fund & Africa Grant Portfolio

Re-granting is not a side activity for RFLD — it is central to how we move money closer to the women who need it. In 2025, we allocated €250,000 through WAFF to 10 feminist organisations.

## THE WAFF FUND

The **West Africa Feminist Fund (WAFF)** is RFLD's re-granting vehicle for women-led and women-centred organisations across francophone West Africa. It is designed to **move money fast, with minimal friction, and with accompaniment** — embodying the trust-based philanthropy we advocate for upstream with our own donors.

In 2025, with GIZ funding, WAFF allocated **€250,000 to 10 organisations** in the francophone West African community. Grants range across programmes on SRHR, civic space, women's leadership, ending FGM, and climate justice.

## AFRICA GRANT PORTFOLIO

Beyond WAFF, RFLD operates an **Africa Grant Portfolio** channelling resources from institutional donors (GIZ, Sida, AmplifyChange, Packard, FJS, Expertise France) into programmes executed both directly and through partner organisations in our network. Every grant carries safeguarding, financial reporting, and M&E standards aligned to donor expectations.

*"Re-granting is a trust test. Donors watch how we treat the organisations we fund. We treat them the way we want to be treated."*

## WAFF Fund · 2025 · 10 Beneficiary Organisations (€250,000 allocated)

1. Francophone West African feminist organisation · SRHR / DSSR programming
2. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Civic space & WHRDs
3. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Women's political leadership
4. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Ending FGM / child marriage
5. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Climate justice
6. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Economic justice / gender budgets
7. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Maternal & child health (MNCH)
8. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Youth-led feminist organising
9. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Digital safety / rights
10. Francophone West African feminist organisation · Peace & security

*Detailed grantee list available at [rflgd.org/waff-fund](http://rflgd.org/waff-fund). RFLD publishes grantee information with the consent of each organisation, following safeguarding review.*

# Continental Tools for Civil Society

RFLD builds and maintains open-access platforms that serve African civil society beyond our own network. These are not branded products — they are public goods.

## DIGITAL SAFETY

### African Digital Safety Compendium (ADSC)

Continental reference on digital violence against women and civil society. Protocols, case documentation, protection frameworks.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### Maputo Protocol Hub

Tracking ratification, domestication, and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women.

## GOVERNANCE

### ACDEG Hub

African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance — leading civil society hub for ACDEG monitoring and advocacy.

## PAN-AFRICAN

### AU Mechanisms Demystified

Guides for African civil society on navigating African Union mechanisms — accessible, actionable, bilingual EN/FR.

## LEGISLATION

### West Africa Legislative Platform

Tracking women's rights legislation across ECOWAS — the only consolidated public database of its kind for the region.

## FRANCOPHONE

### Human Rights Hub · Francophone Online University

Online human rights learning hub for francophone African civil society — built with GIZ funding, designed for grassroots reach.

## DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

### DONUESE — RFLD's Data Centre

Behind every RFLD tool sits **DONUESE**, our proprietary data centre dedicated to African women's rights data. DONUESE feeds the hubs above, powers our annual reports, and provides the evidence base for our policy advocacy. Very few peer organisations on the continent own and maintain their own data infrastructure — it is one of RFLD's most distinctive assets.

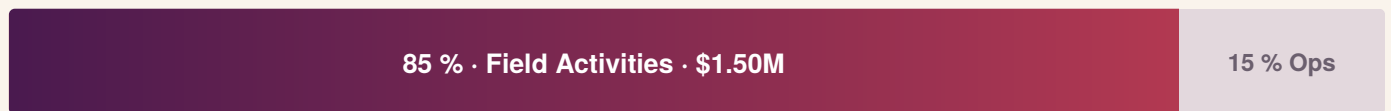
# 2025 Impact, Donors & Publications

The numbers, the money, and the evidence — all for the 2025 financial year, verified and published.

## 2025 FINANCIAL DELIVERY

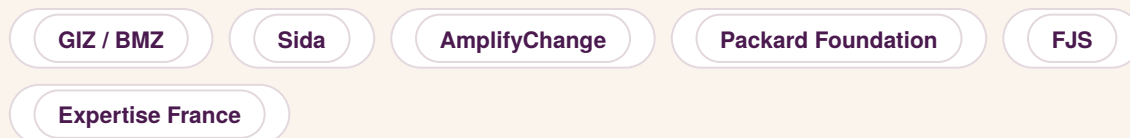


## ALLOCATION OF 2025 FUNDS (US\$ 1,768,026)



85 % of 2025 funds channelled directly to field activities — programmes, grantees, community delivery. The remaining 15 % covers operations, audit, and governance.

## INSTITUTIONAL DONORS · 2025



## 2025 PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATION	CONTENT	YEAR
RFLD Annual Report 2025	Full-year financial delivery, programme results, grantee portfolio, governance	2025
WHRDs in Sub-Saharan Africa Report	Annual documentation of Women Human Rights Defenders — cases, patterns, calls to action	2025
Strategic Plan 2023–2028	Continental roadmap, priorities, theory of change, indicators	Active
Maputo Protocol Tracking (rolling)	Status of ratification and domestication across AU member states	Rolling
West Africa Legislative Tracker (rolling)	Consolidated database of women's rights legislation in ECOWAS	Rolling

# Strategic Plan 2023 – 2028 & Partnership

Where RFLD is heading in the next chapter — and how partners, funders, and allies can join.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES · 2023 – 2028

### 1 · FRANCOPHONE INFRASTRUCTURE

Expand the francophone African feminist infrastructure — hubs, tools, networks, training — into under-served countries and languages.

### 2 · RESOURCES TO GRASSROOTS

Move more resources, faster, to women-led organisations through WAFF and the Africa Grant Portfolio.

### 3 · DEFEND & ADVANCE

Secure women's rights gains against democratic backsliding, shrinking civic space, and climate disruption — across the continent.

## Partner with RFLD

RFLD invites funders, peer organisations, multilateral bodies, and African governments to partner with us on one of the most under-resourced and highest-leverage frontiers in global feminist philanthropy — **francophone African women's rights**.

#### Proven delivery

\$1.77M managed in 2025, 85% to field, audited.

#### Institutional credibility

GIZ/BMZ SEA-T cohort; 2026 Council Presidency; ACHPR Observer.

#### Scale through network

670 member organisations across Africa; +317 in March 2026.

#### Re-granting capacity

€250k moved to 10 grassroots organisations via WAFF in 2025.

## CONNECT WITH RFLD

### FRANCOPHONE HUB

#### Cotonou · Dakar

Benin & Senegal  
Secretariat · Finance ·  
Programmes

### AFRICA REGIONAL

#### Accra

Ghana  
Pan-African Programmes ·  
Partnerships

### ACHPR LIAISON

#### Banjul

The Gambia  
African Commission on Human and  
Peoples' Rights