

WHO WE ARE

A pan-African feminist network that turns women's rights law into everyday reality.

RFLD brings together 670 women-led and feminist organisations in more than 35 African countries. We connect the rights African women have won in continental law, starting with the Maputo Protocol, to the communities, parliaments and budgets where those rights are claimed. Our members do the work on the ground, and RFLD stands behind them with data, advocacy, grants and protection.

670 member organisations	35+ African countries reached	5 countries of registration	6 offices, with headquarters in Accra	12 open-data tools for civil society	79.8% of 2025 spending reached the field
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An African-led network with continental reach

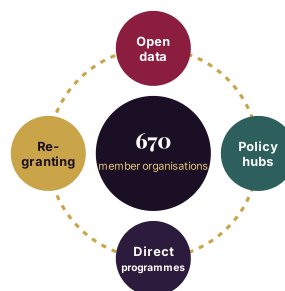
Founded in 2013, RFLD is registered as a non-governmental organisation in Ghana, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria and The Gambia. Its headquarters is the Africa Office in Accra, supported by francophone hubs in Porto-Novo and Dakar, an ACHPR liaison office in Banjul, a Nigeria office in Lagos and a member platform in Igoilo.

We work in English and French, which lets us bridge the anglophone and francophone movements that institutional funding often keeps apart.

How we work

Member-led and trust-based. Our members shape priorities, grantee data belongs to grantees, and we measure change through Outcome Harvesting and Most Significant Change.

One model, four functions



Most organisations keep these functions apart. RFLD runs them as one cycle: open data shows where rights fall short, policy hubs carry the evidence to decision makers, re-granting funds grassroots groups to act, and direct programmes build the leaders and systems that sustain change. A grant to one programme strengthens the whole network.

Why funders choose RFLD

Reach where funding rarely arrives

A trusted route to grassroots women's organisations across francophone and anglophone Africa, including the Sahel.

Standing in African institutions

Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and a seat in the Support Group on Human Rights Defenders.

Accountability you can verify

Independent annual audits, NGOsource 501(c)(3) equivalency and a Candid Seal of Transparency.

Speed when it matters

Urgent Action grants for women defenders decided within five business days.

What investment makes possible

Every field of our work already runs through members, tools and systems that work. New investment carries proven approaches to many more communities, with more women in office, more survivors reached, more laws enforced and more climate finance in the hands of the women who adapt first.

SIX FIELDS OF WORK

Where African law meets African communities

Each field is anchored in a continental instrument and delivered with the member organisations closest to the women it serves.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Bodily autonomy under Articles 2, 4, 5 and 14 of the Maputo Protocol, carried by the BRAVE programme and our member organisations.

Civic space

Keeping space open for association, expression and assembly, on the street, in the courtroom and online.

Women defenders, peace and security

Protection and referral for women human rights defenders, and women at the centre of mediation, early warning and recovery.

Economic and climate justice

Land and inheritance rights, women-led climate adaptation, the care economy and a just energy transition.

Women in power

Women's political leadership through PAWELE, with ACDEG monitoring and legislative tracking across West Africa.

Ending FGM and child marriage

Community-led abandonment of harmful practices, led by mothers, elders, faith leaders and survivors.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES

Leadership**PAWELE**

Pan-African Women's Empowerment for Leadership and Equality prepares women to run for office, win and govern, from local councils to national parliaments.

SRHR**BRAVE**

Bodily Rights And Violence Eradication carries our advocacy on reproductive rights, consent and comprehensive sexuality education.

Climate**Climate Justice**

Women-led adaptation, access to loss and damage finance and women's voices in climate negotiations.

Health**Maternal and newborn health**

Maternal, newborn and child health in francophone Africa, backed by open health data.

OPEN DATA

The DONUESE Data Center

Twelve free, bilingual tools that let civil society, journalists and parliamentarians measure states against their own commitments. Data here is treated as public infrastructure.

Maputo Protocol Hub

ACDEG Hub

AU Mechanisms Knowledge Hub

West Africa Legislative Platform

Women in Politics Tracker

Francophone Human Rights MOOC

Gender-Responsive Budgeting

African Digital Safety Compendium

Climate Action Platform

My Health, My Right (SRHR)

Maternal Health Data

Malaria Data

GRANTMAKING

Money that reaches the front line

West African Feminist Fund (WAFF)

Grants for feminist civil society in 15 West African countries, in French or English.

Urgent Action up to \$5,000, decided within 5 business days. **Capacity Building** up to \$20,000. **Advocacy** and **Vulnerable Groups Inclusion** up to \$30,000 each.

Africa Grant Portfolio

Opening January 2027 for all 55 AU member states: five grants from US\$25,000 over six months to US\$500,000 over 24 months, for organisations led by women, Vulnerable Groups and people with disabilities.

How we grant: trust-based and participatory, with financial training, security assessments and funder introductions built into every grant.

STANDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Credentials a funder can check

- ✓ **ACHPR Observer Status N°553/2017** with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- ✓ **Support Group of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders**, under ACHPR Resolution 602
- ✓ **NGOsource 501(c)(3) equivalency**, so US foundations and DAFs can give without a fiscal sponsor
- ✓ **Three consecutive unqualified external audits** under international standards
- ✓ **79.8%** of 2025 spending went directly to field programmes
- ✓ **Candid Seal of Transparency** and IATI publisher
- ✓ **Co-Chair of the Advisory Council** of the GIZ/BMZ SEA-T programme in 2026
- ✓ Member of **SOAWR**, the coalition for the Maputo Protocol hosted by Equality Now

FUNDERS AND PARTNERS



US donors can also give through the RFLD American Friends Fund at Myriad USA.

GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors

- ✓ **Hélène WINSOU**, President
- ✓ **Ruth ADANDE**, Vice-President
- ✓ **Bertille MOUKAKI Tabiyi**, Secretary-General
- ✓ **Jeannine BOSSOU**, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
- ✓ **Colette KPOSSOU**, Organiser
- ✓ **Hannah Forster**, Independent Director

The Board is accountable to the General Assembly of members and works through Finance, Ethics and Continental Advisory committees.

WAYS TO INVEST

Thematic partnership

From US\$500,000

Multi-year support for one field of work, with a shared results framework.

WAFF core support

From US\$2 million

Flexible re-granting to grassroots organisations in 15 West African countries.

Strategic partnership

US\$5 million and above

Support for the Strategic Plan 2023 to 2028 across all six fields of work.

RECENT RESULTS

What the network delivered

- ✓ **110+ women human rights defenders** trained in digital resilience and advocacy in 2026
- ✓ **Annual report on women human rights defenders** in sub-Saharan Africa (2025 edition)
- ✓ **Cyber Harassment Legal Toolkit** for women activists, journalists and politicians (2026)
- ✓ **Policy brief on young women defenders** in West Africa and the Sahel (2026)
- ✓ **The Maputo Protocol in audio** in Hausa, Zarma, Yoruba and Goun
- ✓ **42 podcast episodes** on economic justice, water justice and ending FGM
- ✓ Partner in two Sida-funded consortia: **CHARM Africa** and **NAFASI**, on Africa's digital civic space (2026 to 2028)

LEADERSHIP AND OFFICES

Executive team

- ✓ **Gloria AGUEH**, Africa Director and Founder
- ✓ **John GBENAGNON**, Director of Strategy & Development
- ✓ **Gogo Ashifie**, Regional Finance Lead

Six offices

Accra (Africa Office and headquarters), Porto-Novo and Dakar (Francophone Hubs), Banjul (ACHPR Liaison), Lagos (Nigeria Office) and Igolo (Member and Local Platforms).

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