

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE 2026

RFLD

Women Leaders Network for Development

From the village to the African Commission: rights that change lives

A pan-African network of 1,143 women-led organisations in more than 35 countries. We turn what women live in their communities into evidence, funding and public policy.

1,143	35+	9.78M	US$3M+	N°553
member organisations	African countries	women and girls reached since 2013	re-granted to small organisations	ACHPR observer status

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The RFLD team at the francophone hub in Porto-Novo, Benin

In one sentence. Our data shows where rights fail, our grants fund the women's organisations that act, and our advocacy makes States answer for it. Funding RFLD funds the whole chain, from the village to the African Commission.

RFLD in figures

1,143
women-led member organisations

39
countries where our members work

6
offices: Accra (HQ), Dakar, Porto-Novo, Banjul, Lagos, Igolo

9.78M
women and girls reached, 2013–2026

US$3M+
re-granted by the Accra Africa Office to small organisations

12
open, bilingual data tools

42
staff, 21 of them full time

79.8%
of 2025 spending reached field programmes

A WORD FROM THE AFRICA DIRECTOR

Rights that exist in women's lives



Dossi Sêkonnou Gloria AGUEH

Africa Director and Founder

2012
network founded, active since 2013

5
countries of registration: Ghana, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, The Gambia

2017
observer status with the ACHPR

African women's rights have come a long way on paper. The Maputo Protocol has been ratified by 46 of the 55 African Union member states. Yet in villages, in court, at the town hall or online, too many women still find the door closed.

RFLD exists to close that gap. Since 2013 we have built a network of 1,143 women-led organisations. They know the communities, speak the local languages and see violations before anyone else.

Our role is simple to describe. We turn what they live into public data. We get money and management tools all the way to them. And we carry their evidence to the African Commission and to parliaments.

In 2026 we took time to rethink how we present our work, with support from experts in strategy and funding. This profile is the result: clear language, three levels of action, and one story told the same way by the whole team.

I invite you to read it, then to come and see us in Accra, Dakar or Porto-Novo. The women changing Africa do not need others to speak for them. They need partners who stay.

> The Accra Africa Office has re-granted **more than US$3 million** to small women's organisations through audited systems. It is proof that trust and rigour can go together.

01 · WHO WE ARE

A network led by its members

RFLD is a pan-African feminist network of 1,143 women-led organisations. Local organisations lead the work in their communities. RFLD backs them with data, advocacy, grants, training and protection.

Name	Women Leaders Network for Development (Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement, RFLD)
Founded	2012, active since 2013
Status	International Organisation in Senegal; NGO in Ghana, Benin, Nigeria and The Gambia
Headquarters	Africa Office, Accra, Ghana
Offices	Accra, Dakar and Porto-Novo (francophone hubs), Banjul (ACHPR liaison), Lagos, Igolo
Languages	French and English; Portuguese for the Africa Grant Portfolio; Wolof for Yéego Jigéen
Recognition	ACHPR Observer Status N°553; Support Group of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders (Resolution 602); SOAWR member; chair of the SEA-T Programme Advisory Council (BMZ/GIZ)
Accountability	Unqualified external audits; NGOsource 501(c)(3) equivalency; Candid 2025 Seal of Transparency; IATI publication
Leadership	Dossi Sêkonnou Gloria AGUEH, Africa Director and Founder; Hélène WOUINSOU, Chair of the Board



RFLD team, Porto-Novo



The Africa Office, headquarters in Accra

OUR ULTIMATE GOAL

An Africa where women and girls, Vulnerable Groups and people with disabilities exercise their rights fully, take part in the decisions that affect them and live free from violence.

Online rflgd.org/about-us/ · rflgd.org/our-people/ · rflgd.org/board/ · rflgd.org/rfld-strategic-plan-2023-2028/

02 · THE PROBLEM

Women's rights exist on paper, not in women's lives

46 of the 55 African Union member states have ratified the Maputo Protocol. Few have turned it into laws, budgets and services. The gap is not one problem but three problems that feed each other, at the three levels where we work.



Acting on one level alone does not last. A trained woman leader without a strong organisation burns out. A strong organisation without access to decision-makers stays local. A good law that no one monitors stays on paper.

Sources: African Union treaty status (Maputo Protocol Hub, 2026); OECD, 2026.

03 · OUR ANSWER

We work on all three levels at once

Our work rests on one model with four functions. Each one cuts the cycle at a different point.

LEVEL 1 · INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

Women cannot claim their rights.

→

D We work with women directly

Community programmes: political leadership, protection and access to services, maternal health, land rights and climate, ending FGM and child marriage.

LEVEL 2 · GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS

Women's groups lack money and the systems donors recognise.

→

B We move money and systems to them

Direct grants (WAFF, Yéego Jigéen, Africa Grant Portfolio) and a donated management suite to pass audits and last.

LEVEL 3 · SYSTEMS AND POLICY

States sign, but no one shows where they fail.

→

A C We bring the evidence and hold them to account

Twelve free, bilingual data tools, including the Maputo Barometer, and advocacy at the African Commission (Observer Status N°553).

The four functions feed one another

A · Public tools to hold States to account → **B · Money and systems** for grassroots organisations → **C · Open data** bilingual, no login, no fees → **D · Programmes** run with communities

OUR GOLDEN THREAD

Our data proves where rights fail, our grants fund the women's organisations that fix it, and our advocacy makes States answer for it.



Organisations of the RFLD network mobilised in the field

WHAT SETS US APART

Others hold one link. We hold the whole chain.

Service NGOs	Advocacy bodies	Funds	RFLD
reach women, but rarely the institutions that make the law.	reach the institutions, but rarely the village.	move money, but rarely the systems to manage it.	does all three, in French and English, owned by its members.

1 One organisation, from the village to the African Commission

We work with women in their communities and carry their evidence to the regional level ourselves. Few African organisations do both.

PROOF
Programmes in 15+ countries · ACHPR Observer Status N°553 since 2017 · panels with two Special Rapporteurs at the 89th Session, Dakar

2 Money and systems together

A grant without systems fails the first audit. Systems without a grant sit unused. We give both.

PROOF
More than US$3M re-granted by the Accra Africa Office · 473 organisations use the Management Suite

3 Rooted where the gap is widest

We are rooted in francophone Africa, where funding and data are scarcest, and bridge it with the anglophone and lusophone worlds.

PROOF
Offices in Benin, Ghana, Senegal, The Gambia and Nigeria · all our tools in French and English

4 Our data is a public good

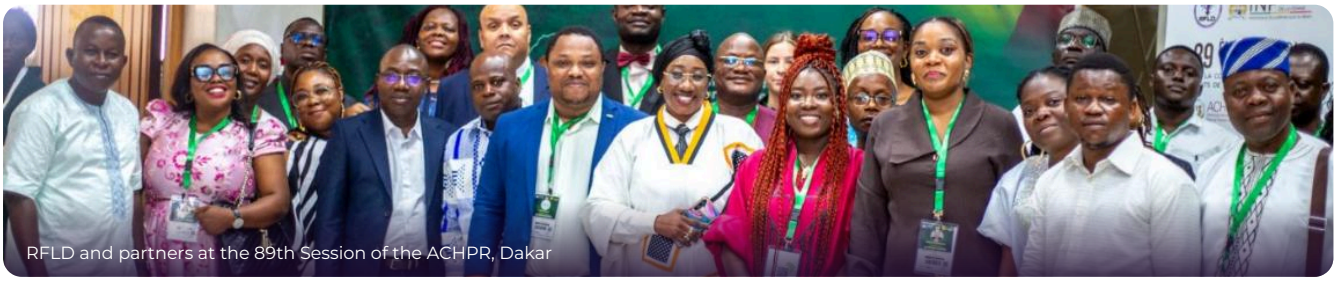
Our tools are free for everyone: activists, journalists, parliaments, funders. They strengthen the whole movement, not only RFLD.

PROOF
12 tools covering all 55 AU member states · Maputo Barometer · law profiles for 55 countries

5 Owned by our members, trusted by our partners

Our priorities come from the ground. Our systems meet the standards of bilateral donors.

PROOF
1,143 members · unqualified audits · grants published on IATI · Candid Seal



RFLD and partners at the 89th Session of the ACHPR, Dakar

THEORY OF CHANGE AND RESULTS

What changes, at each level

Our theory of change follows three circles of influence. Change is not linear: setbacks happen, and backlash is often a sign of impact. The three levels reinforce each other.

Level	What changes	Results already achieved
Individuals and communities	Empowerment; awareness of their rights; a pathway to agency, to become who they mean to be	96% of women and girls supported say they can better shape their life goals (RFLD survey, July 2026) · 110+ defenders trained in digital safety in 2026
Grassroots organisations	Access to flexible funding; the capabilities and systems to manage it and to last	27 grants worth US$722,100 to 26 organisations, June–September 2026 · 114 organisations supported in a year (114% of target)
Systems and policy	Laws, budgets and services that apply women's rights; States that answer to evidence; protected civic space	Benin Law No. 2021-12 on sexual and reproductive health · FGM ban upheld in The Gambia, 2024

How we work

Member-led

Member organisations set priorities in the General Assembly.

Trust-based grantmaking

Flexible funding, financial training, security assessment and psychosocial support.

Bilingual by design

French and English bring together movements that funding often keeps apart.

Measured results

Outcome Harvesting and Most Significant Change, quarterly dashboards.

Inclusion

At least 50% women's participation and a dedicated window for Vulnerable Groups.

Data belongs to partners

Beneficiaries own their data; some grantees are not named, for their safety.



A woman human rights defender at an RFLD gathering

Online rflgd.org/theory-of-change/ · rflgd.org/our-impact/ · rflgd.org/impact-in-numbers/

04 · WHERE WE WORK

One network, five regions of Africa

Our 1,143 members work in 39 countries across West, Central, Lusophone, Southern and East Africa. Six offices support them. Our deepest presence is in the francophone corridor, where tools and funding are scarcest.

West Africa

Benin · Burkina Faso · Cabo Verde · Côte d'Ivoire · The Gambia · Ghana · Guinea · Guinea-Bissau · Liberia · Mali · Mauritania · Niger · Nigeria · Senegal · Sierra Leone · Togo

Central Africa

Burundi · Cameroon · Central African Republic · Chad · Congo · DR Congo · Equatorial Guinea · Gabon · Rwanda · São Tomé and Príncipe

Lusophone Africa

Angola · Mozambique · Cabo Verde · Guinea-Bissau · São Tomé and Príncipe

Southern Africa

Botswana · Eswatini · Lesotho · Malawi · Namibia · South Africa · Zambia · Zimbabwe

East Africa

Ethiopia · Kenya · Uganda

Our six offices

Accra, Ghana
Africa Office and headquarters

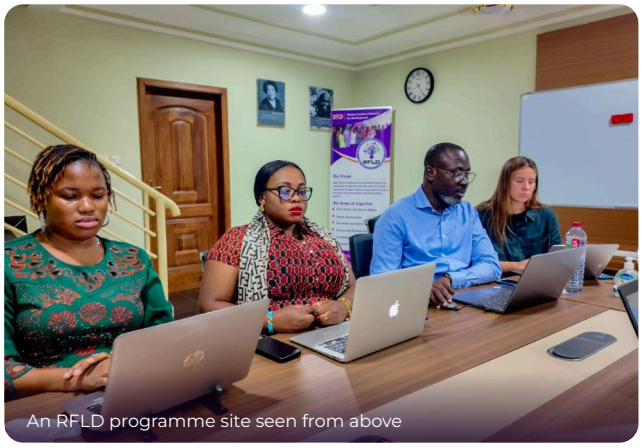
Dakar, Senegal
Francophone hub, International Organisation

Porto-Novo, Benin
Francophone hub

Banjul, The Gambia
Liaison with the ACHPR

Lagos, Nigeria
Nigeria office

Igolo, Benin
Member and local platforms



An RFLD programme site seen from above

Country teams and focal points in Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Benin and Guinea. In Nigeria, RFLD is building a national network across all six geopolitical zones, with a focus on organisations outside Lagos and Abuja.

Online rflgd.org/where-we-work/ · rflgd.org/rfld-nigeria/ · rflgd.org/ong-membres-du-rfld/ · rflgd.org/devenir-membre/



RFLD Africa Office, Accra

LEGAL FOUNDATION

Commitments States have already made

The Maputo Protocol, adopted in 2003, is among the most advanced treaties in the world on women's rights. With the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007) and the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights (2015), it covers every field we work in. The gap is in implementation: that is where RFLD acts.

46 / 55
AU member states have ratified the Maputo Protocol

9
states have not yet ratified

55
states tracked by the Protocol Hub and law profiles

15
ECOWAS states in the Legislative Platform

What we track

- Ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol, state by state, in the Maputo Barometer.
- Reservations entered by states and campaigns to lift them (nine country briefs published in 2026).
- Decisions of African mechanisms and their enforcement.
- The CEDAW and UPR review calendar, so civil society can prepare shadow reports.
- The Protocol in audio in Hausa, Zarma, Yoruba and Fon, and in eight African languages, for women who read neither French nor English.



Maputo Protocol advocacy with women community leaders

Online rflgd.org/maputo-protocol/ · rflgd.org/maputo-protocol-languages/ · rflgd.org/decisions-and-enforcement/ · rflgd.org/cedaw-upr-calendar/



Regional consultation with the ACHPR Special Rapporteur, Dakar



05

Our grants

More than US$3 million re-granted by the Accra Africa Office to small women's organisations through audited systems. RFLD handles compliance so donors can reach organisations they cannot fund directly.

GRANTS · OVERVIEW

Funding that reaches the grassroots

US$3M+
re-granted by the Accra Africa Office to small organisations

US$722,100
in 27 grants to 26 organisations, June–September 2026

5 days
to decide an Urgent Action request

Our three grant instruments run from the most local to the continental. All go through RFLD's audited systems, with light reporting and accompaniment.

Instrument	Who it serves	Amounts	Status
West African Feminist Fund (WAFF)	Women-led organisations and groups serving Vulnerable Groups in 15 West African countries	Up to US$5,000–30,000 depending on the window	Open; Urgent Action all year
Yéego Jigéen (Senegal)	Grassroots women's organisations in Senegal, annual budget ≤ US$200,000	US$20,000 + 6 months of support	Applications open
Africa Grant Portfolio	Organisations in all 55 AU member states led by and serving women, Vulnerable Groups and people with disabilities	US$25,000 to 500,000	Opens January 2027



Women's political forum, Abidjan


Member organisations in session

Why an intermediary? Less than 1% of gender-equality aid goes directly to women's rights organisations (OECD, 2026). The median annual budget of a women's organisation is US$22,000 (AWID, 2025). RFLD connects large donors with these organisations.

Online rflgd.org/tender-grants/ · rflgd.org/rfld-subgrantees/ · rflgd.org/get-support/

WEST AFRICAN FEMINIST FUND (WAFF)

Re-granting across West Africa

WAFF is RFLD's re-granting fund for women-led civil society in 15 West African countries. It offers rapid response, core funding and advocacy grants where larger funders struggle to reach.

Eligible countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.



Political participation training, Dakar, May 2026

Four funding windows

Urgent Action

Up to US$5,000

Open all year. Decision within 5 business days: legal defence, medical costs, emergency relocation, bail, response to digital attacks.

Capacity Building

Up to US$20,000

Thematic call. Core funding: salaries, operations, financial systems, strategic planning.

Advocacy

Up to US$30,000

Thematic call. Evidence-based campaigns, legislative work, research, media, coalitions.

Vulnerable Groups Inclusion

Up to US$30,000

Thematic call. For organisations kept out of mainstream funding: safe spaces and psychosocial support.

What sets WAFF apart

- **Speed:** 5 business days for Urgent Action, versus three to six months for many global funds.
- **Language:** apply and report in French or English.
- **Compliance handled:** sub-grants run through RFLD's audited systems.
- **Light reporting:** one page and receipts; oral reporting possible.

How an Urgent Action is decided

1. Secure, encrypted request (Signal or ProtonMail).
2. A country focal point verifies the threat within 6 to 12 hours.
3. Secure vote by the Grant Committee and payment within 5 business days.

16 WAFF grants awarded from June to September 2026

Online rflgd.org/waff-fund/



Political participation training, Lomé

YÉEGO JIGÉEN · SENEGAL

A grant, and six months to grow


Women leaders brought together by RFLD

Yéego Jigéen is RFLD's grant programme in Senegal. It funds what small women's organisations almost never get funded for: the organisation itself.

In Senegal, funding goes first to Dakar and to large structures. When a small organisation receives money, it covers a few months of activities, with little left to pay a coordinator, keep accounts or plan ahead. Yéego Jigéen funds exactly that.

US$20,000
per selected organisation

6 months
of accompaniment

14
regions of Senegal

60%+
outside the Dakar region

Three pillars, one is enough

- **Safety of women and girls:** preventing violence, supporting survivors, defending bodily autonomy.
- **Economic and social autonomy:** earning a living, deciding for oneself, taking a place in public life.
- **Climate resilience:** supporting exposed communities, where women carry the heaviest load.

What each organisation receives

- A non-repayable grant of US$20,000 for salaries, equipment, accounting or strategy.
- An assessment at the start and at the end, to measure progress.
- Six months of tailored training: financial management and audit, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilisation, advocacy, safeguarding and PSEA, digital security.
- Mentoring, peer circles and a cohort meeting with other funders.

Who can apply

- Registered and active in Senegal, led by women.
- Rooted in its community, active on at least one pillar.
- Annual budget up to US$200,000 (about 112 million FCFA).
- Particular attention to adolescent girls, rural women, women with disabilities, informal workers and climate-affected communities.

33-question online form in French; we work in French and Wolof; an independent jury selects each cohort.

Online rflgd.org/subventions-yeego-jigeen/


Women leaders brought together by RFLD

AFRICA GRANT PORTFOLIO

Five grants for the whole continent

From January 2027, the Africa Grant Portfolio opens RFLD grants to organisations in all 55 African Union member states. It is ring-fenced for three communities: women and girls, Vulnerable Groups and people with disabilities. Applications in French, English or Portuguese.

55
AU member states

5
grant products

US$25K–500K
per grant

FR • EN • PT
application languages

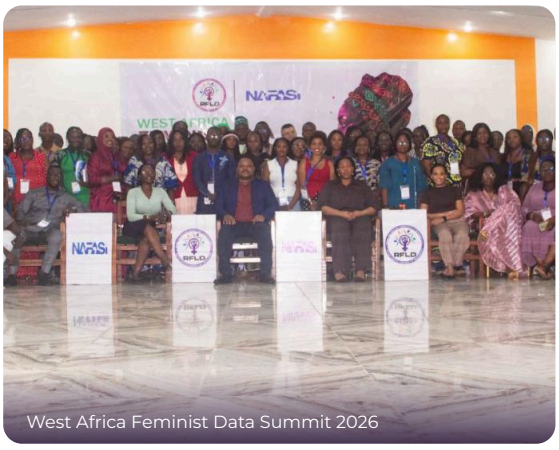
Product	Amount	Duration	What it funds
Upendo "Love" in Swahili	US$25,000	6 months	Rapid response, safety and emergency advocacy: relocation, emergency care, legal defence, secure communication tools.
Agojie Women's regiment of Dahomey	US$50,000	12 months	Capacity building: PSEA policies, audit and accounting systems, secure data, accessibility.
Sisonke "We are together" in Zulu	US$100,000	24 months	Community-led campaigns and movement building, with coalitions and inclusion of people with disabilities.
Alafia "Peace and well-being" in Yoruba	US$250,000	24 months	Systemic change: domesticating the Maputo Protocol, strategic litigation, budget advocacy.
Dada "Sister" in Yoruba	US$500,000	24 months	Regional backbone: regional hubs, sub-grants to grassroots groups, presence at the AU and UN.

Six programme fields

SRHR (flagship: BRAVE) · Civic space and women human rights defenders · Economic and climate justice · Participatory governance (flagship: PAWELE) · Peace and security · Ending FGM and child marriage.

How we make grants

Those closest to the problem should be closest to the power: simple reporting, funding for overheads and staff wellbeing, participatory decisions, trust-based relationships and priority on defenders' safety.



West Africa Feminist Data Summit 2026

Online rflgd.org/africa-grant-portfolio/

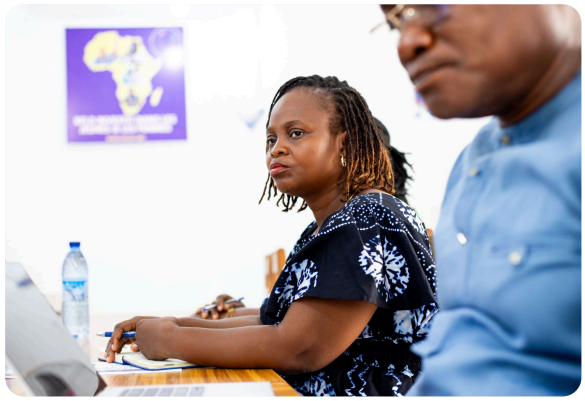

Member organisations in session

ORGANISATIONAL RESILIENCE

Money and systems, together

A grant without systems fails the first audit. That is why RFLD pairs every grant with management tools and the support to make them work.


At work at the Porto-Novo hub



The RFLD Management Suite

A bilingual management suite donated free of charge to grassroots organisations through the Organisational Resilience Programme: finance and grants, programmes, monitoring and evaluation, human resources, gender, safeguarding and complaints, communications, membership, procurement and governance. It gives small organisations what donor due diligence actually tests: segregation of duties, audit trails, budget-versus-actual tracking and protected safeguarding records.

473
organisations use the Suite free of charge

10
integrated departments

FR · EN
training videos

Our sub-grantees

Between June and September 2026, RFLD awarded **27 grants worth US$722,100 to 26 organisations**, including organisations working with Vulnerable Groups, not all of whom are named for their safety. Every grant is published with its amount on our website, and data is shared with partners on request.

> Our standard: every dollar tracked, every grant published, unqualified audited accounts. That is what allows international donors to fund, through us, organisations they could not reach on their own.

Online rflgd.org/rfld-subgrantees/ · rflgd.org/financials/ · rflgd.org/espace-membre/


Welcoming partners at the Porto-Novo hub



06

Our programmes

Programmes run with communities, each anchored in an article of the Maputo Protocol and linked to our grants, our data and our advocacy.

PAWELE · POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Women in the rooms where decisions are made



RFLD advocacy with decision-makers



Political participation training, Lomé, May 2026

PAWELE, the Programme for African Women's Empowerment, Leadership and Equality, prepares women to run, win and govern, and works with their communities so this leadership is welcomed and protected.

Four pillars at the same time

- **Leadership development** (Article 9): training on rights and advocacy, functional literacy, intergenerational mentoring, annual regional forums.
- **Community engagement** (Articles 5 and 17): dialogues with religious and traditional authorities, forums with men and boys, networks of male allies.
- **Institutions:** campaign strategy, finance, media and safety for candidates; law drafting and budget oversight for elected women; parity advocacy.
- **Evidence:** the Women in Politics Observatory and the Women in Leadership Tracker.

110
women leaders trained across francophone West Africa

50
women leaders gathered in Porto-Novo, May 2026

3
training cities: Dakar, Porto-Novo, Lomé

15+
countries of delivery

Online rflgd.org/pawele-program/ · rflgd.org/rights-representation/



Women's political forum, Abidjan

BRAVE AND HEALTH

Health, where rights are put to the test

Sexual and reproductive health is where every other right begins. RFLD leaves clinical care to health services and focuses on what a network does best: mobilising communities, defending rights, funding the grassroots and producing data.

BRAVE · bodily autonomy and safety

BRAVE trains community relays, supports implementation of Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol, including access to contraception and comprehensive sexuality education within each country's legal framework, and works to end violence against women. Active in more than 15 countries.

Health in francophone Africa

Maternal, newborn and child health and malaria in francophone West and Central Africa, in partnership with the David & Lucile Packard Foundation. The programme builds on Article 14 of the Protocol and the Abuja Declaration (15% of national budgets for health), which most states have not yet met.



Health programme activity in the field



"Midwives to Leaders" training, Benin

My Health, My Right

An interactive SRHR education platform for young people.

Open data

Maternal health and malaria data for ministries, planners and communities.

Dignity and care

Against stigma linked to HIV, infertility and disability; referral of survivors.

> RFLD contributed to the advocacy behind Benin's Law No. 2021-12 on sexual and reproductive health.

Online rflgd.org/the-brave-program/ · rflgd.org/health-systems-in-africa/ · rflgd.org/maternal/ · rflgd.org/end-malaria-in-africa/ · rflgd.org/hub-donuese-ma-sante-mon-droit/



Community members at a programme site

ENDING HARMFUL PRACTICES

Change led from within communities

In West Africa, families, elders, religious leaders and former cutters are choosing to end practices that harm girls. RFLD supports these decisions under Articles 5, 6 and 20 of the Maputo Protocol.


Dakar consultation on the protection of women defenders

What already works

- **Community dialogue:** trust, public declarations and follow-up; alternative rites of passage and keeping girls in school.
- **Leaders and allies:** traditional chiefs and queen mothers, imams and pastors, former cutters, fathers and young men.
- **Law and enforcement:** laws aligned with the Protocol, training for police, prosecutors and judges, birth registration.
- **Support for survivors:** medical, psychosocial and legal support, and emergency action for girls at risk.

9
Ouagadougou Partnership countries in our corridor

< 10%
prevalence in Benin, Togo and Ghana

6 February
Zero Tolerance Day, our annual high point

2024
FGM ban upheld in The Gambia

> About 230 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM, and about one young woman in three in sub-Saharan Africa was married as a child (UNICEF). Abandonment is possible: neighbouring countries have already brought prevalence below 10%.

Online rflgd.org/ending-fgm-in-west-africa/ · rflgd.org/pratiques-nefastes/



Advocacy with women community leaders

CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Climate justice starts with women


Women in a climate programme activity


Community members at a programme site

African women are already the continent's most experienced climate adapters. RFLD puts resources, information and infrastructure behind their leadership, and carries their experience to the AU and the COP.

Four pillars

- **Women-led adaptation:** drought-resilient farming, early warning in local languages, mangrove restoration.
- **Rapid climate finance:** WAFF's climate window gets flexible funding to grassroots groups within days.
- **COP and AU advocacy:** women's experience in UNFCCC, African Union and ECOWAS negotiations.
- **Youth leadership:** mentoring between young climate activists and experienced defenders.

Economic justice

Land and inheritance rights, joint titles, paralegal support for widows, cooperatives, the care economy, savings groups and decent work in the informal economy (Articles 15, 18, 19 and 21 of the Protocol).

48
community-managed solar boreholes funded by RFLD

3
data tools feeding climate advocacy

3–4%
of global emissions come from Africa

Online rflgd.org/climate-justice/ · rflgd.org/justice-economique-et-sociale/ · rflgd.org/rfld-climate-action/


An RFLD programme site seen from above

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIC SPACE

Protecting those who defend rights

Women human rights defenders keep services, information and accountability alive in their communities. RFLD protects them and defends the space where they act, offline and online.

NAFASI · "space" in Swahili

A three-year initiative funded by Sida (Sweden), with Magamba Network and DefendDefenders, to defend Africa's digital civic space. RFLD is the gender and francophone bridge: gender mainstreaming, protection of defenders, diplomatic advocacy and digital-safety helplines in French and Portuguese.

CHARM Africa

RFLD is one of seven partners in the Consortium for Human Rights and Media in Africa (Phase III, 2026–2027, led by DefendDefenders, funded by Sida). We bring francophone reach and expertise on women's rights, the ACHPR and the Maputo Protocol.



Dakar consultation with the ACHPR, Sweden and Germany, June 2026



Regional consultation with the ACHPR Special Rapporteur, Dakar

110+
defenders trained in digital safety in 2026

18 h
response time for a defender at risk, down from 72 h

602
ACHPR Resolution: RFLD on the Special Rapporteur's Support Group

Defenders at risk are also referred to Front Line Defenders, ProtectDefenders.eu, AWDF and regional networks.

Online rflgd.org/nafasi/ · rflgd.org/charm-africa/ · rflgd.org/governance-civic-space-protection/ · rflgd.org/the-african-digital-safety-compendium/



A woman human rights defender at an RFLD gathering

PEACE, SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Women at the table, States that answer

Peace and security

When women take part in a peace process, the agreement is 35% more likely to last at least 15 years (UN Women, 2015). Our work builds on Resolutions 1325 and 2250 and Articles 10 and 11 of the Maputo Protocol.

- **Women mediators:** negotiation, conflict analysis and cross-border links.
- **Community early warning:** women report the first signs of conflict.
- **Survivors:** documentation for prosecution and referral to medical, psychosocial and economic support.
- **1325 National Action Plans:** monitoring so they have budgets and local plans.
- **Young peacebuilders:** intergenerational mentoring.

Public policy and accountability

Commitments only serve women if they reach laws, budgets and services. RFLD gives civil society and parliamentarians the data to follow that path.

- **Legislative monitoring:** West Africa Legislative Platform, ACDEG Hub, gender-sensitive election observation, UPR submissions.
- **Follow the public money:** gender-responsive budgeting with civil society and women MPs.
- **Media:** training for journalists and community radio.
- **Maputo Barometer:** an annual report on implementation of the Protocol, state by state.



RFLD chairs the SEA-T Advisory Council, 2026


Panel at the 89th Session of the ACHPR, Dakar, October 2026

BMZ/GIZ partnership. The Afrofeminist Initiative for Human Rights Development in Francophone West Africa (2025–2028), funded by BMZ with GIZ support under the SEA-T programme, is led by RFLD in eight countries. RFLD chairs the SEA-T Programme Advisory Council in 2026.

Online rflgd.org/peace-security/ · rflgd.org/west-africa-legislative-platform/ · rflgd.org/rfld-acdeg-hub/ · rflgd.org/rfld-giz-bmz/

07 · DƆNÙESÈ DATA CENTER

Open data as a public good

DƆNÙESÈ means "knowledge held in common" in West African languages. Our data center gives civil society, journalists, parliamentarians and planners twelve free tools to measure States against their own commitments.

12	FR • EN	0	55
open tools	all bilingual	login, licence or fee	AU member states covered

01
Maputo Protocol Hub
Ratification, domestication and implementation in all 55 states.

02
ACDEG Hub
The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

03
AU Mechanisms Demystified
Simple guides to the Commission, the Court, the PSC, ECOSOCC, the APRM.

04
West Africa Legislative Platform
Women's rights laws in all 15 ECOWAS states.

05
Legislative Database
A searchable archive of national laws and policies.

06
Digital Safety Compendium
Technology-facilitated violence and protection of defenders.

07
Gender-Responsive Budgeting
Reading public budgets through a gender lens.

08
Climate Action Platform
Sex-disaggregated climate data for francophone Africa.

09
Maternal Health Data
Maternal, newborn and child health in francophone Africa.

10
My Health, My Right
A francophone hub on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

11
Ending Malaria
Outcomes for women and children.

12
Francophone Academy
15 free certified courses for civil society.

How the data flows. Our members in more than 35 countries report what the law says and what actually happens. We turn this into public tools. The tools feed advocacy and programmes, which in turn produce new evidence.

New: law profiles for all 55 AU member states set out, for each country, the treaties ratified, the constitution and the laws on violence, marriage, family, land, health and political participation, with the source of every entry.

Online rflgd.org/rfld-countries-data-center/ · rflgd.org/womens-rights-laws/ · rflgd.org/legislation-in-west-africa/



The RFLD data team at work

TRACKER PLATFORM

Women's leadership, country by country

The RFLD Tracker Platform, the "Africa Women in Leadership Tracker", follows women's leadership and women's organisations across all 55 African countries. It anchors our continental advocacy.

Why

Thirty years after Beijing, no global gender target is on track. Evidence, country by country and institution by institution, is the foundation of advocacy.

What it contains

- A dashboard and in-depth country profiles.
- Composite gender analytics across four institutional levels.
- Maputo Protocol ratification tracking.
- The Afrofeminist Charter and a directory of 79 African women leaders.
- Policy briefs, five downloadable datasets (CSV and Excel) and a calendar.


RFLD statement at the 89th Session of the ACHPR

25.7%
women in lower chambers of African parliaments (2026)

63.8%
in Rwanda, the world's only majority-women parliament

50%
parity target in the AU's Agenda 2063

Who it is for

Donors
Sourced evidence (IPU Parline, AU treaty depositary) for programme design and theory-of-change checks.

NGOs
Comparative baselines for shadow reports, parliamentary briefings and campaigns.

Media
Sourced, citation-ready figures to quote and embed.

Version 5.2, October 2026. A team of eight RFLD contributors in Porto-Novo, Accra and Dakar, led by the Africa Director.

Online rflgd.org/rfld-tracker-platform/


RFLD advocacy with decision-makers

ACADEMIES AND KNOWLEDGE

Free learning, in three languages

Francophone Academy

15 free, certified online courses in five schools: rights, advocacy, peace and protection, economic and climate justice, leadership and management. Certificates are verifiable online and issued after all lessons and a final quiz passed at 80%. Launched in January 2026 with German Cooperation (GIZ on behalf of BMZ).

RFLD Academy and Academia do RFLD

The same knowledge in English and Portuguese, connecting movements that language keeps apart.

The Maputo Protocol in your language

Professional audio versions in Hausa, Zarma, Yoruba and Fon, and the Protocol in eight African languages.



RFLD network gathering

15
free certified courses

3
academies: French, English, Portuguese

150
videos in our Video Library

400+
videos on our YouTube channel

Sharing knowledge

Podcasts

Three series and dozens of episodes on women's rights in Africa.

Newsletters

Regular updates for members, partners and funders.

Press Room

Spokespeople in French and English; online press kit.

Online rflgd.org/hub-francophone/ · rflgd.org/academy/ · rflgd.org/academia/ · rflgd.org/video-library/ · rflgd.org/podcasts/ · rflgd.org/press-room/



Advocacy Nexus 2026, Porto-Novo

08 · CONTINENTAL ADVOCACY

Carrying the voice of the field to the African Commission

Through Observer Status N°553, RFLD carries its members' evidence to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, AU bodies, ECOWAS and parliaments.



RFLD and partners at the 89th Session of the ACHPR, Dakar



RFLD delegation at the 89th Session

What we do

- Oral statements at the 81st, 83rd, 85th, 87th and 89th Ordinary Sessions.
- At the 89th Session in Dakar, a panel on the Commission's main agenda convened by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and facilitated by RFLD, and panels with two Special Rapporteurs.
- Shadow reports and training civil society to write them.
- Facilitation of the ACHPR NGO Forum.

Recognition

- Support Group of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders (Resolution 602).
- Member of the SOAWR coalition (Solidarity for African Women's Rights).
- Chair of the SEA-T Programme Advisory Council (BMZ/GIZ).
- Profile on ReliefWeb (OCHA) and Candid 2025 Seal of Transparency.

Online rflgd.org/campaigns/ · rflgd.org/rfld-in-the-news-world-region/ · rflgd.org/achievements/


RFLD panel at the 89th Session of the ACHPR, Dakar

RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS

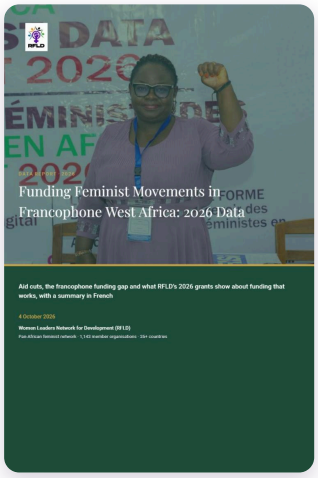
What the network delivers

- 9.78 million women and girls reached between 2013 and 2026, and 575,823 women leaders in our network.
- Contribution to the advocacy behind Benin's Law No. 2021-12 on sexual and reproductive health.
- Contribution to the 2024 campaign that kept the FGM ban in The Gambia.
- More than US$3 million re-granted to small organisations by the Accra Africa Office; 27 grants worth US$722,100 from June to September 2026.
- 345 participations in nine activities and 114 organisations supported in francophone West Africa, September 2025 to July 2026.
- 473 organisations use the RFLD Management Suite free of charge; 48 solar boreholes funded.

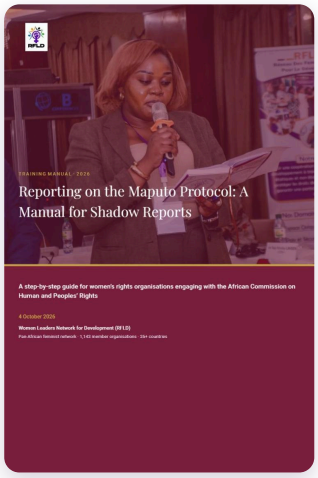
2026 publications



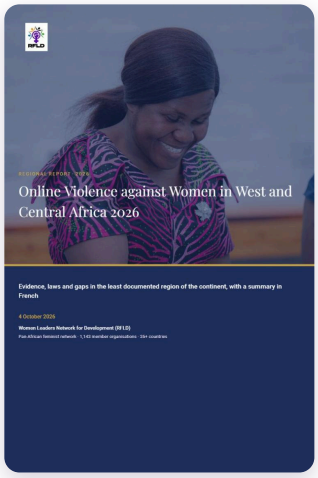
Lifting the Reservations: nine country briefs on the Maputo Protocol



Funding Feminist Movements in Francophone West Africa: 2026 data



Reporting on the Maputo Protocol: a manual for shadow reports



Online Violence against Women in West and Central Africa

Also in 2026: "Women, Water and Article 15 of the Maputo Protocol". Annual reports 2022 to 2025 available online.

Online rflgd.org/resources-publications/ · rflgd.org/impact-in-numbers/ · rflgd.org/achievements/



West Africa Feminist Data Summit 2026

09 · GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Governed by its members, checked by third parties

General Assembly
Member organisations set the direction and elect the Board.

→

Board of Directors
Five members elected in January 2026 for five years. Oversight of strategy, finances and ethics.

→

Executive leadership
Runs programmes, finances and compliance across six offices.

Board of Directors

Hélène WOUINSOU Chair	**Ruth HOSSOU** Vice-Chair	**Tabiyi Mariam Bertille GBENAGNON** Secretary General	**Jeannine AGUEH** Treasurer	**Colette KPOSSOU** Officer in charge of organisation

Statutory auditors: Marlène SAGBOHAN and Rebecca TCHANVOEDOU, independent of the Board and management.

Status and accountability

International Organisation in Senegal; NGO in Ghana, Benin, Nigeria and The Gambia. Unqualified external audits, NGOsource 501(c)(3) equivalency, Candid Seal of Transparency, IATI publication. 79.8% of 2025 spending reached field programmes.

Adopted policies

Statutes · Internal rules · Board governance charter · Safeguarding and PSEAH · Anti-corruption and conflicts of interest · Risk management · Donor compliance and grant management · Sub-granting and partner management · Procurement · Human resources · Diversity, equity and inclusion · Digital security and information management.

Confidential reporting: integrity@rflgd.org or rflgd.org/rfld-report


The RFLD team at work

42
staff, 21 of them full time

Online rflgd.org/governance-policies/ · rflgd.org/financials/ · rflgd.org/rfld-internal-policies/ · rflgd.org/our-people/



The RFLD team

PARTNERS AND CONTACTS

Let's build for the long term

We build for the long term with Sida, GIZ and BMZ, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Norad, AFD, CIVICUS, DefendDefenders and our partners in the NAFASI and CHARM consortia. Our 2026–2029 plan represents a budget of US$14 million.

Fund the whole chain
Multi-year, flexible support for the Strategic Plan, moving money, systems and evidence together.

Fund the grassroots
Support for WAFF, Yéego Jigéen or the Africa Grant Portfolio, including Urgent Action.

Open a door
Introduce us to funders, feminist funds or family foundations who share your priorities.

Donate: rflgd.org/donate-to-rfld. US donors can give through a donor-advised fund or the RFLD American Friends Fund at Myriad USA; giving from Europe and legacy gifts are also possible.

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Explore RFLD online

About
/about-us · /our-people · /board · /rfld-strategic-plan-2023-2028 · /achievements · /impact-in-numbers · /where-we-work · /governance-policies · /financials

Grants
/africa-grant-portfolio · /waff-fund · /subventions-yeego-jigeen · /tender-grants · /rfld-subgrantees · /get-support

Network
/ong-membres-du-rfld · /devenir-membre · /espace-membre · /voices

Programmes
/our-programs · /pawele-program · /the-brave-program · /climate-justice · /ending-fgm-in-west-africa · /health-systems-in-africa · /nafasi · /charm-africa · /rfld-nigeria · /rfld-giz-bmz · /theory-of-change

Data and knowledge
/rfld-countries-data-center · /rfld-tracker-platform · /maputo-protocol · /womens-rights-laws · /west-africa-legislative-platform · /hub-francophone · /academy · /academia

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RFLD chairs the SEA-T Advisory Council, 2026