

PROFILE IN THREE PAGES · 2026

RFLD

Women Leaders Network for Development

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

RFLD is a pan-African feminist network of **1,143 women-led organisations** in 39 countries. Our data shows where rights fail, our grants fund the women's organisations that act, and our advocacy makes States answer for it.

1,143	39	9.78M	US$3M+	N°553	79.8%
member organisations	countries	women and girls reached since 2013	re-granted by the Accra Africa Office	ACHPR observer status	of 2025 spending reached programmes

The problem

46 of the 55 AU member states have ratified the Maputo Protocol, yet few apply it in laws, budgets and services. Women cannot claim their rights, their organisations are left weak (less than 1% of gender-equality aid goes directly to them), and States are not held to account. Acting on one level alone does not last.

Our answer: three levels at once

INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

We work with women directly

Leadership, protection, maternal health, land and climate, ending FGM and child marriage.

GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS

We move money and systems to them

WAFF, Yéego Jigéen and the Africa Grant Portfolio, plus a free management suite used by 473 organisations.

SYSTEMS AND POLICY

We bring evidence and hold States to account

Twelve free bilingual data tools and advocacy at the African Commission.

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.

Results by level

Individuals and communities	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	27 grants worth US$722,100 to 26 organisations, June–September 2026; 114 organisations supported in a year.
Systems and policy	Benin Law No. 2021-12 on sexual and reproductive health; FGM ban upheld in The Gambia, 2024.

What sets us apart

One organisation from the village to the African Commission · money and systems together · rooted in francophone Africa, where the gap is widest · open data as a public good · owned by our members, trusted by partners (unqualified audits, IATI, Candid Seal).



02 · GRANTS AND PROGRAMMES

Funding that reaches the grassroots

The Accra Africa Office has re-granted **more than US$3 million** to small women's organisations through audited systems. RFLD handles compliance so donors can reach organisations they could not fund directly.

West African Feminist Fund (WAFF)

Women-led organisations in 15 West African countries. Four windows: Urgent Action up to US$5,000 (decided in 5 business days), Capacity Building up to US$20,000, Advocacy and Vulnerable Groups Inclusion up to US$30,000. Apply and report in French or English.

Yéego Jigéen · Senegal

US$20,000 per organisation plus six months of training and mentoring, for grassroots women's organisations with budgets up to US$200,000; three pillars: safety, economic autonomy, climate resilience; 60%+ outside Dakar.

Africa Grant Portfolio

From January 2027, five grants for all 55 AU states: Upendo US$25K, Agojie US$50K, Sisonke US$100K, Alafia US$250K, Dada US$500K. In French, English or Portuguese.







Our programmes

PAWELE

Prepares women to run, win and govern: 110 women leaders trained across francophone West Africa.

BRAVE and health

Bodily autonomy, Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol, maternal health and malaria, with the Packard Foundation.

Ending harmful practices

Community dialogue, leaders and allies, law enforcement and survivor support against FGM and child marriage.

Climate and economic justice

Women-led adaptation, rapid climate finance, land rights; 48 community-managed solar boreholes.

Civic space

NAFASI (Sida) and CHARM Africa protect defenders online and offline; response time cut from 72 h to 18 h.

Peace and accountability

Women mediators, 1325 action plans, budget tracking; BMZ/GIZ Afrofeminist Initiative in 8 countries.



03 · DATA, ADVOCACY AND GOVERNANCE

Evidence, voice and accountability

DƆNÙESÈ Data Center

12 free, bilingual tools covering all 55 AU states: Maputo Protocol Hub, ACDEG Hub, Legislative Platform, Digital Safety Compendium, budgeting, climate and health data.

Tracker Platform

Women's leadership in 55 countries: 25.7% women in lower chambers of African parliaments (2026) against a 50% target.

Academies

15 free certified courses in French, with English and Portuguese academies; the Maputo Protocol in 8 African languages.

African Commission

Observer Status N°553; statements at the 81st–89th Sessions; panels with two Special Rapporteurs at the 89th Session in Dakar.





Governance

General Assembly of members · Board of five elected in January 2026 (Chair: Hélène WOUINSOU) · independent statutory auditors · unqualified audits, NGOsource equivalency, Candid Seal, IATI · policies on safeguarding and PSEAH, anti-corruption, sub-granting, procurement, digital security.

Partner with us

We build for the long term with Sida, GIZ and BMZ, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, Norad, AFD, CIVICUS and DefendDefenders. Our 2026–2029 plan represents US$14 million.

Fund the whole chain
Multi-year, flexible support for the Strategic Plan.

Fund the grassroots
WAFF, Yéego Jigéen or the Africa Grant Portfolio.

Open a door
Introduce us to funders who share your priorities.

Contacts

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