

PAN-AFRICAN NETWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Better health and equal opportunity for women and girls in Africa

RFLD is a pan-African network of 1,143 organisations in more than 35 countries. We work where laws and budgets meet daily life: maternal and reproductive health, gender equality, human rights, ending harmful practices, peace and security, and climate and economic justice. Local organisations lead in their communities. RFLD backs them with data, policy work, grants, training and protection.

1,143

organisations in the network

35+

African countries

9.78 M

women and girls reached since 2013

US\$722,100

in 27 grants, June to September 2026

12

open-data tools

6

offices, headquarters in Accra

Key facts

Legal name	Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement (RFLD)
Founded	2012, operating since 2013
Status	International Organisation in Senegal; NGO in Ghana, Benin, Nigeria and The Gambia
Headquarters	Africa Office, Accra, Ghana
Offices	Accra, Porto-Novo, Dakar, Banjul, Lagos, Igolo
Languages	English and French, with Portuguese for the Africa Grant Portfolio
Standing	ACHPR Observer Status N°553; Support Group of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders (Resolution 602); SOAWR member; Co-Chair of the SEA-T Advisory Council (BMZ/GIZ)
Accountability	Unqualified external audits; NGOsource 501(c)(3) equivalency; Candid Seal; IATI publisher
Leadership	Dossi Sèkonnou Gloria AGUEH, Africa Director and Founder; Héléne WOUINSOU, Board President

How we work

Evidence

Twelve free, bilingual data tools show where states meet their commitments and where they fall short.

Policy

We take that evidence to the African Commission, AU bodies, ECOWAS and national parliaments.

Grants

The West African Feminist Fund (WAFF) and the Africa Grant Portfolio move money to local organisations through audited systems.

Programmes

PAWELE, BRAVE, NAFASI and the Francophone Academy build skills and systems that last.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Level 1 · People

Women and girls gain the health, skills, safety and networks to take part and lead.

Level 2 · Organisations

Local organisations build the systems, finances and security to grow and to withstand pressure.

Level 3 · Systems

Laws, budgets, services and norms change, and states are held to the Maputo Protocol and the ACDEG.

OUR AREAS OF WORK

Each area is grounded in African and international commitments and delivered with the organisations closest to the women and girls they serve.

01

Health

Maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, malaria, and open health data for ministries and communities.

02

Gender equality and leadership

Women's political participation through PAWELE, parity laws and the Women in Politics Tracker.

03

Human rights and civic space

Protection of women human rights defenders, digital safety and freedom of association, with NAFASI and CHARM Africa.

04

Policy and accountability

Tracking how 55 states apply the Maputo Protocol and the ACDEG, legislative monitoring and gender-responsive budgets.

05

Ending harmful practices

Community-led abandonment of FGM and child marriage, law enforcement and referral for survivors.

06

Peace and security

Women in mediation and early warning, survivors of conflict-related violence and National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325.

07

Climate and economic justice

Land and inheritance rights, the care economy, women-led adaptation and access to climate finance.

08

Development and the network

Grants, management tools and certified training that make local organisations stronger and more accountable.

OPEN DATA AS PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The DONÛESÈ Data Center gives civil society, journalists, parliamentarians and health planners twelve free tools to measure states against their commitments.

Maputo Protocol Hub

ACDEG Hub

AU Mechanisms Hub

West Africa Legislative Platform

Women in Politics Tracker

Maternal Health Data

Malaria Data

My Health, My Right

Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Climate Action Platform

African Digital Safety Compendium

Francophone Academy

West African Feminist Fund (WAFF)

Grants in 15 West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Applications in French or English.

Africa Grant Portfolio

Opens in January 2027 to organisations in all 55 AU member states that serve women and girls, Vulnerable Groups and people with disabilities. Applications in French, English or Portuguese.

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 every lesson and a final quiz passed at 80%. With German Cooperation (GIZ on behalf of BMZ).

RFLD Management Suite

Free online tools for finance, human resources, grants, monitoring and compliance, used by 473 organisations through the Organisational Resilience Programme, with training videos in French and English.

Results

- 9.78 million women and girls reached between 2013 and 2026.
- Contribution to the advocacy behind Benin's Law No. 2021-12 on sexual and reproductive health.
- Contribution to the 2024 campaign that kept the ban on FGM in The Gambia.
- 27 grants worth US\$722,100 to 26 organisations between June and September 2026, including organisations working with Vulnerable Groups.
- 110+ women human rights defenders trained in digital safety in 2026.
- 473 organisations using the free RFLD Management Suite.

2026 publications

- Lifting the reservations to the Maputo Protocol: nine country briefs
- Women and water: Article 15 of the Maputo Protocol
- Writing shadow reports on the Maputo Protocol: a training manual
- Online violence against women in West and Central Africa
- Funding women's movements in francophone West Africa: data report

Status and accountability. International Organisation in Senegal; NGO in Ghana, Benin, Nigeria and The Gambia. ACHPR Observer Status N°553. Co-Chair of the SEA-T Programme Advisory Council (BMZ/GIZ). Unqualified external audits, NGOssource 501(c)(3) equivalency, Candid Seal of Transparency, IATI publisher.

Governance and accountability

General Assembly

The member organisations. They set direction and elect the Board.

Board of Directors

Five members elected on 15 January 2026 for five years. Oversight of strategy, finance and ethics.

Executive management

Day-to-day leadership of programmes, finance and compliance across six offices.

Hélène WOUINSOU President · **Ruth HOSSOU** Vice-President · **Tabiyi Mariam Bertille GBENAGNON** Secretary-General · **Jeannine AGUEH** Treasurer · **Colette KPOSSOU** Organisation Officer

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

Funders and partners

Sida · GIZ / BMZ · David & Lucile Packard Foundation · Norad · AFD · CIVICUS · CIDH Africa · DefendDefenders

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Full profile, audited accounts and policies on request: finance@rflgd.org