

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



ARINA MAMA
WA AFRIKA



AKINA MAMA
wa AFRIKA

For many
of the women, AMWA
is a home, an oasis,
a place for finding
one's soul.



con— tents

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ViSiON

A world in which African women are politically, economically and socially autonomous, and are champions of change in their lives and society

MiSSiON

To strengthen the individual and collective leadership of African women, forming strategic partnerships to dismantle patriarchy and attain gender equality, and women's empowerment for a just and secure Africa.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our work is rooted in, and guided by, the Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists.

i

We defend the full spectrum of human rights for African women in all their diversities.

ii

We believe in the agency and personhood of African women.

iii

We strive for individual and organizational excellence; for accountability and rigor in the work that we do.

iv

We believe that the personal is political, and we are committed to walking the talk.

v

We commit to creating and sustaining a dynamic, cutting edge feminist organization with a soul.

vi

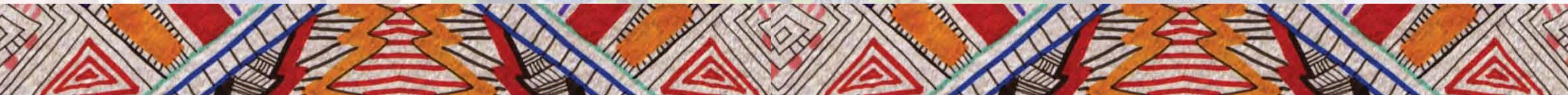
We believe in empowering advocates, and the power of collaboration to advance our feminist agenda

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Acronyms

AFF	African Feminist Forum	ICT	Information Communication Technology
AMWA	Akina Mama wa Afrika	LBQ	Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer
AU	The African Union	LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Intersexual
AWLI	African Women's Leadership Institute	MEMPROW	Mentoring and Empowerment Program for Young Women
CAR	Central African Republic	MPs	Members of Parliament
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	MUK	Makerere University Kampala
CREA	Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action	MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
CVC	Connecting Voices of Citizens	NCC	National Coordination Committee
CS	Civil Society	NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	NGOCC	NGO Coordinating Council
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	RCSF	Regional Civil Society Reflection
DVA	Domestic Violence Act	RIMC	The Regional Interministerial Committee
EASSI	Eastern Africa Sub Regional Support Initiative	RTF	Regional Training Facility
FARUG	Freedom and Roam Uganda	RWN	Rwanda Women's Network
FEMNET	The African Women's Development and Communication Network	SOAWR	Solidarity for African Women's Rights
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
FIDA Uganda	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers	SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
FORWARD	Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development	UFF	Uganda Feminist Forum
FOWODE	Forum for Women in Democracy	UN	The United Nations
GBV	Gender Based Violence	UWONET	Uganda Women's Network
GIMAC	Gender Is My Agenda Campaign	VAW	Violence Against Women
GLISS	Great Lakes Institute for Strategic Studies	WDG	Women's Democracy Group
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	WISE	Organization for Women in Self-Employment
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region	YWLI	Young Women's Leadership Institute



AMwA's 2017 By the Numbers

AMwA and AWLI related CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Conf./Training Description	Target Group	No. of participants	Duration (Days)
Connecting Voices (CVC)	Connecting Voices of Citizens (CVC)	20	3
Gender Mainstreaming	Members of Parliament	17	2
Tuwezeshe Fellowship Training	Young Ugandan women	23	5
MUK Feminist Leadership	Students	25	2
Young Women's Panel	Young women + mentors	6 + 9	1.5
ICGLR	Media reps + police	20	2
Movement Building	Women leaders	17	2 + 2
Horticultural Sector	Training of Trainers	28	5
Horticultural Sector in Naivasha	Training of Trainers	24	4
SGBV Workshop	Training of Trainers	28	3
7 th UFF	Partner Organizations	59	2
Land Rights Research	Zambia, Malawi and Swaziland	408	90
Online Engagement Reach	Online Users	1,260,000	365



CHAIRPERSON'S message

AMWA TAKES BIG STRIDES IN 2017

Like many leading women's rights organizations in Africa, Akina Mama wa Afrika has continued to creatively and actively engage in initiatives and collective actions to advance the feminist agenda on the continent. Progress has been registered in various spheres such as enhancing women's leadership capacities and skills in order for them to more effectively engage in leadership, and to influence decision-making processes. Progress has also been made in the ongoing efforts to end sexual and gender based violence, in the promotion of women's sexual and reproductive health rights, and in the acquisition of their land ownership rights.

Nonetheless, inequality persists, and it cuts across social, cultural, economic and political spheres of life. Despite the increased numbers of women in power and decision making, women across the continent continue to face age-old socio-cultural barriers which deprive them of needed support to fully participate in political processes. Additionally, women's access to, and control over, land remains minimal despite the crucial contribution of women to agricultural production in sub-Saharan Africa, and despite the multi-dimensional efforts to redress this inequity at various levels.

Against this backdrop, 2017 was a year of renewed commitment by AMWA to continue to build women's collective power through its flagship program, the African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI). This 20-year old program that is the embodiment of feminist transformative leadership development remains one of AMWA's most recognized interventions, and is a major pillar of our new strategic plan (2017-2019). Research and up-to date information on women's lived experiences will continue to underpin all our work and be the basis for engagement in critical spaces.

However, the operating environment for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is under attack, and the space for civic engagement is closing - not just in countries that have struggled under repressive or autocratic governments, but also in democracies with longstanding traditions of supporting freedom of expression. The right to political debate and protest by citizens has been infringed upon in both conflict and post-conflict countries by leaders. In light of these developments, the need for stronger coalitions and cooperation has never been more urgent. We must come together, understand our mutual dependence and interrelatedness, and support each other in this work. We must forge a new solidarity.

I am, therefore, grateful to our development partners without whom we would not be able to do this work, and to my fellow board members who continue to unreservedly lead the team at AMWA. I also appreciate our management and staff who are at the frontlines of our struggles on a daily basis.

Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Board Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S message

THE RELENTLESS FIGHT AGAINST SGBV

With great anticipation and promise, 2017 ushered AMwA into the first year of implementing Akina Mama wa Afrika's new strategic plan 2017-2019 themed "Amplifying women's voice and collective actions." Building on the previous strategic plan, our flagship program, the African Women's Leadership Institute, remained the vehicle for building feminist leadership, engaging in critical spaces and advancing women's rights on the continent.

A total of 684 young women and men (women: 530 men: 154) were exposed to various modules which were designed to enhance their capacities and skills in feminist analysis, leadership, women's rights, human rights, advocacy, and movement building. Cognizant of the fact that Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) remains an alarmingly intractable problem, the main focus of AMwA's leadership development in 2017 was equipping various actors to address this agenda.

Our work and interventions were also underpinned by knowledge generation and documentation of women's lived experiences to advance evidence based advocacy. In partnership with like-minded organizations, AMwA conducted a number of studies including: A baseline study on Violence against Women and Girls in Uganda June 2017; a review of 10 Years of implementing the Pact on Peace Security and Development of the Great Lakes Region 2017 and a Review of the functionality of Regional Training Facility. These gender oriented pieces of knowledge and information catalysed public debate and conversations to advance a transformative agenda.

Equipped with the knowledge and tools to dismantle patriarchy, our alumnae have been instrumental in forming social movements, and they effectively engaged in critical spaces. At the national, regional and international level, AMwA collaborated with sister organizations to influence policy makers. These critical spaces included: International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Heads of State Summit held in November 2017, the African Union Heads of State Summit held in January and June 2017, and the Commission on the Status of Women held in March among others.

Despite the solid progress made, a closer look at the African Women's movement reveals that there still exist philosophical, ideological, religious and class-based or rural urban differences that require forging a common women's rights agenda. We invite you to journey with us in what we truly believe is the most consequential fight of our generation: the political, economic, social and cultural liberation of women and girls.

Our thanks go to our development partners who continue to support us as we provide exemplary services to the African woman, and to management and staff of AMwA for the dynamic team they are. Our gratitude is also extended to the African women themselves for taking the necessary steps in the transformation of their lives.

Eunice Musiime, Executive Director

Eunice

AMwA's 2017 Journey in Review

AMwA's work in 2017 was guided by three Strategic Objectives which encompassed strengthening African women's leadership and decision making, amplifying voice through advocacy and institutional strengthening.



The Joy of Sisterhood: Feminists at the Pre-Uganda Feminist Forum in 2017

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: **1** STRENGTHEN THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (AWLI) AS A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON FEMINIST AND TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

The principle aim of feminist transformational leadership is to radically alter the existing power imbalances that permeate each of our social, economic and political institutions.

Through her flagship program - The African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI) - AMwA remains the leading institution strengthening the capacities of African women so that they can meaningfully engage in decision-making and leadership.

The major focus of leadership development in 2017 was to build a strong movement to address sexual and gender based violence in Uganda, and across the region.

The trainings and post training initiatives cut across different spheres of influence ranging from young women in higher institutions of learning, activists in the civil society sector, to policy makers such as Members of Parliament.

In recognition of the importance of male engagement in the struggle for gender equality and feminist ideals, AMwA deliberately involved men in several interventions.

The following are highlights of the interventions that took place in fulfillment of Strategic Objective One



1.1 ENHANCING GENDER MAINSTREAMING CAPACITIES IN SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECTS

A core aim of all AMWA's initiatives is to ensure that a feminist perspective is integrated in legislation, policies and programs at all levels. In order to develop strategies to ensure that the concerns and experiences of women as well as men are an integral part of the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of all programs, a gender mainstreaming training was held for all the implementing partners of the Connecting Voices Project (CVC). The Hivos supported initiative was created so that the socio-economic gap between women and men is progressively narrowed, and that inequality is addressed.

The training, which was held from 21st-23rd, February, 2017, brought together a diverse group of 20 young leaders and activists between the ages of 20-35 years. The participants had diverse interests and ranged from media and ICT practitioners, artists, women activists, bloggers, community change agents, to civil society activists. In addition to equipping the participants with skills in gender mainstreaming, the training created a space for implementing partners to analyze social accountability, not only through a feminist theory lens, but through daily, habitual practice.

We believe that when both men and women can examine issues from the context of their personal and public lives, their agency and influence in decision-making will be greatly enhanced. The immediate outcome of the training was demonstrable attitude change on the importance of gender mainstreaming in program design.

The participants also acquired practical skills in gender analysis through group exercises and discussions, as they were tasked to identify persistent issues and problems across all the project focus areas. At the conclusion of the training, participants were guided in crafting a monitoring and evaluation framework and also supported in developing personal and organizational commitments that will contribute to the transformation that is envisioned.



Trainees take part in a group exercise at the CVC training

1.2 MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN UGANDA EQUIPPED TO MAINSTREAM GENDER IN SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS.

A target group of partners in the gender mainstreaming campaign are legislators in Uganda and the continent in general. As such, 17 Members of Parliament (10 female & 7 male) from different constituencies across Uganda were invited to a special training held under the theme “Strengthening Capacities of Members of Parliament in Gender Mainstreaming for Freedom, Diverse Voices and Equal Opportunities.”

The training targeted MPs from the forum on Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights and included two key female parliamentary Committee heads, and coordinators of the forum. The training which took place from the 27th-28th April, 2017 sought to develop stronger champions for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Uganda’s parliament considering the hotly contested debates on the East African Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Bill and Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

A wide range of issues were discussed including contested topics such as the provision of safe abortions, and the provision of reproductive health services to adolescents. The statistics on teenage pregnancy alarmed a male Member of Parliament so much that he reconsidered his position. He had come to the training completely against Comprehensive Sexuality Education in schools. He said; “With 24% of girls under 19 having gotten pregnant, it could still be too early to introduce contraceptives, but I would like to give it another thought.”

During the training, the MPs developed a deeper appreciation of their power and roles as policy makers as well as enhancing their leadership capacities and skills to monitor government programs.

The Members of Parliament made commitments to apply their legislative authority to challenge the Executive to rethink SRHR programming in Uganda especially regarding the removal of the ban on Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

Additionally, the Legislators were able to pick up skills in gender mainstreaming and were able to apply a gender lens in analyzing initiatives by the end of the training. One Parliamentarian revealed at the end of the training; “In any programming, we have to consider the different genders’ special interest; how it affects them specifically. Going forward, I have to ensure that I critically analyze the gender aspect”

With
24%
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I would like to give it another Thought



Section of the Members of Parliament and Resource Persons at the Training

1.3 23 TUWEZESHE FELLOWS EMPOWERED TO FIGHT SGBV

Women across different races, social class, caste, nationality and age disproportionately experience violence in their lifetime. In response, there have been quite a few pieces of research commissioned and programs instituted to combat violence against women and children.

This however has left younger women, 18-35 to fall through the cracks as they do not fit neatly into that demographic segmentation. Aware of this, AMWA, in partnership with Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD), Sub-Sahara Advisory Panel (SSAP), and Young Women's Leadership Institute (YWLI) conceived a project named *"TuWezeshe Akina Dada"*-Swahili for "empowering our sisters," aimed at empowering young women in East Africa and the diaspora to end all forms of violence. The project targets Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Somaliland and the UK-African Diaspora.

A 2017 baseline report commissioned by AMWA on behalf of the consortium painted a dire picture of the state of violence against young women. For example, only 50% of universities sampled had sexual harassment policies with even lower implementation rates. To make matters worse, many young women were not in positions of leadership, nor did they have the skills and knowledge to combat GBV specifically. In response to this, AMWA conducted a five-day training for 23 young Ugandan women under the theme **"Improving the Rights and Amplifying the Actions of Young African Women against all Forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)"**. The training aimed at enhancing the leadership capacities of young women to challenge societal norms and influence policies on GBV. Furthermore, all Fellows in the training were matched with Mentors--women who volunteered to guide, provide knowledge and support

to the Fellows--as they transformed individually and also effected change within their communities. This training enabled the Fellows to gain a deeper understanding of feminist analysis and to acquire transformational leadership skills to enable them to respond effectively to issues of GBV.

The fellows are now applying this knowledge in their communities. For example, one of the fellows, Patricia Humura, noticed that when her organization carried out an HIV outreach, only men turned up. She is now in the process of designing a gender conscious outreach strategy that will enable women to feel safe enough to test for HIV.

Others have taken up writing to raise more awareness about GBV. Namata Tendo who runs a blog entered a Blog4Dev contest by the World Bank which prompted people to respond to the question **"What will it take to end Gender Based Violence in Uganda?"** She is one of the three Ugandan winners chosen to attend a World Bank meeting in Washington D.C. Here, she is well positioned to influence on issues of GBV affecting young women. Furthermore, some of the fellows are using media channels to create awareness on SGBV. Betty Mujungu produced a movie showcasing the plight of girls in Toro sub-region in regard to early marriages.

The movie which was first premiered on 8th March 2018, International Women's Day was created to raise awareness within the region on the dangers of child marriage and how it can be stopped. Overall, the fellows are using the tools and connections obtained during the training and post training to play an active role in ending SGBV in their communities and spheres of influence. They have also created a strong network of young women leaders who are championing an end to SGBV.



Namata Tendo, a TuWezeshe Fellow conducting an outreach in Kamwenge district, Uganda.



Some of the fellows trained under the TuWezeshe Young Women's Leadership Fellowship

1.4 STRENGTHENING FEMINIST LEADERSHIP TO ADVANCE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Akina Mama wa Afrika and Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) in a collaborative effort, organized a feminist leadership training for 28 young women in Uganda. Both AMWA and CREA aim to strengthen feminist leadership for social transformation by focusing on young and marginalized women as well as grassroots organizations.

By building on the theory and practice of feminist leadership, and developing understandings about the intersections of sexuality, gender, rights, and development, both organizations support feminist leaders who can further the transformative goals of the feminist movement.



Prof. Sylvia Tamale, a member of AMWA's faculty stresses a point on feminist theory during the training

The key outcomes of the training included enhanced knowledge of the structural problem of gender based violence within Uganda; a deeper analysis and understanding of the vulnerabilities of sex work and the associated social stigma; greater appreciation of the intersections of self-care; and the impact of violence in our lives as activists.

The trainees have taken up numerous advocacy initiatives both online and offline to tackle SGBV in their communities for example community outreaches, radio talk shows as well as increased seeking of litigation measures on behalf of SGBV survivors. Some of the members of this cohort also have a vibrant presence in the women's movement both in the central district of Kampala and upcountry. This is all as a result of the change in attitude and a greater understanding of the injustices affecting women and girls.

1.5 A NEW MOVEMENT IS BORN TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



8 Trainees were able to mobilize other students to march against SGBV on **#FeministFridays**

The 2017 Baseline report on the State on violence against young women revealed that sexual violence at Universities is very high. Only about 50% of universities sampled had sexual harassment policies and even fewer actively implemented them.

Young women were constantly coerced into sex for marks by their lecturers but had no clear channels through which to access justice. The report further revealed that there were no safe spaces for survivors of sexual violence at universities.

Aware of this problem, the Association of Female Lawyers (FIDA –Uganda) partnered with Akina Mama wa Afrika to train a cohort of 25 young women to equip them with leadership skills for prevention, support, and advocacy related to sexual violence. The 2 days training covered feminist theory, feminist leadership, and gender based violence and feminist movement building?

The outcomes of the training were immediate. The young women started a social media movement dubbed **"21st Century against Violence"** to inform and mobilize against violence at the university. They also created a WhatsApp group to help them discuss actions more intimately and also help in organizing. The students also started marches through the campus on Fridays to raise awareness about sexual violence and to urge other students to join them in stamping out the vice.

#FeministFridays



1.6 LEVERAGING THE POWER OF THE MEDIA TO COMBAT SGBV THROUGH GENDER SENSITIVE REPORTING

While the media has an important role to play in responding to issues and also igniting conversations in the public interest, they have on many occasions been accused of not publicizing stories that affect women or breaching their code of ethics by publishing names and faces of minors and other survivors of SGBV. And yet they remain critical stakeholders in helping to end violence against women by shaping public opinion and changing perceptions through gender conscious reporting and storytelling.

In an effort to bridge the knowledge and institutional gaps that exist, Akina Mama wa Afrika held a two-day media training which brought together 20 journalists from different media houses in Uganda and the Central African Republic.

The training, which was supported by Amplify Change, was also attended by five police officers tasked with addressing SGBV. It largely focused on ensuring that media representatives fully appreciated the Kampala Declaration on SGBV.

It also focused on how they can use this framework while reporting on the subject. Other topics discussed were the appreciation of gender concepts, analysis of power dynamics between women and men, promotion of gender sensitive reporting, and effective coordination with the different stakeholders.

The media personalities raised challenges they face in reporting on SGBV, including bureaucratic barriers especially by law enforcement agencies under the guise of protecting the survivors. However, the police personnel in attendance highlighted the structural impediments to their work, especially when cases cannot be fully investigated due to lack of resources for their gender desks.

At the end of the training sessions, the participants were not only equipped with new skills for effective SGBV reporting and monitoring, they were also inspired to take action. Participants committed to documenting more stories by disseminating their learning from the training to other media personnel and/institutions, and others promised to host radio programs on SGBV.

A key learning for many was the delicate balance of effectively documenting and reporting SGBV cases while ensuring protection for the survivors.



Journalists and Police Officers deliberating on how to use the Kampala Declaration

1.7 UNLEASHING THE POWER OF THE UGANDA WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Social movements are only as strong as their numbers using their loud collective voice to effectively communicate their to effect change. To provide the necessary skills for creating and energizing movements that can be effective, impactful and coherent in approach, AMwA as part of a Uganda Women's Movement call to enhance skills in movement building, held a four-day special training for the Women's Movement in Uganda.

The training, was supported by Oxfam under the theme ***"Unleashing the Power of the Uganda Women's Movement for greater Agency and Accountability on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment"***. It sought to strengthen their capacities for the purpose of nurturing a country-wide movement of motivated and inspired women leaders.

The training challenged participants on a number of topics such as organizing vs. mobilizing, strategies for effective movement building, and violent vs non-violent actions for organizing. Additionally, practical aspects of movement building were demonstrated through exercises in the designing, implementing and supporting of social movements. Most importantly, participants were guided on putting their visions and goals into action.

An immediate result of the training was the engagement of participants in the then ongoing political, social, and economic discourses in the country such as the debate on amending the Constitution to lift the presidential age limit.

A key learning at both the individual and organizational level was the need to continue investing in movement building as a strategy for challenging the status quo of women and girls in Uganda and beyond.



1.8 DECENT WORK FOR DECENT PAY – AMWA ENGAGES A NEW FRONTLINE

A 2016 baseline report commissioned by Hivos East Africa titled, **“Women’s Rights in the Horticulture Industry”** revealed that power and control over resources in the horticulture industry is entrenched in the hands of men. Women’s labour is mainly concentrated in the lower levels of the value chain while men take up positions of leadership. Women’s health is also not prioritized as they are not availed with safety equipment, exposing them to hazardous chemicals.

In partnership with the African Women’s Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), and with support from Hivos under the Women@Work campaign, Akina Mama wa Afrika conducted a Training of Trainers under the theme **“Blossoming Women’s Leadership for Decent Work in the East African Horticultural Sector”**.

The training which was held from the 23rd to 27th of October brought together 28 female participants from three flower farms in Uganda.

This was later followed by another Training of Trainer’s workshop in Kenya, from the 27th -30th of November 2017 at Sweet Lake Resort, Naivasha.

A key output was the production of action plans by the participants from the two sub-counties of Nanyuki and Naivasha, both of which focused on advocacy for decent work conditions.

Overall, the change in the participant’s’ attitude was visible because of the critical and timely nature of the trainings which raised awareness about the current challenges facing women in the sector.

It therefore, raised participants’ appreciation of their agency in consciously amplifying their voices.



Irene Kagoya facilitating a session at the training in Naivasha, Kenya.

Alumna Stories

2017 marked 20 years of our flagship programme, the African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI). We bring you highlights from some of the alumnae whose stories we documented during the year.



Before joining the AWLI, I expected to mix and mingle with growing feminist leaders from all over Africa which is what happened to me and so much more. I connected with amazing sisters who were part of leading the training and gained many insights on personality development, self-mastery, feminist facilitation skills and how to lead myself and others in many respects. I got to understand what feminist leadership and facilitation means. The practicality of the training resonated deeply with whom I am and it made my soul tinge and dance in many respects too. I have taken seriously the aspect of self-mastery and how that links with my daily struggles as a growing feminist leader. The faculty was amazing for me – I loved them all and each gave me a gift I will forever treasure in my life journey.

Reflecting on my experience at the AWLI I am really drawn to speak about sisterhood and my journey as a resilient young African Feminist. Sisterhood is similar to Ubuntu for me and has remained core to my being. I do what I can to support the sisters in my journey be it in person, on social media and however means possible. This helps me stay connected to them and this was made possible through the networks opened and created by my being part of the training program. Now I have sisters from all over Africa who I can call on at any moment for their solidarity, love, learning, care and support.



I joined the African Women Leadership Institute (AWLI) in August 2007 and have never looked back. This experience was a big eye opener for me. I had studied social work and social administration and had wanted to empower women and children but I did not know exactly how best to do it. During the four weeks, I met wonderful tutors who shaped my thoughts to fulfill my passion. I learned about inter-generational leadership, leadership for young women, feminist principles and what we stand for and the unity in diversity of African women.

After the AWLI, I founded WORI with the help of two other women. Our journey has been amazing. We focus on empowering marginalised women especially at the grass roots holistically through leadership, women's rights, economic empowerment and sexual reproductive health. Over the last nine years we have been working to see that girls and women live in better conditions and have the ability to make informed decisions depending on their various situations.

Rose Kigere, Executive Director, Women Rights Initiative (WORI)

Donatha Gihana, Founder, Young Women Empowered (YWE) - Ngeruka Initiative

AWLI helped me understand that feminists belong to various networks and it is important to build and sustain our sisterhood through these networks. It is always fulfilling to learn and connect with other like-minded individuals – to exchange ideas, best practices as well as learn from our various challenges.

Regina Bafaki, Executive Director Action for Development (ACFODE)

Reflecting on the 20 years of the AWLI, I am drawn to state that as women we should learn to reflect and appreciate ourselves. Young women need to be mentored to become feminist leaders through capacity building for instance the AWLI, orientation about feminism, placement in feminist led organizations, to mention but a few.

Ann Marie Caulker, Founder, Katanya Vocational Institute for Vulnerable women and girls

Since the training I have always excelled higher and higher in my career no matter what circumstances I face or go through. I always push my way and keep reminding other alumnae in my country to keep the sisterhood network created by the AWLI.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: **2** AMPLIFY AFRICAN WOMEN'S VOICES IN CRITICAL SPACES THROUGH COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY, AND THROUGH MOVEMENT BUILDING, INFORMED BY FEMINIST RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

2.1 RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION FOR EVIDENCE BASED ADVOCACY

Knowledge creation and dissemination through publications has become a preserve of men as it is produced by and for men, consequently erasing the participation and contribution of women.

To engage in feminist theory and praxis means to challenge knowledge that is clearly incomplete and non-exhaustive. Feminists ask 'new' questions that place women's lived experiences and those of marginalized groups at the center of inquiry. In that regard, in 2017, AMWA, in partnership with other like-minded organizations, conducted a number of feminist pieces of research to inform policy advocacy and movement building.

The following sections provide highlights of the work that was undertaken to enhance research and documentation for evidence based advocacy.

2.1.1 Baseline Study on Violence against Young Women in Uganda

As part of the Tuwezeshe Akina Dada initiative a consortium of four organizations: Akina Mama wa Afrika, Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD), Sub-Sahara Advisory Panel (SSAP), and Young Women's Leadership Institute (YWLI), and with support from Comic Relief, AMWA commissioned a baseline study on Violence against Women and Girls in Uganda. The study aimed to provide a baseline that would inform the project's progress and impact. The report found that most initiatives by CSOs and government have largely focused on primary and secondary schools while addressing SGBV among young women and girls.

Whereas that concerted effort is commendable, it has not paid as much attention to universities and other tertiary institutions despite an increase in reports of incidents of sexual violence at these establishments. As such, the report made a number of recommendations:

1. Enhance the capacity of university administration and committees in charge of gender and sexual harassment to address VAW in universities. One way of doing this could be by revitalizing Anti-Sexual Harassment Committees or establishing gender mainstreaming student peer trainers' programs so as to support a university-wide anti-sexual harassment agenda.
2. Identify and work with organizations engaging young women to include programs targeted at universities and integrate young women's leadership, mentorship and movement building (collective organizing).
3. Target young women NGOs and youth organizations to mainstream VAW in their work as opposed to only targeting individuals.
4. Consider developing a joint VAW program - similar to the Women's Democracy Group (WDG) model - targeting young women at universities with willing CSOs, operating in 50 districts, and working on VAW.

The report has since been shared with Stakeholders and has served as blueprint in guiding programming for the Tuwezeshe Akina Dada project.





Ms. Eunice Musiime, Executive Director, AMwA making a presentation at the Regional Civil Society Reflection Meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

2.1.2 Review of the 10 year Implementation of the ICGLR Pact on Peace, Security and Development

The Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region was signed by twelve countries of the Great Lakes Region in 2006, and it entered into force in June 2008.

The ICGLR was established to enforce peace, security, democracy, and development in the Great Lakes region in the wake of the Rwandan genocide and the political instability in Democratic Republic of Congo. A vital area in the pact is the prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children. To ensure that the pact is not merely a statement of good intentions, AMwA commissioned a desk study research on behalf of the ICGLR Regional Civil Society Forum in order to review its implementation.

The aim of the review was to highlight the gaps and achievements made, and to make recommendations that would inform the CSO Pre-Heads of States Summit discussion, Regional Interministerial Committee (RIMC), National Coordination Council (NCC) and the Summit respectively.

Among the key findings of the study was that many countries within the region are still prone to conflict despite the devastating lessons from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. While the countries in the pact have witnessed improvements in peace and security, others like the youngest republic in the world - South Sudan - quickly descended into anarchy soon after attaining independence.

The report noted that such unmitigated conflict is fallow ground for the continued abuse and exploitation of women and girls, and therefore exacerbates the occurrence of SGBV.

On a more positive note, the majority of the governments in the ICGLR have made some progress in fulfilling their commitments to prevent SGBV, punish perpetrators and support survivors through the development of SGBV legislation and gender policies, as well as putting in place gender focal points within different government ministries and departments. Kenya and Rwanda were found to be the best performers in the implementation of the Kampala Declaration, while Sudan, CAR, Congo-Brazzaville, and to some extent, Angola, were the worst performers.

As such, the following recommendations were made:

- a) Generate a comprehensive concrete action plan to end the continuing conflicts in the Great Lakes Region in the context of the AU's Agenda 2020 to Silence the Guns;
- b) The Regional Women's Forum and Regional Civil Society Forum should work collaboratively to raise awareness among the great lakes citizenry on issues of SGBV;
- c) Ensure the ICGLR secretariat and related organs are well resourced to deliver on their mandate;
- d) Address issues of shrinking space for civil society engagement within the ICGLR spaces
- e) Amend the Pact to provide for a permanent Secretariat to work with the National Coordinators.



The findings of this study were presented at a regional civil society reflection meeting, and generated heightened debate on how to strengthen the ICGLR processes. The report was also formally shared with the ICGLR secretariat for their action. Part of the recommendations has been integrated into their 2018 annual work plan.

2.1.3 Review of the functionality of the Regional Training Facility

The ICGLR-RTF was established on 18 February 2014 in Kampala, Uganda, as one of the mechanisms to address the scourge of SGBV in the region. The facility aims at providing research driven information, education and training on SGBV for member states of the Great Lakes Region. In order to acquire deeper insight into the implementation of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV, AMwA commissioned a review of the functionality of the RTF.

The review found that the trainings that the RTF has conducted so far have equipped the first line responders with the required knowledge, skills and attitudes to be proactive in the efforts at addressing SGBV in the region. Secondly, the RTF has provided a platform for effective collaboration within the ICGLR, and with multi-lateral organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the UN. Further, the RTF's case law compendium on SGBV provides a one-stop centre resource for researchers on the problem of SGBV.

The review identifies the major challenge which has hampered RTF activities as being the unpredictable funding of the facility. According to the report's findings, this is 'the most pressing challenge' to the operations of the facility. Due to lack of its own funds, the facility has not been able to develop its own in-house comprehensive training programs, and therefore simply responds to donor preferences. It has meant that the RTF's training programs are not well sequenced, and has led to other challenges such as inadequate office and training spaces, and staffing issues. It is strongly recommended that the facility is supported by all persons of good will to succeed in carrying out its mandate.

2.1.4 Documentation of Survivor's Stories and Policy Frameworks on SGBV

During this reporting period AMwA documented stories on SGBV in the Great Lakes region, particularly in the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. On behalf of the Regional Civil Society Forum and with support from Amplify Change, AMwA engaged the services of a consultant to document, in short videos, the case stories of Sexual and Gender Based (SGBV) survivors in the three countries.

The documentary aimed at amplifying the voices of SGBV survivors to enhance evidence based advocacy to accelerate efforts towards effective implementation of the Kampala Declaration on SGBV.



Journalists and police officers, key trainees of the RTF pose for a group photo



2.1.5 Towards an Anti-Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Norm in the Great Lakes Region of Africa: A Civil Society Review of the Implementation of the ICGLR Kampala Declaration

Following the adoption of the 2011 Kampala Declaration by the Heads of States and Government from the Great Lakes Region to prevent, punish and respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) on behalf of the ICGLR Regional Civil Society Forum, commissioned a study to review implementation of the Kampala Declaration, UN Resolution 1325 and the Goma Declaration on eradicating SGBV.

The report found that notable progress had been made in all three countries studied as far as the legal and judicial infrastructure is concerned but that, ultimately, women and girls are just as vulnerable to SGBV as before the Declaration was made. The reasons for this are numerous and varied, but the bottom line is that the systems in place are very weak due to poorly funded institutions, lack of political will, corruption, and in the cases of CAR and DRC, the insecurity brought about by civil wars and internal conflicts.

This report was shared at Regional Conference that was held from 1st to 3rd December, in Uganda by the Regional Training Facility on SGBV, in collaboration with Akina Mama wa Afrika and Fida Uganda and informed the outcome statement of the meeting.

Held under the theme **"Strategies for Implementation of the ICGLR Instruments on Sexual and Gender based Violence in Great Lakes Region"**, the Conference brought together Ministers of Gender from ICGLR Member States, Chief Justices, Parliamentarians, ICGLR National Coordinators, ICGLR Centres' of experts, ICGLR Fora and development partners. The Regional Conference had the following recommendations

The report recommends mainstreaming gender budgeting at national level and establish special funds for handling issues related to SGBV; establishing mechanisms to mitigate the existing cultural biases that impede SGBV survivors and other actors from reporting SGBV incidences; and simplifying and standardizing the procedures of handling cases of SGBV in line with international instruments and expedite court cases related to SGBV incidences, among others.

2.1.6 A Feminist Lens on the Gendered Implications of Land Acquisitions and Control in Southern Africa: A Case of Malawi, Zambia, and Swaziland

In the face of increasing large scale land acquisition for investments in Africa and as part of her efforts to redress economic injustice against women in 2016, Akina Mama wa Afrika, with support from the Commonwealth Foundation partnered with the Women's Land Rights Movement in Malawi, NGOCC in Zambia, and Swaziland Women's Land Rights Coalition in Swaziland to conduct feminist research on women's land rights in Southern Africa. The objective of the research was to generate evidence for advocacy and policy influencing for better land governance for women.

The research found that patriarchal and negative cultural norms continue to create barriers for women to enjoy their property rights. This is coupled with women's limited awareness of their rights, expensive legal justice and inadequate participation of women in institutions that administer land.

"Cultural, social, and religious customs prevent them from owning or doing what they wish with their land. On the rare occasion that a woman is receiving personal land from her chief, it is usually a small, low quality plot that is not practical for farming. The term 'rare occasion' is used due to the fact that women seldom inherit land from family or even deceased husbands," says an interview respondent from Zambia.





A section of women from Malawi participating in a focus group discussion to inform the research.

In Malawi, women cannot inherit land from their deceased husbands but if the land is from their matrilineal family, inheritance can occur.

Similarly, in Zambia, women cannot inherit land at all from their deceased husbands if under a State lease, and even if it is not, they can only inherit twenty percent of it. Additionally, this research unveiled incidents where traditional Chiefs in Malawi expect sexual gratification in

exchange for protecting women's land. If denied, many of these Malawian women are assaulted, ostracized, or left homeless.

The research findings have been applied to galvanize the women's land rights movement in southern Africa to influence policy makers, academia, and all key actors to ensure that laws and policies that have been enacted are adequately implemented with a feminist lens.

2.2 ADVANCING THE FEMINIST AGENDA IN CRITICAL SPACES

AMWA provides strategic direction in key pan-African networks and global bodies.

2.2.1 The Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) makes its mark

The GIMAC is a platform comprised of about 55 national and international organizations whose aim is to create a space for civil society to monitor the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). Their main avenue for achieving this is by holding bi-annual Pre-Summit Consultative Meetings of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

Akina Mama wa Afrika continues to engage in this space to ensure that gender mainstreaming becomes entrenched in the African Union. The 29th and 30th GIMAC Sessions were held under the theme, **"Towards a continental policy framework for girls and young women: Gender Equality: A Human right and key driver for Economic Transformation."** It was influenced by the AU Assembly's January 2016 decision (Assembly /AU/Dec.601 XXVI) which devoted the theme of the year 2017 to **"Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth."** The GIMAC session identified strategies, approaches and interventions that have worked for a gender responsive continental policy framework geared towards economic development by particularly focusing on the demographic dividend, and the role of young women. Participants shared best practices such as the Burkina Faso Agricultural Incubation Center which is using technologies based on renewable energy for farming. Despite the progress, participants were cognizant of the existing challenges such as the lack of access to not only information, but the services available for advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.



They also cited the failure to defeat harmful cultural practices such as FGM, early/forced child marriages, and the inability to access quality education. Additional areas of concern were the inadequate representation of women and girls in peace-making and other decision making processes. Poor implementation of laws and policies, and the criminalization of abortion were also cited.

The summary of recommendations was presented on the floor of the meeting, and they were officially handed over to the African Union Commission.

2.2.2 The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR)

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) is a regional network made up of 47 national, regional and international civil society organizations working towards the promotion and protection of Women's Human Rights in Africa. Since its inception in 2004, SOAWR's main area of focus has been to compel African states to urgently sign, ratify, domesticate, and fully implement the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, also known as the Maputo Protocol, which seeks to protect the rights of women in Africa.

AMWA continues to regularly engage with SOAWR in order to lend its support, and to be persistently vocal about the issue until this goal is achieved. Additionally, the SOAWR coalition sought to ensure that women's rights organizations submitted stronger and consistent shadow reports in 2017.

2.2.3 The Pact on Security, Stability and Development of the Great Lakes Region

In July, 2017, AMWA convened a two-day Regional Civil Society Reflection (RCSF) Meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, on the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development of the Great Lakes Region. The aim of the conference was to develop strategies to improve on the Follow-up Mechanism, and to review the performance of the Member States as far as the overall implementation of the Pact was concerned. The meeting drew 30 representatives from civil society, women's forums, parliamentary forums, the Levy Mwanawasa Center, the Genocide Prevention Committee, and the ICGLR Secretariat

The RCSF was applauded on the progress made in implementing the Pact, with achievements such as the establishment of forums - with their operational organs in eight member states - being cited. The outcome of the meeting was a communiqué that recommended the following;

- Promote good governance, democracy and rule of law in the Great Lakes Region by upholding constitutionalism;
- Ensure free and fair electoral processes and peaceful transition of power;
- Strengthen collaboration among all the fora and the ICGLR secretariat;
- Conduct more advocacy work targeting governments of the ICGLR to ratify and domesticate the various ICGLR protocols and Priority Programs of Action;
- Establishment of national forums for women, youth and civil society in member states where they currently do not exist;
- Develop sustainability plans so that civil society organizations can be self-financing, sustainable and self-reliant in the long term.

The outcomes of the meeting were presented by the Regional Civil Society Forum Chair, Mr. Joseph Butiiku, at the Regional Inter Ministerial Committee and National Coordinators' meetings in Congo Brazzaville.



2.2.4 The Uganda Feminist Forum

The Uganda Feminist Forum is the premier space for feminist in Uganda to connect, converse and develop collective actions to advance the feminist agenda in Uganda and beyond. The Uganda Feminist forum is coordinated by a working group hosted by Akina Mama wa Afrika. In May 2017, the working group agreed to hold a pre-Uganda Feminist Forum Feminist Conversation under the theme

“Redefining Our Feminist Agenda”

to developing strategies and plans to inform the organizational skills of the women’s movement in Uganda.

The event held in partnership with EASSI brought together 30 participants from diverse sectors. It also focused on the day-to-day work that is involved in expanding and strengthening a multi-generational network and cohort of feminist leaders in Uganda.



Catalyzing a new wave of activism: A section of African feminists pose for a group photo at the Uganda Feminist Forum 2017

The forum proved to be a worthy precursor to the 7th Uganda Feminist Forum which brought together over 60 women from various feminist and women’s rights organizations. The aim of the UFF was to provide a space for deepening feminist politics while also contributing to feminist organizing through connecting initiatives, and catalyzing a new wave of activism to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in Uganda. It provided participants the opportunity to appreciate the operating context within which they are working today, and to challenge themselves on questions of accountability. The forum inspired and motivated participants to continue supporting each other, and to continue working together to advance the feminist agenda.

One of the outputs of the forum was the production of a documentary which captured the lived realities of sex workers in one of the suburbs in Kampala. The documentary was presented to UFF members for reflection and discussion. A process report was also produced and disseminated and will be used to follow up on the agreed action points for maintaining a vibrant feminist movement in Uganda. Among the key learnings, at both personal and organizational levels, was the need to continue creating feminist spaces within their very own settings, a development which would enable them to fully appreciate and abide by the values and principles set out in the African Feminist Charter.

2.2.5 The Domestic Violence Act Coalition

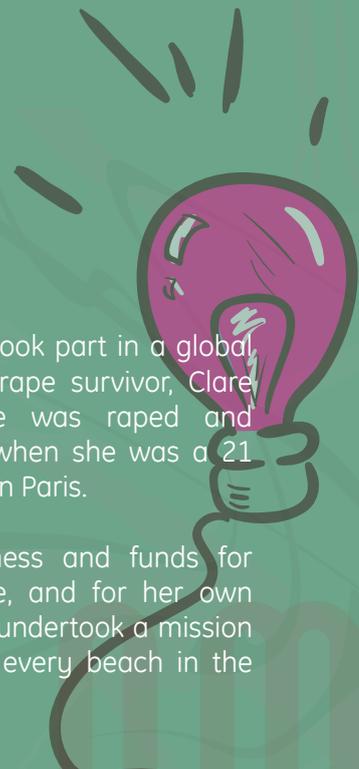
Resource allocation for national priorities is almost always dependent on political considerations and not the actual level of need. While women’s issues have taken up more prominence in the last three decades, the Ministry of Gender in Uganda is perennially under-resourced. As such, the responsibility for continuously petitioning for a bigger slice of the national budget falls upon non-governmental organizations.

In 2017, AMWA joined hands with members of the DVA Coalition to lobby the Parliamentary Gender committee to increase the budget for GBV issues in both the ministry of Gender and the police department.

This was after an analysis of the 2017/2018 National Budget which indicated inadequate allocations for these sectors, and none for GBV shelters.

The committee pledged to engage the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Gender on the issue. It also recommended strengthened working relations between CSOs and the Gender Ministry to ensure that the small resource envelope allocated to the ministry is budgeted for according to priorities, not administrative issues. Going forward, DVA Coalition members will engage the relevant sectors before the budget is presented to parliament every year to ensure that gender related issues are given their due attention.

AMwA in the News



AMwA alumnae took part in a global beach run with rape survivor, Clare McFarlane. Clare was raped and brutally beaten when she was a 21 year old student in Paris.

To raise awareness and funds for survivors of rape, and for her own catharsis, Clare undertook a mission to run 16km on every beach in the world for 3 years.

Ms. Musiime addressing journalists at the Regional Civil Society Reflection Meeting in Tanzania



5/8/2018 ANALYSIS: Kadaga's dilemma on new marriage Bill

ANALYSIS: Kadaga's dilemma on new marriage Bill

FLAVIA NASSAKA July 31, 2017 In The Magazine, NEWS ANALYSIS 1,400 Views



Activists reveal why they are not behind her

KAMPALA, UGANDA (FLAVIA NASSAKA) When the Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga on July 07 met Valinda Rukimira Nyanze, the chairperson of the Uganda Law Reform Commission, she made a pledge – that she would contact the Justice and Constitutional Affairs minister to fast track the tabling of the revised Marriage Bill. The Bill that seeks to ensure equity and fairness in marriage, according to Kadaga, is one of the critical three that are to be considered in this session of parliament.

Nyanze was sharing some of the proposals in the new draft bill including changing its name from the Marriage and Divorce Bill to Marriage Bill.

But when news that the Marriage Bill will soon be tabled in parliament reached Eunice Musiime, a human rights lawyer, she said she was surprised. Usually, she said, for the bill which has been shelved for more than 20 years to get any mention, it would be either during a big women conference or after some bit of pushing by women's rights organisations. She says this time it came without any of these props.

AMwA's Executive Director, Eunice Musiime was quoted in this story about the Marriage Bill in the Independent newspaper.

The newspaper did an analysis on the many setbacks that the Bill had faced over the 20 years since its first tabling in Uganda's Parliament.

The newspaper reported that the Speaker of parliament had in July 2017, pledged to fast track the process of tabling the Bill. Eunice shared her skepticism about the timing wondering if the Bill was simply being used to distract people from the constitutional amendment process that was under way.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: 3 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

2017 was a year for AMwA to strengthen her systems and processes based on well thought-out principles, revisiting and testing her policies, her minimum standards, best practices, training processes, and tools for an effective, efficient and sustainable organization.

All aspect of its management and staffing structures were closely scrutinized to ensure that they were up to the required expectations.

One of the major outputs of the year was the AMwA Strategic Plan (2017-2019), a fully comprehensive plan of action that we will adhere to. It emphasizes the need for a strong monitoring and evaluation system (M&E) which will enable the organization to run even more smoothly than before as everything will be tested in four areas for maximized results: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.

3.1 STRENGTHENED STAFF CAPACITIES



During the period under review, AMwA has continued to prioritize staff development through various initiatives including training, regular reflection meetings and team building sessions. AMwA program staff skills were enhanced in the following areas; resource mobilization, advocacy and movement building supported by the Global South Program in partnership with ActionAid Kenya and the Gender Analysis and Results Based Management (RBM) trained supported by CARE International L4C (Learning for Change) partners. Staff also underwent security training and were given knowledge and skills to lower risk and increase their personal safety and also the organization's security by extension.

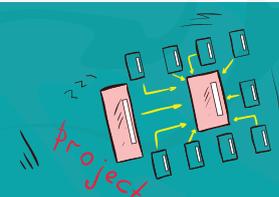
3.2 BOARD MEETINGS



The Board of Directors are mandated to meet at least twice a year: In 2017 the Board met on 21st February and 7th August. The significant issues that were addressed during this reporting period were: discussion and adoption of the AMwA Strategic Plan; 2016-2017 Annual Report and Audit; and the 2017 Work plan. The activities of the Board of Directors were supported by a strong Finance Committee headed by the Board Treasurer. This involved reviewing and approving the publication of financial statements, and signing off on major corporate governance policies.

The Board of Directors has continued to build and mentor a strong management team, has ensured effective financial management and continues to work with management on long-term strategic planning. The Board in 2018 will lead on the succession-planning efforts and continue to ensure the financial viability of the organization.

3.3 ENHANCED STAFF RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT



In 2017, AMwA recruited Ms. Rose Kabagambe as a Program Associate for Feminist Transformative Leadership Program and Ms. Alice Nanyonga as a Finance and Administration Assistant to further strengthen her programmatic and finance function. AMwA also worked with Mercy Asianut and Pauline Kahubire as Communication interns in the period. In partnership with Insight Global Education AMwA welcomed three interns from Canada to support the team.

In addition, AMwA hosted a staff reflection meeting that enabled staff to discuss a number of critical issues affecting staff performance and collectively devised strategies for enhanced teamwork and effective performance. Key among the outcomes was the increased staff awareness, enhanced skills in goal setting and performance evaluation, strengthened skills in building partnerships, and improvement in working relationships.

And, like any other organization where members have to move on at a certain time, AMwA bid farewell to one of its staff, Ms. Irene Kagoya, who at the time was the Research, Advocacy and Movement Building Manager. She was appreciated for her dedicated service and commitment to supporting the organization through the years.

3.4 DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN A FINANCIALLY VIABLE AND INCREASINGLY SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

In order to ensure effective implementation of AMwA's new strategic plan 2017-2019, AMwA developed and submitted a successful proposal to Amplify Change for strengthening networks and strategic partnerships. In addition, AMwA partnered with Civil Society organizations and networks to conduct Feminist Leadership trainings at a fee. This provided an alternative source of income for the organization and an opportunity to build its reserves.

The organization's policies, manuals and governing documents were reviewed and updated to ensure they are in line with its governing laws, regulations and best practices. The documents updated included its Constitution, Board Manual, Human Resource and Administration Manual, and the Finance Manual. As a result, there are clear and straightforward guidelines on governance and strengthened systems. The organization's performance can easily be measured against set goals and the gaps quickly identified and addressed. This has been facilitated by the Development of the Organization Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning system that is used to measure the performance of AMwA at project and organization level in line with the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan.

3.5 THE AFRICAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (ACE) FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

In May of 2012, the Institute of International Education with Funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation launched the African Centre of Excellence (ACE) for Women's Leadership program which brought together the following organisations: Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), Young Women's Leadership Institute (YWLI), Rwanda Women's Network (RWN) and Organization for Women in Self-Employment (WISE).

The program aims at mobilizing key women's organizations/groups and world class leadership resources so that leading organizations in East Africa can provide strategic leadership development and sustain their programs after three years. The Centre reviewed and revised AMwA's Constitution, Strategic Plan and Curriculum to improve the organisation's management and governance systems, and demand for the AWLI. AMwA staff were also engaged in a staff reflection exercise led by the ACE in which staff reflected on their capacity to effectively support the organization in realizing its goals.

The collaboration with ACE has helped create platforms for AMwA to influence policies through building a foundation for lasting partnerships across the partner organizations. AMwA has partnered with the Young Women's Leadership Institute (YWLI) and Rwanda Women's Network on different advocacy initiatives.



Lessons Learned, Challenges And Way Forward

LESSONS LEARNED

- ▶ Political consciousness-raising and empowerment is a critical first step in addressing the inequalities of women's participation and entrenched social justices at all levels.
- ▶ While there are different initiatives at different levels that attempt to engage young women to bring them into the fold of activism, and to organize them within a feminist ideological frame, the reality is that they still leave a lot to be desired. There is need to strengthen intergenerational organizing for movement building.
- ▶ Building new knowledge prisms and knowledge politics should be premised on the recognition that feminist organizing provides a key opportunity for informing dialogue and debate that is critical to how theories of social change are developed.

Additionally, while the body of work and knowledge of African women's lived realities seems to be growing on the continent, analysis and reflection continues to be sporadic.



At the ACE Policy Dialogue Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda

CHALLENGES

1) Fragmentation of women's movements:

The highly polarized political contexts have contributed to the extreme fragmentation among women's groups and to the co-option of their agendas. While this has impacted on the strategic capacities of the movement, it has had a greater impact on its energies, not to mention how extreme political violence and the trauma it produces have undermined women's engagement on so many levels.

2) The backlash on Women's Rights:

With influential world leaders pushing back on support for women's rights, financing for gender equality and women's rights has continued to diminish. As a result, we are facing guidelines that are more stringent and operating mechanisms that in one way or another impact on the way we conduct business.

3) Shrinking Civic Space:

More than ever the CSO space has become more restrictive with enforcement of rudimentary laws and policies that go against the fundamental principles of human rights. This has in turn impacted on civic organizing and freedoms online and offline.

Looking Ahead To 2018

Building on the foundation of the first year of implementation of the AMwA strategic plan, AMwA will focus on the following key strategies for 2018.

Reclaiming movement building in relation to work centered on social justice in order to reinvigorate feminist movements, expand their links with women constituencies (at all levels of society) and ultimately develop a comprehensive roadmap to address existing and \ emerging challenges confronting women.

Leverage on the 20 years of the African women's leadership Institute to document and amplify the contribution of the AWLI in advancing the feminist Agenda in Africa.

Effectively engage in the mobilization of African women to effectively influence national, regional and global decision-making processes.

Strategically position AMwA to continue facilitating feminist leadership development programs for African women.

LET'S SPEAK OUT



Commemorating the 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender Based Violence at Makerere University



Financial Review & Analysis

A summary review of internal controls and financial performance during the Audit period

Income:

The total income for the transitional financial reporting period April 2017 to December 2017 reduced by 32% when compared to income received in the year ending March 2017. This is because AMwA changed its financial reporting period from March to December. This Audit report is for 9 months.

90% of the income received in the financial reporting period is from Donors for specific project related activities, whereas 10% is from consultancy services AMWA provided to other partners.

Our esteemed Funders and development partners in the transitional financial reporting period were Amplify Change, Common Wealth Foundation, Comic Relief, Urgent Action Fund, Hivos, CREA and OSIEA.

Expenditure

The expenditure trend in the reporting period shows a reduction of 8% when compared to total expenditure in the previous year. This is attributed to measures taken during the period to cut down on administration costs.

59% of the reported expenditure in the period relates to program expenses under the strategic objectives of Feminist Transformational leadership and Amplification of women's voices in critical spaces whereas 41% relates to institutional strengthening and administration costs.

Fund balance

Accumulated fund as at 31st December 2017 was USD 84, 169 after reported income and expenditure in the period. This is clearly shown in the statement of financial position.

Statement of Receipts and Payments and Fund balance

	Notes	31 December 2017		31 March 2017	
		Actual UGX	Actual USD	Actual UGX	Actual USD
Receipts					
Grants Received		636,613,696	176,771	910,533,482	266,519
Other Income		70,927,208	19,552	73,783,893	21,336
Total Funds		707,540,904	196,323	984,317,374	287,855
Total Receipts					
Payments	9.11(a&b)				
Programme Costs					
Strengthen the African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI) as a center of excellence on feminist and transformative leadership development.		112,641,867	31,283	340,810,861	100,196
Amplify African women's voices in critical spaces through collective advocacy, and through movement building, informed by feminist research and documentation		543,937,929	150,999	179,625,765	51,761
Institutional Strengthening		460,734,288	127,724	634,841,374	183,996
Total Programme Costs		1,117,314,084	310,006	1,155,278,000	335,953
Foreign Exchange Gain/(Loss)		44,088,911	11,945	25,989,005	(7,485)
Deficit for the year		(365,684,269)	(101,738)	(144,971,621)	(55,583)
Fund Balance as at 01 April 2017		607,971,531	185,907	815,943,152	241,491
Surplus /Fund Balance		305,287,262	84,169	670,971,531	185,907

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes	31 December 2017		31 March 2017	
		Actual UGX	Actual USD	Actual UGX	Actual USD
Property, Plant and Equipment	9.5	19,677,863	5,425	731,201	203
Cash and Cash Equivalents	9.6	737,607,827	203,362	979,312,808	271,339
Accounts Receivable and Other Assets	9.7	7,991,044	2,203	52,594,434	14,572
		765,276,734	210,990	1,155,278,000	335,953
Represented by:					
Fund Balance as at 1 April	9.11 (a&b)	670,971,531	185,907	818,467,432	242,190
Prior year adjustments		-	-	(2,524,280)	(699)
Deficit	9.3	(365,684,269)	(101,738)	(144,971,621)	(55,583)
Accumulated Fund Balance		305,287,262	84,169	670,971,531	185,907
Capital Fund	9.9	19,677,863	5,425	731,201	203
Deferred income	9.10	405,168,520	111,707	347,920,912	96,399
Accounts Payable	9.8	35,143,089	9,689	13,014,799	3,606
Fund Balance as at 31 December		765,276,734	210,990	1,032,638,443	286,114

The financial statements on pages 11 to 56 were approved by Board of Directors on 3rd August 2018 and signed on its behalf by;



Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo
Chairperson Board of Directors



Eunice Musiime
Executive Director

Executive Board



MS. THOKOZILE RUZVIDZO,
Chair



DR. MAGGIE KIGOZI,
Vice Chair



ALBERTA BOSTON MAMMAH,
TREASURER



LUFUNMILAYO (FUNMI)
BALOGUN - ALEXANDER,
Board Member



OPPORTUNE SANTOSNITIEMA,
Board Member



LEONIE SENDEGEYA-RUBYOGO
Board Member

Our Staff



EUNICE MUSIIME,
Executive Director



MARGARET NAMBI,
**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
MANAGER**



PATIENCE AYEBAZIBWE,
**Feminist and Transformational
Leadership Manager**



IRENE KAGOYA
**RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND
MOVEMENT BUILDING MANAGER**



ALICE NANYONGA,
**FINANCE AND
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**



ROSE KABAGAMBE
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE



PAULINE KAHUBIRE,
COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE



BOSCO KOMAKETCH
Driver



COSTANCE MUHAMYE,
Front Desk Manager



STEVEN MWONDHA
Office Assistant,

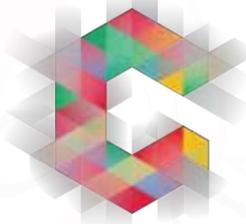


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