



AKINA MAMA
WA AFRIKA

On Stormy Seas, Radical Love Is Our Moral Compass

Annual Report
2023

Edited by Siphokazi Tau


Our declaration: This document is firmly grounded in the Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists, encapsulating the fundamental principles at the heart of our mission to unite organizations and individuals in alignment with this charter.¹

¹ https://awdf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/AFF-Feminist-Charter-Digital-AcA_A-English.pdf



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Why radical love is our compass

In embracing radical love, we draw from the ancient African philosophy of the Nguni people that says, “Umntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu” which means a person, is a person through recognizing other’s personhood. As advocates for social justice, in 2023, we found ourselves flung into the proverbial eye of the storm as political unrest in the form of full-scale wars and coups sprouted near and far from home. These stormy waters onto which we sailed brought wave after wave of exacerbated economic crises and the establishment of economic policies that painted a bleak future for structurally excluded persons. The socio-political climate posed questions to us on how to forge forward and for us radical love emerged as our guiding principle. Guided by radical love, we reject the status quo of hate, division, and indifference to the suffering of others. Instead, we choose empathy, justice and dignity as our foundational beliefs. Through radical love we commit to challenging oppressive structures, fostering inclusivity, and amplifying marginalized voices. We believe in continuing to acknowledge the interconnectedness of humanity which empowers us to build a future where love is the driving force behind social transformation, equity and liberation. As we transcend the borders of Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tunisia, Sudan, and Zambia, under the guidance of our moral compass, we aspire to expand our lighthouses to the countries of Ghana, Malawi, and Nigeria in 2024.

The Directors...

From sailing stormy seas, you must come to berth

Note from the outgoing Board Chairperson

It is with a mixed bag of emotions that I write my final note as the outgoing Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Akina Mama was Afrika. My journey with AMwA has been deeply gratifying and has transformed my world view.



I joined AMwA at a critical moment of much needed change, it is therefore with immense pride that I leave the organization in a better state. In my tenure, AMwA has remained steadfast in uplifting the status quo of African women, and working to secure their freedom, dignity and liberty. Working alongside other actors, AMwA's work continues to be a seed, a light and an offering of hope in a world that is faced with deeply complex and multiple crises such as threats to democracy, constrained civic engagement, war and conflict, global health crises, and economic turmoil on the continent and beyond.

I am delighted to pass on the baton to Ms. Elizabeth Lwanga the incoming Chairperson together with other Board Members to continue as guiding lights. The new Board of Directors was carefully selected and together they bring a wealth of experience that will be invaluable to AMwA in these times. Not only do they have experience

in AMwA's thematic areas of focus but also have global and regional understanding of how organizations like AMwA should be positioned to thrive and better serve her constituencies.

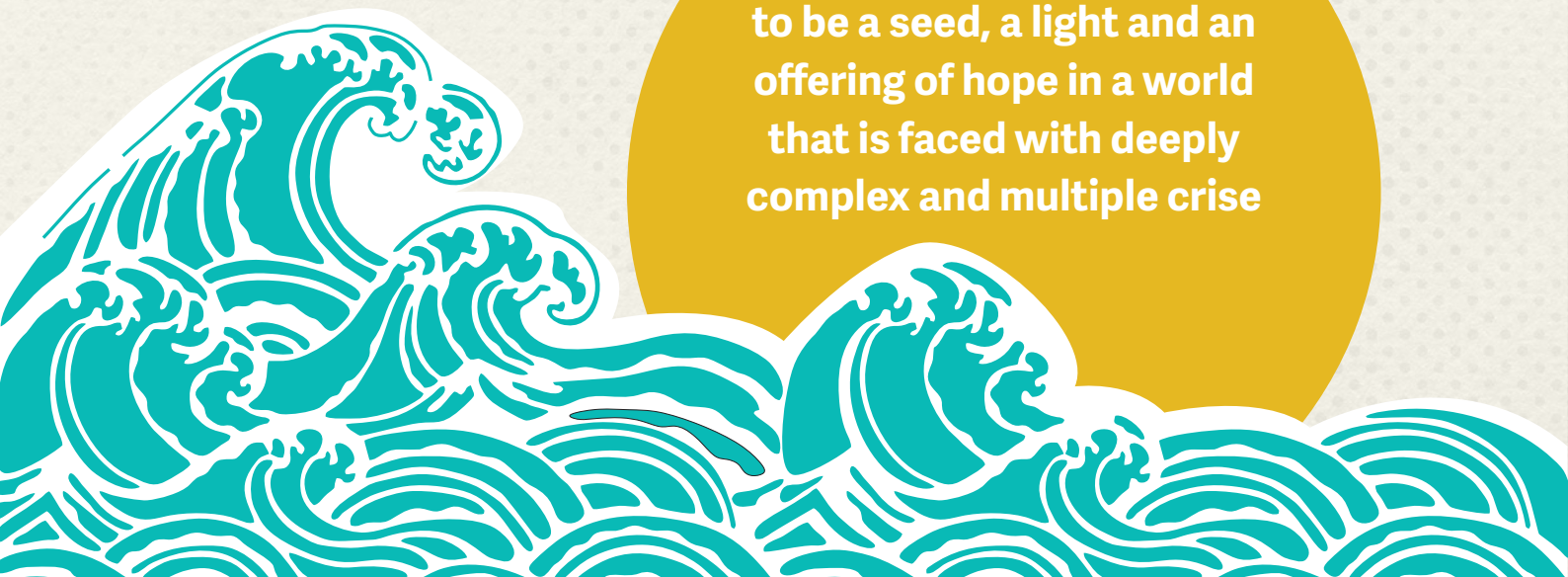
Amidst the economic and socio-political turbulence or having to navigate the hegemony of the global north, or the anti-gender movements, AMwA has not wavered in charting new ways to work with her constituencies. For example, her work with women from Sudan and Ethiopia, although affected by war and conflict has been delivered differently. AMwA has also continued to deepen her work in the climate and economic justice space to ensure that feminist analysis and alternatives become the mainstay of the movement and has not wavered in advancing sexual and reproductive rights of women and structurally excluded persons.

The incoming Board of Directors is cognizant that the development landscape remains stormy especially in the coming years and I hope they will regularly reflect on how best AMwA can ride the waves. The cuts in development assistance spurred by the new governments in the global north, the growing anti-gender movements and the crises among many other issues present as complex and systemic issues that all organizations must respond to.

My profound gratitude goes out to our development partners who continue to support AMwA to spread her wings, my fellow Board members who we have steered the ship together, our feminist community and allies that lessen the burden. I am deeply grateful to the staff who daily are seized with the passion to better humanity. I remain a friend of AMwA and will be at hand to offer any support as needed.

In Revolutionary love,

Dr. Maggie Kigozi



AMwA's work continues to be a seed, a light and an offering of hope in a world that is faced with deeply complex and multiple crises

The Waves Were Mighty, But So Are Our Hopes, On To The Next Voyage -

Note from the Executive Director with special thanks to out-going Board Chairperson



Dear Friends,

We begin this annual report with the celebration of one of our longest serving stewards, AMwA's outgoing Chairperson of the Board, Dr. Maggie Kigozi and her contributions for the past ten years. As Chairperson, we saw the organisation expand to new horizons both in regional reach and strategic focus. We thank Dr. Maggie Kigozi for her time, passion and commitment and look forward to the growth that we shall experience with the new Board of Directors.

As I reflect on 2023, so many conflicting thoughts surface, especially on the state of our democracies on the continent, and how they impact the work of feminist movements and organizations as ours. Over the course of the year, various events have taken place across the world which have led me to the following questions I wish to share my reflections on. Firstly, how do we claim wins in feminist transformative leadership when the state of leadership on the continent, and the world over, needs a complete overhaul? How much freer are we if repressive laws continue to be tabled and passed at record speed? Leaving no room for the average, ordinary individuals to make sense of everything at a grassroots level right next to our fierce feminist leaders slaying patriarchal dragons in parliamentary chambers?

From the eruption of coups across Africa and the continent's soaring inflation rates accompanied by ever-mounting debt, to the sustained and protracted wars between Russia and Ukraine, and the illegal occupation of Palestine by Israel. These conflicting thoughts are compounded by the fact that despite efforts by progressive feminist-forward thinking movements and organizations. Our accomplishments are weighed against an hourglass, with limited time to make the intended impact we want, because the world around us keeps pulling us right back to square one like quicksand. The question remains, what does freedom and transformative feminist leadership look like in these contexts, under these current circumstances?

As AMwA, we continue to draw from the four strategic approaches that guide our work, as they ultimately help us address the above while also steering us into an alternative feminist reality, where African women and girls in their diversities are conscientized and empowered. Where, if the rest of the world wavered, we did not let up. Through our flagship Programme, the African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI), AMwA convened four cohorts of the AWLI throughout the year, adding 100 persons to our alumni network across the continent. Furthermore, AMwA was steadfast in its support to the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Women's Caucus through political consciousness-raising initiatives. As part of AMwA's commitment to advancing a pan-African feminist agenda in decision making processes, AMwA continued to hold sessions with political leaders to deepen pathways to effective women's leadership within the current political landscape.

Together with our alumni and African feminists whose participation we had the privilege to facilitate, we leveraged our collective power and agency, and amplified our voices and called for the urgent need for a radical shift from more than 70 years of neoliberalism as promoted by the IMF and World Bank. During their Annual meeting in October 2023 which was hosted on African soil for the first time in 50 years, we brought to the space evidence of how the policies and programmes of these Bretton Woods Institutions have negatively affected women and other structurally excluded people in Africa.

We played a pivotal role in the Africa Drive for Democracy Conference in Arusha Tanzania, bringing together a cohort of leaders from diverse disciplines to make up a broader spectrum of a democratic community. As an organization grounded in Pan Africanist ideals, we locate the work we do within the lineage of African feminists who

have committed to the advancement of Africa. One being Kenyan Nobel Prize winner, Wangarai Mathaai who founded the Green Belt Movement to advance environmental conservation and women's rights. We draw from this heritage to highlight the produced knowledge products on Climate justice and take pride in the fact that AMwA is on the Africa Feminist Task Force on Climate Justice. In addition, AMwA together with Wemos under auspices of the Makeway Programme published research on the initial impacts of the Africa Medical Equipment Facility (AMEF).

We continued to forge strategic partnerships to elevate and traverse conversations and borders on our mission to build feminist leadership and collective power to deconstruct intersectional systems of oppression to advance gender and social justice. From as far southeast as Malawi with Feminist Macroeconomics Alliance Malawi to being granted provisional observer status by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As we kept sailing on the stormy sea, we continued to learn and evolve at both individual level and the collective. We puddled through new waters while strengthening our garters for the new waves for safety, adaptation and sustainability. **Firstly, through Institutional Strengthening:** Ushering in of the new board members and celebrating those who provided rhythm to the sails in the previous 5 years. **Secondly, through Staff Capacity Building:** AMwA staff participated in various capacity building sessions which included programme management, finance training for practitioners, report writing and feminist research and communications.

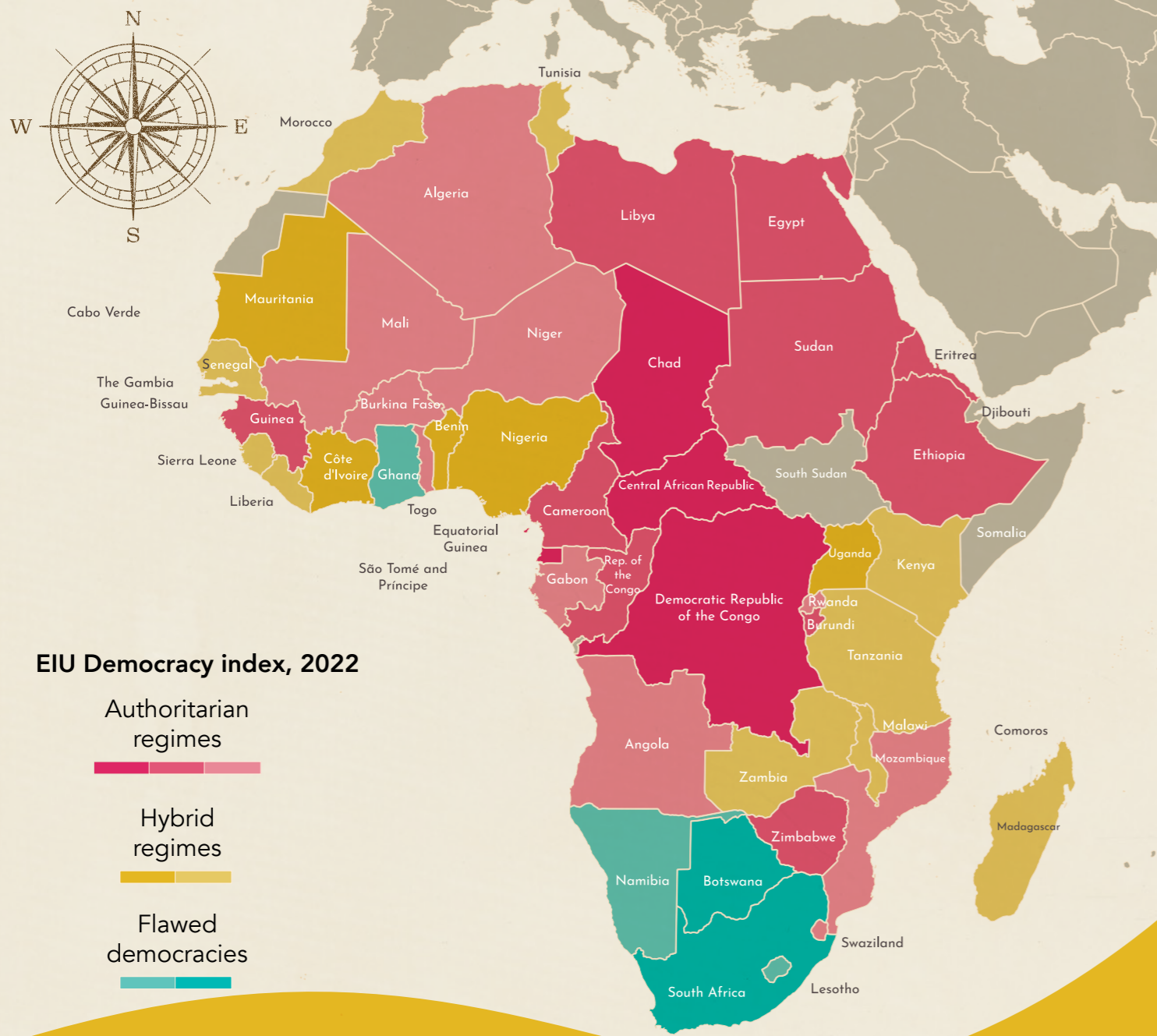
The year 2023 continued to give much bigger blows than the year before, as anti-gender groups organized much more aggressively, to set feminist movement work back decades, almost to peel us right back to the dark ages - where human rights meant absolutely nothing. So, as I conclude this reflection, whilst these conflicting thoughts and questions grow louder and louder, despite everything that we have accomplished. Where is our voice amidst all this rumble? And what will our place look like for the coming year? I do not know. We hope this report can serve as a contribution to us building collective solutions as we continue to forge more and bigger communities of feminist transformative realities.

With radical love,

Eunice Musiime,
Executive Director



We played a pivotal role in the Africa Drive for Democracy Conference in Arusha Tanzania, bringing together a cohort of leaders from diverse disciplines



The nature of the seas on which we set sail in 2023

The Economic and Socio-Political Climate of 2023

Africa has faced many internal challenges since the beginning of 2023. These encompass fluctuating exchange rates, soaring commodity prices, and inflation rates surging into double digits in 40 percent of African nations. Remarkably, the African region has grappled with a complex web of issues since the year's commencement, spanning political transitions, economic pressures, human rights violations, and escalating tensions. These challenges are intrinsically linked to global trends characterized by democratic regression, financial instability, and alarming setbacks in the rights of women and girls in all their diversity.

A spate of coups across Africa has epitomized this unsettling trend. Gabon and Niger succumbed, and failed attempts were witnessed in The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Sao Tome and Principe². The operational context in Sudan underwent a significant shift on April 15, 2023, when an armed conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This ongoing conflict marks the latest development in Sudan's challenging journey toward democratic governance, initially disrupted by a military takeover on October 25, 2021. Regrettably, this conflict has had severe repercussions, exacerbated preexisting intercommunal and ethnic tensions, and led to a substantial deterioration in humanitarian conditions. It has resulted in a massive displacement crisis, with over 5.5 million displaced as of September 27, 2023. Among them, 4.2 million are internally displaced, while over 1 million have sought refuge beyond Sudan's borders for safety and security.

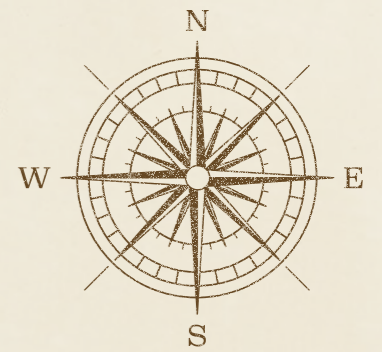
Meanwhile in eastern Africa, Kenya has witnessed a surge in anti-government demonstrations fueled by grievances related to electoral injustices, rising living costs, and tax hikes. Despite mounting public discontent, the government pushed through the contentious Finance Bill, which President William Ruto signed into law in June 2023. The Finance Bill 2023 and its associated taxation proposals represent a severe injustice, running counter to the principle that taxation should be fairly distributed (Art,201(b)(i))³. If enacted, the bill will disproportionately burden Kenyan citizens, particularly women, the unemployed, and marginalized groups, further perpetuating poverty and undermining financial inclusion and economic justice.

In comparison, Tunisia's transition to democracy remains incomplete and stressful. Since the presidential measures to suspend the parliament, dismiss the government and draft a new constitution were enacted in 2021, socioeconomic conditions have continued to deteriorate, and unrest risks increased in the first months of 2023.

² Africa's coup epidemic: Has democracy failed the continent? | Politics | Al Jazeera
³ THE FINANCE BILL OF KENYA 2023 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION (<https://icj-kenya.org>)

A disturbing trend across Africa, especially in East Africa, is the mounting opposition to the politics of choice and bodily autonomy for women and gender-diverse individuals. Additionally, gender-expansive persons also face harassment or arrest when seeking healthcare. Hence, civil society organizations and activists must innovate and explore alternative avenues for organizing and engaging effectively in the face of diminishing civic space.

Meanwhile in eastern Africa, Kenya has witnessed a surge in anti-government demonstrations fueled by grievances related to electoral injustices, rising living costs, and tax hikes.



The waves of good change that we have set in motion



Nurturing valiant captains feminist and transformational leadership (Strategic Approach I)



For the past 27 years, the African Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI) which is our flagship programme has made strides in nurturing feminist leadership and building collective power to challenge intersecting systems of oppression and advance gender and social justice. In July 2023 AMwA convened 27 participants under the Women's Political Leadership programme from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda in Kampala, Uganda under the theme "Redressing Threats to Democracy through Feminist Leadership". Further, In August 2023, our Economic Justice and Climate Action Programme brought together 25 young feminist leaders from Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe in Lusaka, Zambia to explore "Ecofeminist Leadership for a Just and Sustainable Future." This experience throughout the AWLI deepened participants' understanding of applying feminist lenses to democracy and the climate crisis. It provided a solid foundation for their engagement in social and political discourse.

THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (AWLI)



Additionally, In November 2023, AMwA convened a cohort of 25 African women in their diversities in Kampala, Uganda for an African Women's Leadership Institute under the theme "**A Pan-African Feminist Vision for Restructuring the Global Financial Architecture for Gender Justice using SRHR as a case study**". These economic justice and SRHR advocates, came from thirteen African countries: Botswana, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The aim was to build collective power and agency in advocating for feminist macroeconomic policy alternatives in Africa. This experience challenged the AWLI alumni to transcend microeconomic policies to feminist macro-level economic policies and the global financial systems and their impacts on gender inequality

The AWLI alumni have already begun to challenge neoliberal macroeconomic policies across various fronts. For example, Bisrat Kubi from Ethiopia has advocated for a shift away from GDP-focused economic policies, highlighting their detrimental effects on key public services such as health and education. Leveraging the knowledge and networks acquired through AWLI, alumni organized campaigns during the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, addressing the role of neoliberal policies in exacerbating gender inequalities and advocating for gender-just macroeconomic policies.

Furthermore, in recognition of the influential role of the media in shaping public opinion, under the SRHR programme, AMwA organized an AWLI for 25 media personalities including journalists, news editors, and reporters from 11 Uganda media platforms in Kampala, Uganda. As a result of the conscientization, the Alumni organized a space on X (former, twitter) that brought together community gatekeepers and religious leaders for conversation to enlighten them on the current SRHR injustices entrenched in cultural and religious norms. Such conversations are geared towards the development of counter-narratives and progressive public discourse on SRHR issues affecting women and girls in their diversities.

In the forthcoming year, we plan to support these alumni in documenting investigative stories on pertinent SRHR issues across different regions in Uganda, which enhance the community of allies within the media landscape committed to advancing SRHR and feminist principles. These demonstrate the willingness of African women and girls in their diversities to challenge the existing power imbalances that perpetuate inequality when equipped with the right tools, language and strategies.


Additionally, AMwA continued her efforts in advancing Gender Responsive Governance in the East African Legislative Assembly, through East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Women's Caucus. AMwA facilitated the induction of the new members to the caucus and together developed tools and strategies for influencing the East African women's rights agenda, gender equality, and enhancing justice within the East African Community (EAC) integration process. Notably, Members of Parliament from Uganda, Tanzania, and South Sudan demonstrated their commitment by pledging to introduce a private member bill on climate justice during the April 2023 sitting. Furthermore, during the EALA Plenary Budget session in Arusha, Tanzania, the EALA Women's Caucus successfully advocated for an increased allocation of funds for Gender Responsive activities in the 2023/2024 EALA Budget, underscoring the critical importance of gender mainstreaming within the context of EAC integration.

Through collaborative efforts, we are constructing a resilient community of women political leaders equipped with the awareness and capability to embed feminist analysis at the core of policy formulation and implementation, ultimately driving positive change for gender equality and social justice in the East African region. Additionally, in our pursuit of building a critical mass of African feminist leaders who are conscious and influential in climate justice processes, AMwA hosted a thought-provoking Rethink Space with the theme "From Rhetoric to Reality: Feminist Perspectives on Climate Finance." This gathering brought together 66 feminists, ecofeminists, environmental justice activists, agroecologists, gender justice advocates, and government technocrats from 10 African countries. As a result of these diverse conversations, AMwA's partners experienced a significant shift in their understanding of intersectional feminist approaches to climate finance.

Moreover, AMwA organized conscientization sessions for all Make Way Programme partners in Kenya and Zambia, focusing on Intersectional SRHR. These sessions further underscore our commitment to fostering political consciousness for civic and political actors within the Sexual and reproductive health and rights realm.

Other trainings convened by AMwA during 2023 include:

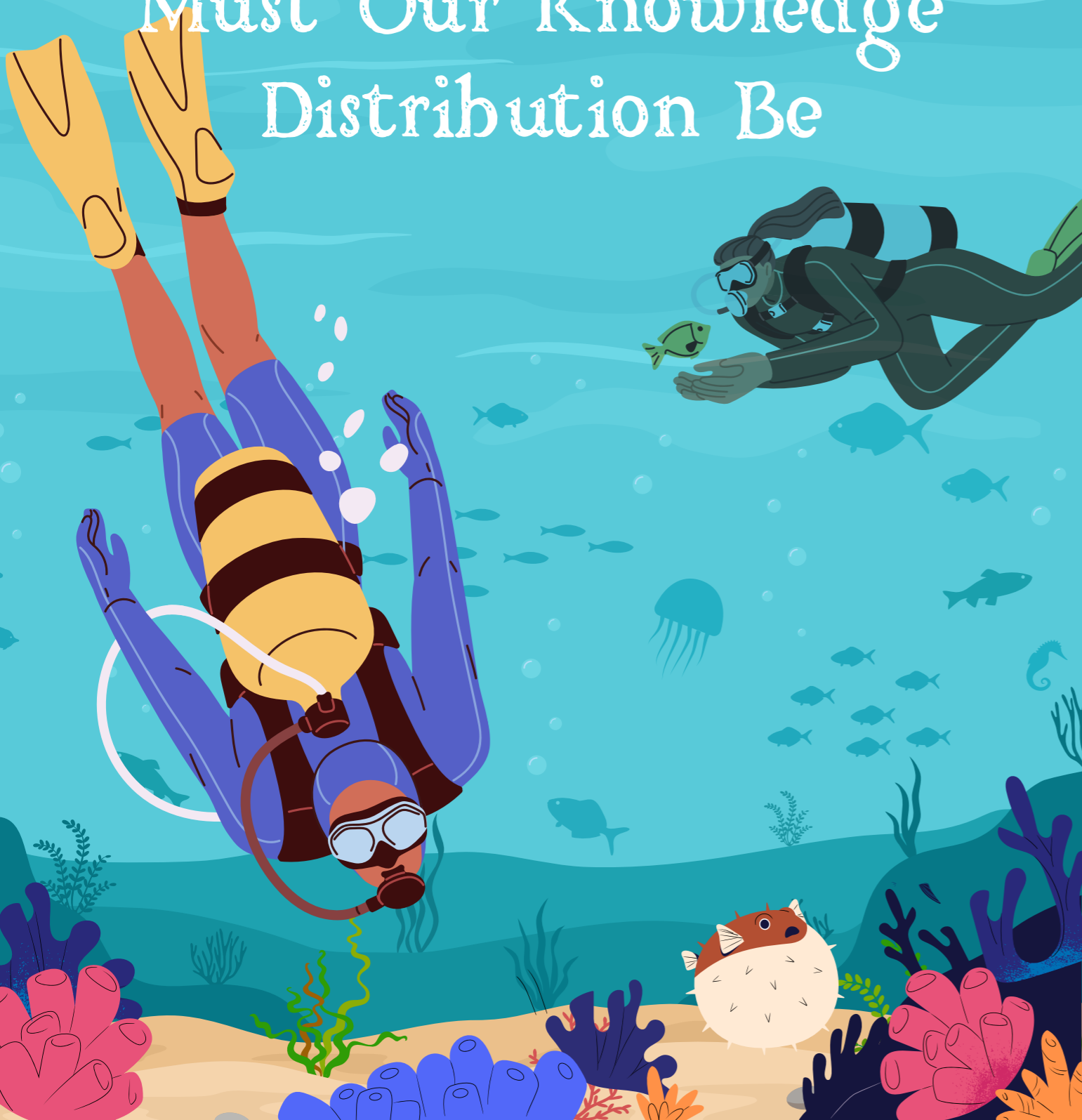
- Induction of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Women's Caucus in Burundi – April 2023.
- Intersectional SRHR training for Make Way programme consortium partners in Kenya and Zambia – June 2023.
- Intersectional feminist budget analysis training for members of parliament part of the health committee in Uganda – September 2023.
- Advocacy and capacity-strengthening training for members of the Parliamentary Caucus on SRHR in Zambia – October 2023.
- Capacity building workshop on the EAC SRHR bill for the EALA members of Parliament in Rwanda – November 2023.



Our Economic Justice and Climate Action Programme brought together 25 young feminist leaders from Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda to explore "Ecofeminist Leadership for a Just and Sustainable Future."



As Open And Wide
As The Sea Is, So
Must Our Knowledge
Distribution Be



Feminist Research and Knowledge Building

(Strategic Approach II)



Figure 5: AMwA's partner from Tunisia showcases the dummy of the intersectional feminist climate guide with signatures of actors who committed to using the guide.

In 2023, our commitment to feminist research and knowledge-building remained unwavering as a foundational pillar of our work at AMwA. We firmly believe in grounding our political consciousness, activism, and advocacy in the robust production of evidence-based knowledge, generated through radical feminist research centering the voices and lived realities of African women in all their diversities. As AMwA, we

recognize the wisdom from our feminist ancestor, the late Ama Ata Aidoo, who argued that “it is impossible to advocate independence of African development without also believing that the African woman must have the best that the environment can offer. For us drawing from this lineage and understanding the intersectionality of the African women’s life is the crucial element of feminism”⁴.

In 2023, we continued to draw light to the healthcare systems in African countries. Since adopting the Abuja Declaration in 2001, many African nations have struggled to meet their commitments to allocate 15% of their national budgets to strengthen healthcare systems⁵. A prevailing trend has been the reliance on the private sector through public-private partnerships to address healthcare challenges⁶. Of which we know that public and state-owned healthcare facilities can reach the everyday person more effectively compared to private healthcare. What then does this mean in terms of the sustainability of such partnerships in being reflective in the everyday lives of Africans. And secondly, where does this leave the role of governments in meeting the healthcare needs of its citizens?

To delve deeper into this question, AMwA partnered with Wemos to conduct a comprehensive study on the initial impacts of the Africa Medical Equipment Facility (AMEF). The study’s primary focus was on its effects on achieving equitable and universal access to healthcare services, with a particular emphasis on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNACH). This research, critically examined the blended finance facility introduced by the International Finance Corporation and its potential to advance universal and equitable healthcare access for all in Kenya. Notably, the AMEF predominantly appealed to higher-end, medium-to-large private healthcare facilities, which gained increased financing for procuring medical equipment. However, data indicates that 75% of the Kenyan population lacked health insurance, with 56% being women⁷. Consequently, investing in the AMEF risked excluding these vulnerable populations from its benefits, exacerbating existing inequalities. As a result, our crucial recommendation emerged as the need to bolster public healthcare provision instead of promoting privatization or relying on blended finance models.

Recognizing the shift to digital and virtual technologies, AMwA produced a thought-provoking podcast centered on wealth taxes from a feminist perspective. This podcast explored the multifaceted dimensions of wealth taxation. This has resulted in our contribution being flagged as a key resource on tax justice by the Global Alliance for Tax Justice. This acknowledgment further highlights our significant role in shaping crucial initiatives, including the development of the Charter for Africa as members of the Africa Feminist Task Force on Climate Justice.

⁴ African women today in Sisterhood feminisms” and power: from africa to the diaspora, O Nnaemeka ed. Trenton, New Jersey: Africa Wide Press, 1998

⁵ Rethinking the Abuja Declaration: What is 15% to the health sector? | by Mark Akanko Achaw | Medium

⁶ Public-private partnerships can give more people better healthcare | World Economic Forum (weforum.org)

⁷ Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022 - Key Indicators Report [PR143] (dhsprogram.com)

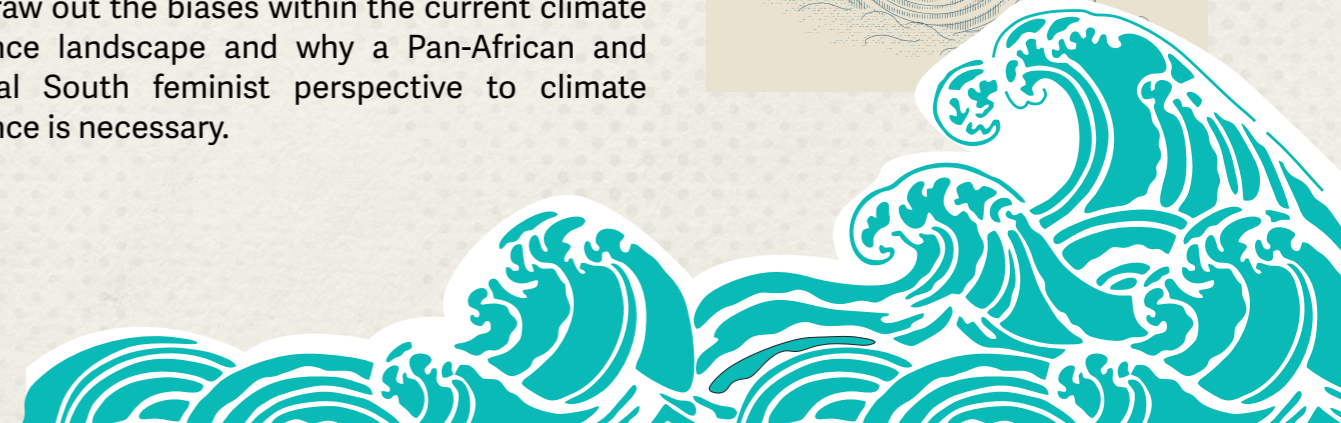
This was followed by a learning paper titled ‘**A Pan-African Feminist Primer on Wealth Taxes**’ which was published in November 2023 and presented at the 11th Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation in Accra, Ghana. The paper offers a comprehensive exploration of wealth taxes from an African Feminist perspective, and the multifaceted challenges arising from the global exploitation and extraction of Africa’s resources, which disproportionately affects African women and perpetuates economic disparities.

In addition, AMwA also commissioned a scoping study and baseline on ‘**Organizing Feminist Macroeconomic Policies in Africa**’ which will be launched in early 2024. The study and baseline seek to influence macroeconomic policies and contribute to the adoption of feminist economic alternatives as strategies for sustainable development. Preliminary findings reveal that while awareness of feminist perspectives has grown substantially among stakeholders, actual progress in integrating these perspectives into macroeconomic policies remains minimal. The limited policy changes achieved so far represent incremental rather than transformational progress. This highlights major gaps in translating increased awareness into substantive policy action. However, the lack of mainstreaming of feminist perspectives in macroeconomic discourse points to the insufficiency of women’s rights organizations’ efforts alone to achieve large-scale policy change.

AMwA also embarked on a process of developing a paper titled, “**Making Climate Finance Global South centered and Feminist? 10 Principles to consider!**”. The paper unravels the intricate politics of the climate finance agenda, and seeks to draw out the biases within the current climate finance landscape and why a Pan-African and global South feminist perspective to climate finance is necessary.



In 2023, we continued to draw light to the healthcare systems in African countries. Since adopting the Abuja Declaration in 2001, many African nations have struggled to meet their commitments to allocate 15% of their national budgets to strengthen healthcare systems.



As part of our Make Way Programme in Zambia, AMwA led a group of 30 civil society organizations (CSO) to produce a shadow report⁸ assessing the country's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among the key recommendations made by CSOs to the government was the need to develop development programs with a more intersectional approach. Notably the government of Zambia expressed their interest in adopting recommendations from this report specifically on SRHR.

In addition, AMwA commissioned a study to understand Uganda's media reporting on SRHR. This was informed by the increasing backlash and misinformation on SRHR issues within the country. The study revealed a dominance of newspapers in SRHR coverage, with online platforms showing consistent engagement and television displaying erratic patterns. The study revealed that SRHR news stories heavily rely on official sources, raising concerns about limited perspectives. Online discussions, especially on platforms like X, highlighted a broad spectrum of SRHR topics specifically by civil society organizations, emphasizing the crucial role of civil society actors in shaping the narrative and driving engagement, signaling a need for more diverse voices and increased investigative reporting to foster transparency in SRHR coverage within Uganda's media landscape. As a result of this study, in 2024 AMwA will convene a reframing SRHR narrative fellowship for communications specialists and media personalities across the continent.

Below is a list of our knowledge products.

Research papers

- [Scoping Analysis on Feminist Macroeconomics in Africa](#)
- [Media Research study](#)

Technical/Policy briefs

- [Gendered budgeting brief](#)
- [Feminist approaches to abortion rights](#)
- [Climate Finance](#)
- [Democracy OPED](#)
- [A Pan-African feminist primer on wealth taxes](#)

Position Papers

- [Citizen's Manifesto](#)
- [Position paper on carbon markets](#)
- [GIMAC position paper](#)

Collective wellness remains our true north—policy influencing and movement building (Strategic Approach III)



In the first quarter of the year, AMwA actively engaged with the World Bank Group's (WBG) Gender departments, contributing significantly to the review of the WBG Gender Strategy⁹, which is set to be launched in 2024. As a member of the WBG Gender CSO Group, AMwA played a constructive role in creating two impactful position papers. The first paper focused on the review process of the WBG Gender strategy, while the second addressed the ongoing WBG reform process. Our collective proposal to integrate gender considerations across all WBG departments was embraced as a valuable addition to the new strategy, toward ensuring gender-responsive policy implementation. This advocacy occurred during the WBG consultative meetings at the 2023 Women Deliver Conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

Notably, during the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual meetings in Morocco, AMwA co-convened the People's Alternatives Tribunal, highlighting violations of women's labor rights in one of the World Bank-funded Public Private Partnerships (PPP). In championing the use of creative expressions, AMwA mobilized African women to write [letters to the World Bank and IMF](#), outlining the adverse impacts of their policies, projects, and programmes on women and gender-expansive persons in Africa. At the World Bank Group gender event, AMwA advocated for reform in the global financial architecture, specifically addressing concerns related to the World Bank and IMF's approach and operations.

Additionally, in March, AMwA actively participated in the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, held under the theme, **“Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”** Through collaborating with the POLLICY and Nawi collectives, a parallel session was organized that explored alternative intersectional feminist approaches to the digital revolution, with a focus on centering women and minority groups.

At a regional level, AMwA actively participated in the 39th Gender Is My Agenda (GIMAC) pre-summit and the UN Women pre-summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. AMwA made valuable contributions to the development of outcome documents by the African Leaders Forum - Government cluster. These contributions were subsequently adopted and integrated into the UN Women position paper submitted to the AU summit of Head of State. We found that many economic policies and frameworks currently implemented by most African countries lack gender considerations. For instance, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) initially had no provisions addressing gender and inclusion. However, there has been a recent proposal to include a protocol on gender, women, and youth. Key recommendations that gained traction included integrating gender considerations across AfCFTA rather than merely adding a Protocol on Gender, Women, and Youth. Additionally, it was recognized that a diverse group of women must be actively engaged in developing the Gender, Women, and Youth protocol. As AMwA we remain committed to monitoring the AU summit sessions to ensure these recommendations are implemented, thereby centering women and marginalized groups in all discussions and at different levels.

Additionally, AMwA actively participated in the first Africa Climate Week and Summit in Nairobi, Kenya. This process was particularly important as various neoliberal “innovative” climate finance solutions were advanced. For example, during the summit, Germany announced a debt for nature swap with Kenya for one of Kenya’s bilateral debt instruments with the country. Important to note is that Kenya is not the only African country in Africa that is off beam in this regard. Uganda, Nigeria, Gabon, and Seychelles have also recently agreed to debt for nature swaps for selected bilateral and or multilateral debt arrangements.

This “innovative” financing solution is increasingly being promoted as a strategic approach to swapping for both debt distressed and non-distressed sovereigns. AMwA successfully contributed to the development of the draft **Nairobi Declaration** of the Africa Climate Summit. Notably, there has been a gradual decline in the quality of democracy in Africa, with the number of democracies decreasing from 22 to 18

between 2015 and 2020¹⁰. AMwA actively participated in the 2nd Summit for Democracy held in Lusaka. During the summit, four alumni of the AWLI played an active role in advocating for transformative feminist approaches to strengthen Africa’s democracy. AMwA also played an active role in the 2023 Africa Drive for Democracy Conference. The primary aim of the conference was to evaluate the state of democracy in Africa, commemorate the accomplishments of the African democratic movement, draw lessons from encountered challenges, and devise forward-looking strategies to foster vibrant and inclusive democracies. Under the theme “Towards a Strong Democracy Movement in Africa,” the conference was graced by four former African presidents namely; His Excellency Joaquim Alberto Chissano, former President of the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. In virtual attendance was Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of the Republic of Liberia.

Given that the participation of women in political activity is an important indicator of the effectiveness of a state and democracy¹¹, AMwA published an article titled **“Africa’s Drive for Democracy; Will it live up to its promise?”**¹². AMwA convened 16 members of the Ugandan parliament to conduct an insightful monitoring visit to two critical social service sectors in the Kalangala district. Given that the Kalangala district is an island, the primary aim of this visit was to enable legislators to gain a deep understanding of the gaps in service provision and the SRHR challenges faced by adolescents and young people. This first-hand knowledge was crucial for informed legislation addressing these pressing issues.

10 Africa and the Middle East | IDEA Global State of Democracy Report
11 Feminism or femocracy? State feminism and democratization in Nigeria. Amina Mama. Africa Development, CODESTRIA, 1995
12 Africa’s drive for democracy: Will it live up to its promise? | Monitor



AMwA made valuable contributions to the development of outcome documents by the African Leaders Forum - Government cluster. These contributions were subsequently adopted and integrated into the UN Women position paper submitted to the AU summit of Head of State.





Furthermore, in June 2023, the Ugandan government ratified ILO C190, a vital framework designed to combat gender-based violence in the workplace. AMwA was pivotal in advocating for this ratification by providing well-researched information and engaging extensively with the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development. This achievement holds significant importance, considering the gaps in labor rights frameworks pertaining to workplace violence and harassment, particularly against women.

AMwA continued its dedication to prioritizing health financing as a key factor in ensuring the accessibility, availability, affordability, and quality of Sexual and Reproductive Health services. Teaming up with Action Group for Health and HIV/AIDS (AGHA) Uganda, AMwA scrutinized the 2023/24 budget, pinpointing gender gaps in allocations and advocating for improvements in the upcoming budget cycle. To validate these findings, and set aspirations for the next budget cycle, AMwA brought together 7 Members of Parliament in Uganda and 30 Civil Society Organisations partners. Recognizing the crucial need to amplify women's voices and concerns in parliament, the legislators committed to advocate for inclusive and effective governance, particularly in resource allocation. They also emphasized the importance of holding local and national authorities accountable for implementing Gender Responsive Policies and ensuring that allocated funds are efficiently used to benefit women and marginalized groups, thus integrating health financing into broader gender-responsive budgeting and governance initiatives.

Many hands make light work at sea (Movement Building)



A key factor of the work that we do at AMwA is working in communities and with communities of people whose work fights for the liberation of all people. Importantly in grounding our work in radical love, means nothing if we cannot extend that love to others and our communities.

Feminist organizing in the global South becomes more and more imperative in the face of the changing global financial architecture. As such, AMwA has continued to contribute towards strengthening movements and alliances that bring together the global South and particularly, African feminists. Most notably, in September 2023, AMwA together with members of the African Feminist Task Force i.e. Women Environment Programme (WEP) in Nigeria, Women for Change in Cameroon, FEMNET, Grupo Para o Desenvolvimento da Mulher e Rapariga in Mozambique, WEDO, and the WGC secretariat, launched the African Women and Gender Constituency during the sidelines of the Africa Climate Week and Summit. Marking the start of the process to regionalize and strengthen regional coordinating for the WGC. Consequently, AMwA formed the A-WGC Climate Finance Working group which is currently coordinated through a WhatsApp group, the group brings together members of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and women, feminists, gender justice activists working on climate finance broadly. The goal is to radicalize their engagement and ensure that they adopt and advance narratives that center global South and pan-African feminist climate finance principles.

The collaborations with GBVNet and Young Women in Action helped facilitate the healing festivals convened in Uganda and Zambia. Extending our work to communities in those regions. In the context of shrinking civic spaces and setbacks in SRHR and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) rights, AMwA's role in fostering solidarity and community has become increasingly essential. Particularly in Uganda, the passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 left community members living in fear and isolation. In response, AMwA convened three safe and supportive spaces for community members to share their fears, needs, and concerns. These spaces have been used to strategize on navigating challenging times, forming a community leadership team responsible for advancing security and promoting cohesion within the community. AMwA has provided financial support, both to individuals and collectives, to facilitate the implementation of activities while ensuring the safety of the community and its allies.

The political dynamic in Sudan continues to incline toward the consolidation of military power of which Sudanese women have long paid a heavy price for aspiring for democracy and civilian rule. More than 730,000 have sought refuge from the conflict in the neighboring countries including Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia among others. In October 2023, AMwA convened a reflection, healing and learning space that brought together 25 Sudanese women (political and civic actors) residing in Uganda. This space provided an opportunity for participants to reflect on their experiences, share their individual and collective power and mapped ways of collective organizing outside the geographical boundaries of Sudan. This convening birthed a community of care for Sudanese women living in Uganda. In the coming year, AMwA will continue the duty to care for our siblings from Sudan with both psychosocial support and political consciousness raising in Feminist and transformational leadership.



AMwA actively participated in the first Africa Climate Week and Summit in Nairobi, Kenya. This process was particularly important as various neoliberal "innovative" climate finance solutions were advanced. For example, during the summit, Germany announced a debt for nature swap with Kenya for one of Kenya's bilateral debt instruments with the country.

Creativity that mirrors nature arts and creative expression

(Strategic Approach IV)



During the 16 days of Activism, over 75 women and gender-expansive persons attended The Annual Healing Festival convened in Kampala, Uganda by AMwA and GBVNet. This was the 2nd edition of the festival by demand. It brought together feminists, activists, and gender-based violence service providers to discuss, learn and practice how to cultivate radical care within themselves and their communities. Participants shared that they felt healed and ready to "kick patriarchy's butt tomorrow". Whilst others shared that healing circles brought out "the child in them". We then developed a healing guide for participants to learn more about radical care by including poetry and stories as ways of caring for themselves.

In extending this to other regions, AMwA hosted what has come to be considered an inaugural Feminist Healing Festival in Lusaka, Zambia. This was also held during 16 days of Activism, of which 70 women and gender-expansive persons attended; the second edition was convened by AMwA with support from Young Women in Action. It brought together feminists, activists, authors, mental health specialists and gender-based violence service providers to discuss, learn and practice how to cultivate radical care within themselves and their communities.

Seeking Islands of Allies (Strategic Partnerships Established)



- In March 2023, AMwA forged strategic partnerships with the Feminist Macroeconomics Alliance Malawi (FEAM) to influence macroeconomic policies at the national level. This collaborative effort, coordinated by Action Aid Malawi, offers a unique opportunity to work alongside key stakeholders and strengthen the feminist macroeconomics movement across Africa.
- In June 2023, AMwA reached a notable milestone as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) provisionally granted it observer status. This recognition signifies a significant achievement in AMwA's ongoing efforts to be acknowledged as a critical actor in climate justice. It enables AMwA to directly engage in UNFCCC processes, further enhancing its impact in this crucial domain.

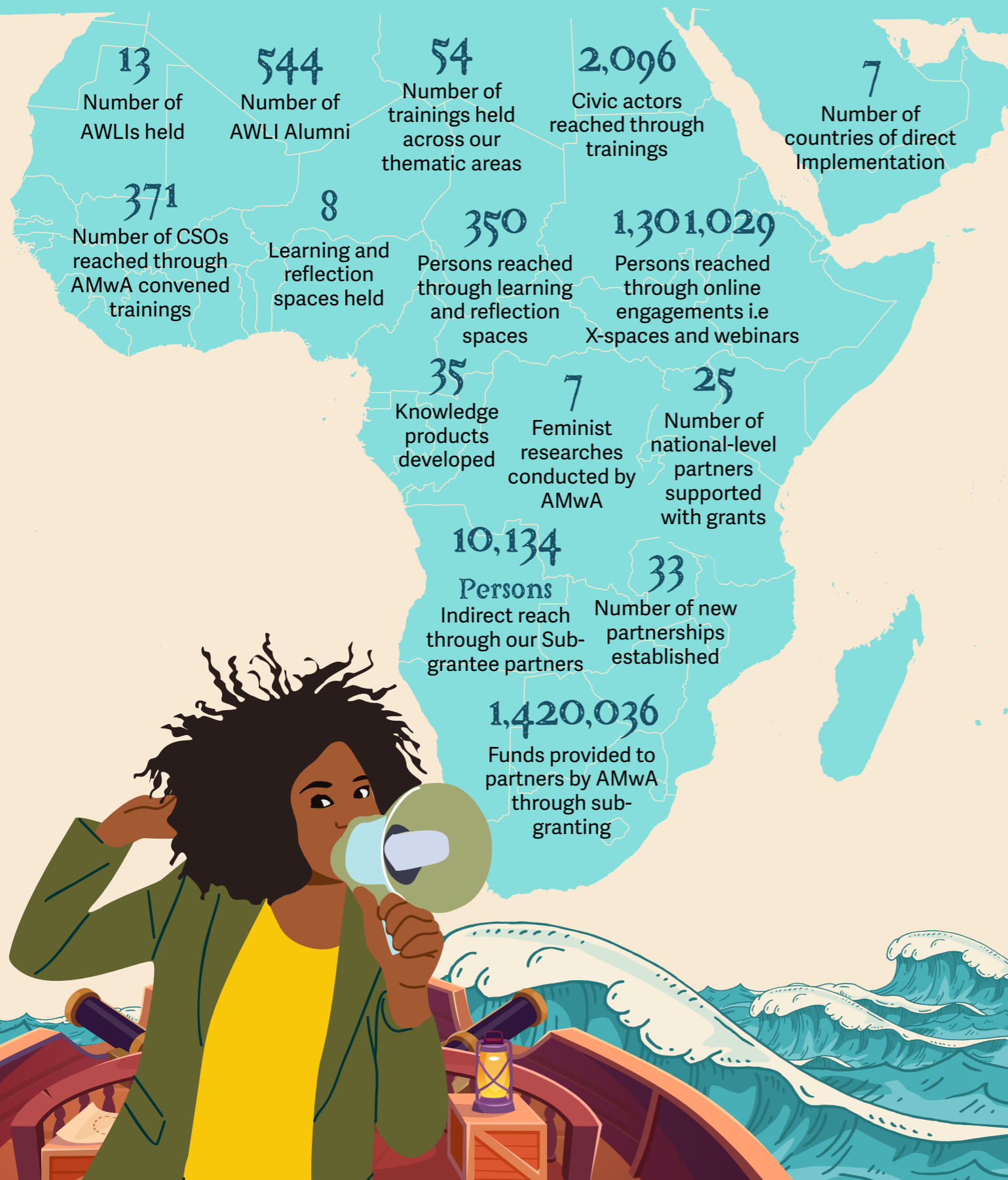
- AMwA is now a member of the South Feminist Fiscal Justice (SFFJ) which comprises 14 other organizations i.e. Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era (DAWN), South Feminist Futures (SFF), MenaFem, Equidad de genero (Equidad), Latin American Network on Debt and Development (LATINDAD), Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), Global Alliance for Tax Justice, Gender and Tax Working Group, Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective (NAWI Collective), International Women's Rights Action Watch-Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP), Asia Pacific Women in Law and Development (APWLD), Association for Women in Development (AWID), the Action Group on Erosion, Technology, and Concentration (ETC Group), DIVA for Equality, and Third World Network (TWN). The group focuses on economic transformation, economic decolonization: debt justice, ending austerity, food systems and food sovereignty, ending extractivism, war and financialization — as it intersects with gender.
- AMwA entered a two-year strategic partnership with the Ford Foundation Africa to build the feminist and transformational leadership capacity and legitimacy of the Women's Caucus in the East African Legislative Assembly. Thus, amplifying the voice, agency, and collective effort of women, girls, and marginalized populations in policy structures and organs of the EAC and the region. Which provides support to the EALA Women's Caucus toward realizing the implementation of the five-year strategic plan through capacity nourishment, strategic partnerships, and knowledge-building.
- Additionally, AMwA entered a one-year partnership with Porticus Africa to examine the role of Feminist and Transformational Leadership in movement-building to generate evidence on current trends, challenges, and opportunities to inform and shape social transformations.

These strategic partnerships underscore AMwA's commitment to advancing feminist and transformational leadership and driving positive change through collaborative efforts with AMwA's constituencies including Funding Partners.

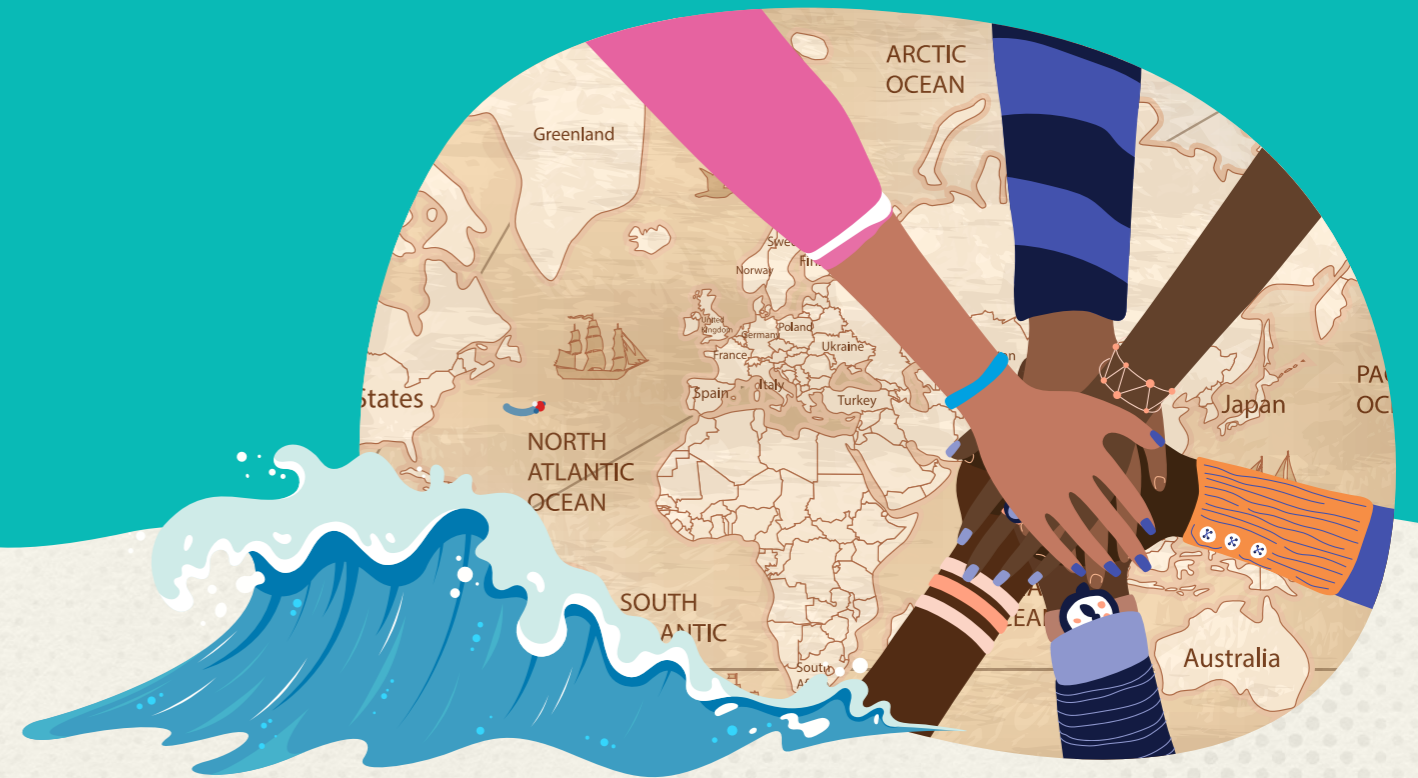


The Miles Covered, Half way Through Our Voyage

(The Numbers midpoint of our strategic journey (2021-2023))



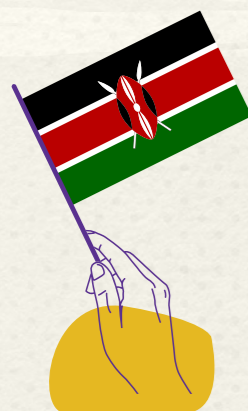
The sea is vast, but a united crew conquers it
(Supporting feminist organizations across the continent)



AMwA is intentional in sharing space and power when engaging and working alongside partners. This support has resulted in significant progress made by our partners in policy influencing and political consciousness-raising. Below are some examples of the progress achieved:



Kenya



Partners efforts towards climate justice

In Kenya, Women's Empowerment Link (WEL) made significant strides in advancing climate justice advocacy and consciousness-raising efforts throughout 2023. Through extensive community outreaches and engagements, WEL mobilized 43 women's groups of 1200 members, fostering grassroots movement building and organizing initiatives. Additionally, WEL actively involved 150 women, youths, and persons with disabilities in the Conference of the Parties (COP) 28 march, providing them a platform to voice their demands for climate action. Further reinforcing their commitment to collaboration, WEL conducted stakeholder mapping exercises involving 83 government and non-governmental stakeholders across five sub-counties. Our collaborations with Members of County Assemblies (MCAs) yielded notable outcomes, with 30 women MCAs from Nakuru, Kitui, and Homa Bay counties, receiving training on inclusive legislation and participatory Gender Responsive budgeting. As a result, WEL developed a manual to cascade information to women at the ward level, while also facilitating MCA engagement in COP 28 activities, thus expanding the movement of climate justice advocates.

Meanwhile, Siyaya Mungano Network showcased commendable progress in mobilizing communities and advocating for climate justice in Kenya's Siyaya County. The network facilitated Participatory Climate Risk Assessment exercises and established ward climate change planning committees in three wards, engaging women in profiling climate risks and identifying mitigation measures. Siyaya Mungano

Network also addressed compliance gaps in the formation of ward climate change committees, petitioning the County Assembly of Siyaya for improvements. Furthermore, the network actively participated in marking key environment days and engaged in climate finance and climate action learning hubs, exploring feminist climate justice approaches. Mobilization efforts extended to training 20 women climate action champions in communication skills, enhancing their capacity to document and disseminate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies effectively. Through engagements with ward climate change planning committees, Siyaya Mungano Network laid the groundwork for locally led projects and promoted accountability in projects supported by the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) initiative at the ward level.

Lastly, the Community Advocacy and Awareness Trust (CRAWN) played a pivotal role in promoting gender-responsive climate action and advocacy at both national and county levels in Kenya. Contributing to the Nairobi Climate Change Management Bill, CRAWN Trust actively engaged in the review of the CSO Engagement Framework for the Climate Finance Unit Kenya, shaping activities for the Financing Locally Led Climate Action Programme. Additionally, the organization conducted a scoping study to undertake a comprehensive analysis of national and county climate change policies, legal frameworks, strategies and plans including advocacy frameworks to identify gaps in gender integration at the national and county levels. Specific findings from the reviewed policies and legislations indicate that climate change policies and legislations at both national and county levels exhibit both gender gains and gaps. These include disparities in policy objectives, gender representation, participation, and access to adaptive mechanisms and resources. Furthermore, some policies lack gender-disaggregated data, hindering their ability to address gender sensitivity effectively. Consequently, these challenges contribute to the non-attainment of policy and legislative objectives and goals.



Furthermore, the network actively participated in marking key environment days and engaged in climate finance and climate action learning hubs, exploring feminist climate justice approaches?



In tandem with the aforementioned achievements, Lamu Women's Alliance (LAWA) has notably bolstered climate justice and gender equality efforts in Lamu County, a coastal town in Kenya. LAWA fostered increased collaboration among civil society groups, engaging over 70 women in joint initiatives with partners like Save Lamu to address climate change challenges collectively. Additionally, LAWA was granted airtime to host a routine radio talk show titled "Strengthening women voices in climate justice". Furthermore, LAWA actively participated in the Green Champions for Change Project, ensuring the meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in key climate processes, and advocating for gender-inclusive climate policies and practices in Kenya.

Zambia



In Zambia, AMwA collaborated with five partners, three of which are dedicated to advancing climate justice: Community Technology and Advocacy Trust (CTDT), Zambia Alliance for Women (ZAW), and Women's Life and Wellness Foundation (WLWF), along with Young Women in Action and Women Alliance for Equality, who advocate for the realization of SRHR. CTDT farmers actively participated in the national Zambia seed and Food Festival to advocate for the promotion of indigenous seeds in ensuring climate justice and food security. Furthermore, CTDT engaged in global advocacy, they participated in the Governing Body Meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture where they lobbied the European Union to address climate change's impact on food security. In collaboration with partners, CTDT advocated for appropriate technologies in food systems and climate mitigation at COP28.

Meanwhile, Women's Life and Wellness Foundation, Zambia Alliance of Women (ZAW), and CTDT organized the first-ever Ecofeminist Food Systems Symposium in Zambia, fostering discussions on gender, climate resilience, and food systems with over 200 participants. The symposium ignited discourse among the media and political actors on the urgency to prioritize food sovereignty and it provided an opportunity to amplify the voices of women in their diversities who are the custodians of indigenous seed and mostly affected by the climate crisis. ZAW also actively engaged in COP28, hosting a National Budget Analysis event aligned with feminist climate justice principles, advocating for increased investment in climate resilience programs empowering women.

Tunisia

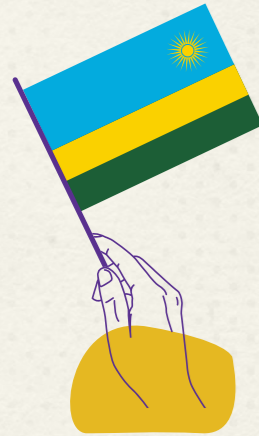


AMwA collaborated with three partners in Tunisia, namely Tunisia Youth Impact (TYI), Community Advocacy and Awareness Trust (APPEDUB), and Tunisia Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (TIPCS), who are all dedicated to advocating for climate justice with a special focus on water justice. In 2023, the movement expanded from three associations to seven associations and clubs predominantly youth and women-led. Notably, this expansion birthed a coalition named Tunisian Next Generation (TNG) club that emphasizes the need for climate finance and raises awareness among decision-makers and stakeholders.

Additionally, 41 youth gained new knowledge on climate justice from a feminist perspective through digital climate campaign materials and participation in the 3EJJA CLIMATIQUE competition, with at least 30% focusing on the stories of women living in fire-affected forests in Tabarka. Additionally, the Tunisian Youth Impact Association, together with partners APPEDUB and the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES), participated in a protest in the rural region of Ouled Amor, Siliana governorate, asserting residents' right to access water. Notably, the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IBSAR), in collaboration with Tunisia Youth Impact Association, initiated the creation of accessible versions of the Gender and Climate Change Guide in audio and Braille, ensuring inclusivity. Lastly, the Tunisian Youth Impact Association's study on 'Gender & Climate Finance' was utilized by the Tunisian electronic journal 'Al Katiba' to compose an Arabic article shedding light on the social struggles faced by rural women exacerbated by climate change.



Rwanda



In Rwanda, AMwA partnered with Impanuro Girls Initiative and Save Generations Organisation under the Make Way programme to establish safe spaces for vulnerable girls and young women, providing them with a platform to freely identify and address their pressing SRHR issues. Rooted in the recognition of the unique challenges faced by vulnerable young women and girls, this project takes a bold step towards bridging critical gaps in access to SRHR services and information. These spaces served as platforms for healing and consciousness-raising, where women and girls held regular meetings to discuss their issues, lead advocacy efforts on identified concerns, and build their capacity for self-advocacy. Formerly isolated individuals reported positive transformations, engaging with others, learning behavioral norms, and actively contributing to discussions, signaling a sense of belonging and positive changes in their attitudes and actions.

The training fostered an environment where individuals felt comfortable sharing their problems, expressing themselves, and seeking support. Participants expressed happiness and gratitude for the positive changes in their lives, emphasizing their appreciation for life which was influenced by the programme. In total Impanuro Girls Initiative reached 180 men and girls in the diversities and 29 duty bearers from Musaza, Gatore and Gisozi regions in Rwanda.

A quote from one of the safe spaces participants;

"At the tender age of 16, I unexpectedly became a mother, mistakenly believing that engaging in daytime sexual activity posed no risk of pregnancy. This misconception was shattered when I discovered I was indeed expecting. The enlightening training sessions have played a pivotal role in broadening my understanding, providing me with the knowledge and skills crucial for navigating SRH. Now armed with accurate information; I not only feel empowered to make informed choices for myself but am also equipped to educate my child about SRH. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to gain insights and skills related to SRHR. Looking ahead, I am dedicated to disseminating this vital information to as many individuals as possible. This newfound knowledge is a potent tool, and I am resolute in sharing it widely for the benefit of those in similar circumstances".

Clarisse Gisozi



Uganda



AMwA supported the Alliance for Women advocating for Change (AWAC) and Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG) to advance intersectional SRHR for Women and girls in their diversities. Throughout the three years of partnership with AMwA, AWAC has expanded its intersectional feminist analysis and ventured into new areas of work, including exploring the intersection between SRHR and the climate crisis. During the commemoration of the 16 days of activism, AWAC organized a training session to raise awareness about the intersection between SRHR and the climate crisis. These aimed to improve knowledge and capacity among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYWs), local leaders, and youths regarding the linkages between climate change, SRHR, and GBV. Of which 61% of training participants reported enhanced knowledge on the nexus between SRHR and climate change drawing more attention on the intersections of these issues within the context of displacements and refugee settlements.



Additionally, in response to the unprecedented challenges and attacks on SRHR in Uganda, In August 2023, AMwA joined an alliance of organizations in Uganda under the auspices of the Rapid Response team (RRT). To jointly implement a project aimed at shaping the narrative and public discourse that supports, safeguards, and protects the SRHR of all people in their diversities in Uganda. The intention is to create a network and build a movement of SRHR frontline advocates in Uganda at the sub-national and national levels.

Data Focus

- Five (5) global policy-influencing spaces participated in by AMwA
- Six (6) national policy influencing spaces engaged in by AMwA.
- Five (5) regional policy influencing spaces engaged in by AMwA.
- Six (6) safe spaces convened for minoritized youth.
- Four (4) side events organized by AMwA at regional and Global policy-influencing areas.
- Eighteen (18) National level sub-grantee partners by AMwA



In 2023, we continued to draw light to the healthcare systems in African countries. Since adopting the Abuja Declaration in 2001, many African nations have struggled to meet their commitments to allocate 15% of their national budgets to strengthen healthcare systems.

Collation of all partners - Supporting feminist organizations across the continent

Kenya

- Women's Empowerment Link (WEL)
- Siaya Muungano Network,
- Community Advocacy and Awareness (CRAWN)Trust,
- Lamu Women Alliance
- Youth Changers Kenya
- Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH)

Zambia

- Young Women in Action
- Women Alliance for Equality

Tunisia

- Tunisian Youth Impact
- Tunisian Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies
- Association Apedubb
- ATUDAR



Rwanda

- Impanuro Girls Initiative
- Save Generations Organisation

Ethiopia

- Timret Lehiwot Ethiopia
- Nikat Charitable Association

Sudan

- National Sudanese Women's Association - WPL

Uganda

- Alliance for Women Advocating for Change
- Freedom and Roam Uganda



Friend across the waters list of implementing partners

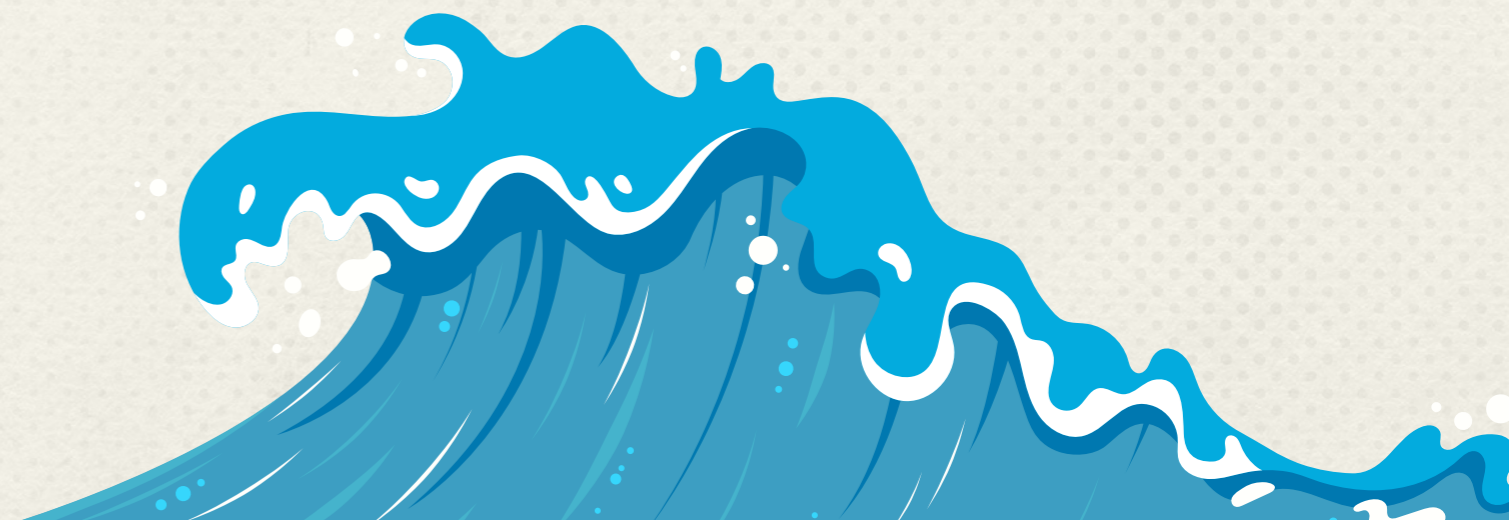


Consortium Partners

- Netherlands Institute for Multi-Party Democracy (NIMD)
- Centre for Mediterranean and International Studies
- Goree Institute
- Mzalendo Trust
- World Wide Fund for Nature
- Hivos
- South South North
- Slum Dwellers International
- Forum for African Educationalists
- Volunteer Services Overseas
- Wemos
- The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
- Liliane Fonds
- Katalemwa Cheshire Home for Rehabilitation Services
- Fundacion Avina
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Alliance

List of development partners

- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Global Fund for Women
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- Porticus
- Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands - Uganda
- Ford Foundation
- Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development - CEHURD



Great voyages are made by
a strong crew



Organizational strengthening: Building an organization with a soul

Every year presents growth opportunities for AMwA, both as an organization and for its individuals. Here are three critical areas in which AMwA experienced growth in 2023.

a) Institutional Strengthening

In early 2023, AMwA embarked on a journey to usher in the new Board of Directors aiming to honor the team transitioning while fostering diversity, strategic alignment and expertise within the incoming team. To facilitate this transition, AMwA organized a learning space with key stakeholders focusing on feminist transformational leadership within governance to foster a deeper understanding of governance within

feminist organizations, address issues of power and hierarchy, and explore the roles of the Board of Directors and management team in advancing AMwA's vision and objectives.

Additionally, over the past two years, we expanded our grants portfolio from seed grants to encompass medium and large grants. While this expansion brought valuable learning experiences, it also presented challenges. To capitalize on these experiences and enhance the organization's capacity for co-creative grantmaking, AMwA convened a learning space focused on feminist grantmaking. During this initiative, staff reflected on lessons learned, drawing from internal experiences and those of both sub-grantee and alliance partners. The goal of this session was to co-create a granting mechanism unique to each grant level. And indeed, the reflections resulted in the revision of the sub-granting manual and the development of comprehensive guidelines. These changes have significantly streamlined the organization's operations with partners.

Furthermore, 2023 marked the midpoint of our strategic journey (2021 – 2025), and a mid-term evaluation was conducted. Additionally, AMwA has three programmes funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs which also underwent a mid-term assessment this year. The insights gathered from these reviews were pivotal in shaping AMwA's learning agenda for 2024, and implementation strategies.

Staff Capacity Building

In April 2023, eight AMwA staff members participated in a four-week online Project Management Course. This training equipped the team with a deeper understanding of the project management cycle, as well as the fundamentals of Monitoring and Evaluation, and Resource Mobilization. Additionally, based on a capacity assessment conducted on the Finance and Administration team the previous year, the team underwent specialized finance training for practitioners. As the organization continues to strengthen staff capacity in research and communication skills, two AMwA staff members undertook a research training provided by Research Plus under their Practitioners Academy. This initiative grounded staff in research methodologies and enhanced their communication and documentation abilities. Additionally, all AMwA staff were trained in report writing, a skill they will continue to garner collectively in 2024. In response to the fragile civic environment, AMwA convened safety and security training for all its staff to safeguard both the individuals and the organization at large.



Having Sailed Far, We Return With Rich Lessons

In our ongoing pursuit of building an organization with a soul, AMwA has recognized the value of collective learning. In 2023, our internal learning spaces were instrumental in shaping our strategy and fostered a growth mindset that viewed challenges as opportunities for deep reflection and organizational awareness, leading to continuous improvement. Each learning experience enhanced our ability to adopt and advance feminist alternatives at the individual and institutional levels. Moving forward, AMwA will continue this ritual and open the learning sessions to the wider feminist movement.

Systems Strengthening

In strengthening our systems and shifting to digital technologies, AMwA has been committed to contributing in saving the planet and reducing our carbon footprint. In so doing we transitioned from traditional paper-based processes to a digital and automated system facilitated by the Management Information System (MIS). This transition has significantly reduced paper usage and enhanced operational efficiency, particularly in requisition management. Moreover, AMwA migrated from a desktop QuickBooks system to an online QuickBooks platform seamlessly integrated with the MIS and other internal finance systems, ensuring a more streamlined financial management process.

Data Focus:

- 30 - Akina Mama wa Afrika staff
- 5 - Capacity building initiatives conducted for staff
- 2 - Internal Organizational learning spaces convened



Over the past year, AMwA has learned the critical importance of strengthening our institutional systems to remain adaptable in the face of a shrinking civic space. As civic spaces become increasingly restricted, it is vital for organizations like ours to have robust systems that can respond swiftly and effectively to changing circumstances. To this end, we have focused on enhancing our internal processes, improving our governance structures, and building resilience within our teams. These efforts are not only about maintaining operations but also about thriving despite external challenges. As a testament to our commitment to adaptability and sustainability, AMwA has expanded its legal presence beyond Uganda and is now also registered in Kenya. This strategic move strengthens our capacity to navigate and influence different civic environments, ensuring that our work is sustained across the region.

Regarding feminist foreign policy, there is a need for coordinated international responses to push back against rollbacks on women’s rights and those of gender-expansive persons. We thus hope that states embracing feminist foreign policy will have an opportunity to lead global efforts in promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and human rights by fostering alliances and leveraging diplomatic channels to address backlash effectively.

So, as we gear up for 2024, the lessons learned underscore the multifaceted nature of patriarchy’s resurgence, which manifests through the consolidation and alignment of ultra-conservative and anti-rights actors. This resurgence is closely intertwined with authoritarian tendencies that undermine global democracy. As we reflect on these lessons, it becomes evident that addressing patriarchy’s resurgence requires a holistic approach.

What we have in our treasure chest



1.1. Statement of Financial Position

	31-Dec-23		31-Dec-22	
	Actual		Actual	
	UGX	USD	UGX	USD
Property, and Equipment	1,403,605,851	531,651	1,386,582,922	372,737
Cash and Cash Equivalents	7,846,755,897	2,003,257	6,374,226,981	1,713,502
Advances and Prepayments	7,985,573	2,039	37,008,993	9,949
UAP Investment	1,128,463,422	461,408	19,057,338	5,123
TOTAL	10,386,810,743	2,998,355	7,816,876,234	2,101,311
Represented by:				
Restricted Fund	3,201,895,593	864,910	3,036,576,795	841,931
Unrestricted Fund	1,451,101,203	640,653	-	-
General Fund	632,257,611	169,147	(32,180,561)	(10,334)
Capital Fund	1,403,605,850	351,454	1,386,582,923	348,774
	6,688,860,257	2,026,164	4,390,979,157	1,180,370
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	1,801,819,043	460,000	1,924,139,231	517,242
Due to Related Party	-	-	40,000,000	10,753
Deferred Income	1,896,131,443	512,191	1,461,757,847	392,946
	3,697,950,486	972,191	3,425,897,078	920,940
TOTAL	10,386,810,743	2,998,355	7,816,876,234	2,101,311

1.2. Statement of Income and Retained Funds

Receipts	31-Dec-23				31-Dec-22			
	Restricted Fund		Unrestricted Fund		General Fund		Total Actual	
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	UGX	USD	EUR
Grants Received	10,492,396,192	2,249,850,000	-	12,742,246,192	3,442,732	9,784,952,561	2,691,872	2,477,830
Other Income	-	50,012,836	637,297,579	687,310,415	185,659	838,340,881	230,630	212,292
Total Funds	10,492,396,192	2,299,862,836	637,297,579	13,429,556,607	3,628,391	10,623,293,442	2,922,502	2,690,122
Payments								
Programme Costs								
Long-term Outcome 1. A Pan-African feminist agenda advanced in political and decision-making spaces	1,422,380,703	25,199,000	16,321,950	1,463,901,653	395,435	3,055,512,605	840,581	773,743
Long-term Outcome 2. Feminist alternatives adopted as viable sustainable development models and system	2,248,526,958	14,509,741	-	2,263,036,699	611,301	2,740,559,199	753,937	693,988
Long-term Outcome 3. African women, girls, and gender expansive persons realize their Sexual and Reproductive Health	1,068,079,848	84,156,810	17,513,005	1,169,749,662	315,978	4,820,017,561	1,326,002	1,220,567
Long-term Outcome 4. A feminist organization with a soul that excels at learning, creativity and innovation	5,559,752,936	724,896,082	15,248,923	6,299,897,941	1,701,755	-	-	-
Total Programme Costs	10,298,740,445	848,761,633	49,083,877	11,196,585,955	3,024,469	10,616,089,365	2,920,520	2,688,298
Foreign Exchange (Gain)/Loss	887,336	-	(48,754,571)	(47,867,234)	(12,930)	(106,249,303)	(29,230)	(26,905)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	192,768,411	1,451,101,203	636,968,272	2,280,837,886	616,852	113,453,379	31,212	28,730
Prior year adjustment	-	-	20,287	20,287	5	-	-	-
Fund balance as at 1 st January	3,009,127,182	-	(4,730,949)	3,004,396,233	837,767	2,890,942,854	806,555	732,070
Fund balance as at 31st December	3,201,895,593	1,451,101,203	632,257,611	5,285,254,406	1,454,624	3,004,396,233	837,767	760,799



Senior Management

Eunice Musiime - Executive Director

Beth Naluboka Masangah - Head of Finance and Administration

Sarah Nannyondo Okello - Head of Programmes

SRHR

Olabukunola Williams - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Lead

Grace Namataka - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Officer

Daphine Arinda - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Associate

Kirsteen Ssebabi - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Support

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Project Liaison - ZambiaChipasha
Mwansa

Finance & Admin

Barbra Kahunde - Finance Officer

Wilson Serubidde - Senior Finance Officer

Margaret Nambi - Finance and Grants officer

Kyabagye Safura - Human Resource and Administration Officer

Isaac Mulindwa - IT Officer

Edwin Nahabwe - Finance and Administration Associate

WPL

Chimwemwe Fabiano - Women's Political Leadership Lead

Jean Ngobi - Women's Political Leadership Officer

Sharon Eryenyu - Women's Political Leadership Associate

Stella Nansamba - Women's Political Leadership Consultant

EJCA

Faith Lumonya - Economic Justice & Climate Action Lead

Jennifer Lipenga - Economic Justice & Climate Action Officer

Joanita Najjuko - Economic Justice & Climate Action Officer

Precious Tricia Abwooli - Economic Justice & Climate Action Associate

MEAL

Nyakato Bitamisi - Monitoring, Evaluation Accountability and Learning-Officer

Martha Naluwende - Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning Associate

Communications

Ndiilokelwa Nthengwe - Communications Coordinator

Mubeezi Tenda - Communications Associate

Support

Constance Tumuhanye - Administrative assistant

Annet Mutuwa - Administrative assistant

Emmanuel Byamungu - Transport Assistant



AMwA key events



1. AMwA ED engages with President Suluhi at the Africa Drive for Democracy -June 2023 Arusha, Tz
2. AMwA at the #5GIMACRECs Meeting
3. AMwA at the 2nd Democracy Pre Summit event in Lusaka Zambia
4. AMwA at the Africa Climate Week
5. AMwA at the Alternative Mining Indaba 2023 (AMI) happening now in Cape Town, South Africa.
6. AMwA at the Women Deliver Conference
7. AMwA at theRethink Climate Finance space
8. AMwA with VCA partners



9. At the Maputo Celebrations
10. Co-convening the Inaugural Democracy School
11. IMG_7888
12. Democracy Drive Citizen_s Conference 2
13. World Bank Meetings
14. Kenya Women Leaders Induction Meeting
15. The #AfricanClimateSummit gender pre-event day
16. WPL AWLI for women political leaders

Staff Photo shoot



AWLI 2023 EJCA AWLI zambia



SRHR AWLI



Regional AWLI



WPL Regional AWLI



Healing Festival 2023



Fun Pictures 2023



Afro-connections



Always by your side



AMWA at World Bank Meetings 2023



Copy of AWLI Media Journalists in the field



Catching Flights



Dancing our way into the revolution



Do you feel the vibe tho_



Carrying the Economic Justice Gospel



Feminists by day, rappers by night



Few drinks, lots of joy



Fun Moments



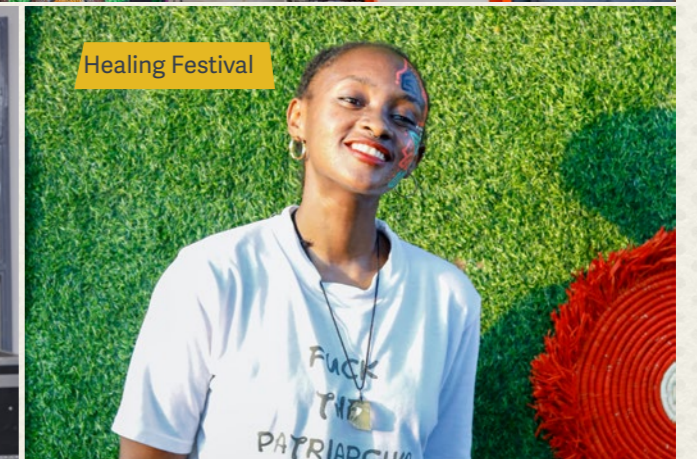
Fun time



Gifts are AMWA's Love



Happiness is free



Healing Festival



Her sister's keeper



Holding each other through it all



Say Cheese



Light Moments with the AMwA Board



Make Way consortium



Old Members and New Board members



Pondering on feminist utopias



Shaking tables at World Bank



Souvenirs



The revolution must be playful



Who wants a revolution



Work Besties



AMwA at Feminist Cop



Copy of Face Painting Healing Festival

The good winds beneath our sails New Board Members



Rainatou Sow
Member
Senegal



Madeleine Kennedy-Macfoy
Member
Sierra Leone



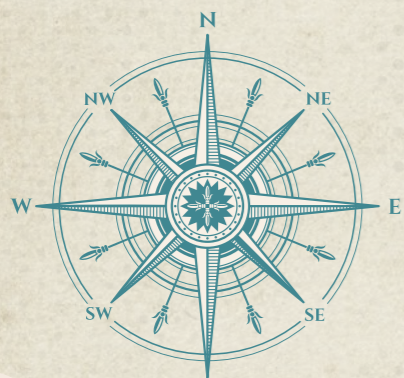
Anita Asaba Akishure
Treasurer
Uganda



Elizabeth Lwanga
Chairperson
Uganda



Carmeliza Rosario
Member
Mozambique



Coming into the harbour

In conclusion, this annual report serves as a comprehensive reflection on AMwA's endeavors and achievements over the past year. The report underscores AMwA's unwavering commitment to advocating for a just world rooted in the principles of Pan-African feminism, as evidenced by its multifaceted programmes spanning feminist and transformational leadership development, research and knowledge building, policy influencing and movement building, and arts and creative expression.

As AMwA navigates the complexities of its mission, it remains steadfast in its pursuit of social justice, guided by the enduring spirit of radical love. The report serves not only as a testament to past achievements but also as a roadmap for future endeavors, as AMwA continues to strive for a more equitable and inclusive Africa for all, committing to sailing to the golden shores.

THE END



Acknowledgements

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