
CONSULTANCY TERMS OF REFERENCE/ EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Policy Brief Development on the Sahel Polycrisis

Background

UAF-Africa is a feminist, pan African, rapid response Fund, committed to transforming power relations through resourcing African feminists and womn¹ human rights defenders and their formations as an act of solidarity. We are a part of the ecosystem of feminist and womn's movements in Africa and globally. In character we are bold and courageous, proactive, and responsive, creative, and rigorous, curious, alert, and agile, imaginative, and grounded, consistent, and reliable.

Operating as a virtual organisation, the Fund boasts of strategic presence in Africa's five sub-regions- **East Africa:** Nairobi & Makuyu-Kenya, Kampala-Uganda and Addis Ababa-Ethiopia; **North Africa:** Cairo-Egypt; **Central Africa:** Bujumbura-Burundi; **Southern Africa:** Harare-Zimbabwe, Lilongwe-Malawi, Antananarivo-Madagascar, Johannesburg & Cape Town-South Africa; and **West Africa:** Benue & Abuja States -Nigeria, Accra-Ghana, Parakou-Benin, Yaoundé & Doula-Cameroon, and Lomé, Togo. Recognising the need to move resources rapidly on a continent where opportunities and threats arise and decline quickly, UAF-Africa established itself as a base for a Rapid response Grant-making mechanism.

Encased in a movement-building approach, the Fund supports and works with feminist movements, feminist activists and African womn's human rights defenders (AWHRDs) on the following **strategic priorities** - **Solidarity and support** (grant making, accompaniment, linking), **Agenda setting and advocacy**, **Knowledge leadership** and **fostering cultures of care**. Engaging with interrelated broad themes of People (peace and political participation); Power (social and economic power); and Planet (natural resource governance and stewardship). The Fund's programmatic operations engage deeply with various sub-themes including sustaining AWHRDs and their organizations in challenging contexts.

The polycrisis in the Sahel region is one of the world's fastest growing and most neglected crises. It lacks sufficient global attention, resources, and urgency. The reality of most crises is

¹ At the Fund, the use of womn is a simple act of challenging and replacing traditional ideas of what and who a womn is and can be and the links of womn to a system of patriarchy where womn are, in effect, subject to men or a sub-category of men. Additionally, womn' for us also includes lesbian, bisexual womn and transwomn.

that women and young girls are disproportionately affected and shoulder the consequences of instability and violence that almost always ensues, with unconscionable impacts on their safety, livelihood, health, life chances and agency. The Sahel polycrisis is multi-dimensional, highly gendered, and driven by overlapping factors such as religious fundamentalism, political instability, democratic collapse, rising inequalities and poverty, inequitable distribution of governmental public service provision, climate change, terrorism including external factors like the war in Ukraine.

The multiple and continuous terrorist attacks are rolling back women's rights in the Sahel region. There have been increased terrorist attacks in the region when the political environment is unstable. For example, since the coup d'état in Niger, the country recorded an increase in terrorist attacks with the deadliest occurring on July 27th. The increased insecurity is making it difficult for women's rights organizations and women's human rights defenders to carry out their work due to risks and security concerns. Despite these challenges, women continue to show remarkable strength and resilience to navigate the hostile environment and work for transformative change in the lives of women.

Against this backdrop, UAF-Africa seeks a feminist consultant to develop a comprehensive policy brief that examines the current Sahel polycrisis while providing actionable recommendations for philanthropic/donor responses towards advancing women's rights in Francophone West Africa.

Objectives of the Consultancy

The feminist consultant will be required to:

- Conduct an in-depth analysis of the current Sahel polycrisis with a particular focus on its impact on feminist and women's human rights defenders, their organisations and movements. This should be juxtaposed against historical and contextual political, social, economic, and cultural factors.
- Assess the challenges faced by feminist, women's rights activists, women's rights organizations and defenders in Francophone West Africa, made worse by the Sahel polycrisis.
- Review and assess existing policies, programmes, and initiatives aimed at supporting feminist organizing and women's rights in Francophone West Africa, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses (from community-based, national, regional, and global perspectives).
- Research and compile best practices, including successful strategies from other contexts on supporting feminist and women's rights organizations and defenders operating in challenging environments. This should also include UAF-Africa's response and lessons from supporting feminist movements and groups in Francophone West Africa.
- Develop a set of practical and actionable recommendations for philanthropic/donor responses, cognizant of policy measures, capacity sharing initiatives, resourcing feminist movements' responses and collaboration opportunities, as effective strategies to supporting feminist and women's rights organizations and defenders in

Francophone West Africa. Recommendations will be generated from feminist movements in Francophone West Africa, UAF-Africa, and other key informants.

Scope of Activities/Deliverables

The feminist consultant will be required to perform the following tasks/activities:

- Conduct a comprehensive desk review and analyze relevant literature, reports, and documents related to the polycrisis in the Sahel region and how it is impacting feminist organizing and women's rights in Francophone West Africa.
- Conduct interviews and consultations with key stakeholders, including women's rights organizations, defenders, feminist activists, political analysts, civil society organizations, UAF-Africa staff, and subject-matter experts. Some of these will include online focus group discussions with diverse women from the context to generate a movement-informed analysis.
- Review and analyze existing policies, legal frameworks, and initiatives related to feminist organizing and women's rights in the Sahel region and other Francophone West African countries highlighting gaps and areas for improvement.
- Analyze data and information collected to assess the current state of women's rights in the Sahel region including other Francophone West Africa countries and identify priority areas for intervention.
- Identify and document successful initiatives, projects, strategies, and interventions undertaken by women's rights organizations, feminist activists, Feminist and Women's Funds, women human rights defenders in the region and other comparable contexts.
- Analyze UAF-Africa's conceptual and operational guidelines on feminist crisis response and its engagement in the context to inform the analysis and/or structure of the brief.
- Develop a 10 (ten) paged policy brief that includes a situational analysis, key findings, challenges, opportunities, and targeted recommendations to philanthropists/donors.

Required qualifications.

The consultant must have the following qualifications:

- Master's degree in social sciences, international relations, political sciences (especially political theory and geopolitics), or related fields.
- Minimum ten years' experience working in a similar context.
- Demonstrated expertise in critical feminist analysis, gender justice, women's rights, and policy analysis.
- Strong research and analytical skills, with a track record of producing high-quality reports or policy briefs, including the ability to gather and synthesize information from various sources.
- In-depth knowledge of West Africa and the Sahel region and its socio-political, economic, legal context.

- Experience working with feminist and women's rights organizations, defenders, and relevant stakeholders in the francophone region.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and French.

Application process

1. Interested feminist consultants are requested to submit an expression of interest in a single document that includes:
 - a. Consultant's profile
 - b. Understanding of the scope of the work
 - c. Updated CV outlining relevant experience.
 2. Proposed methodology and detailed timeline with deliverables
 3. Detailed Cost breakdown
 4. Reference sites/cases of similar work done.
 5. Proven experience working with organisations from West Africa and in the Sahel region.
 6. Experience working with non-profit women's rights/feminist organisations is an added advantage.

Timeline: The consultant will be expected to complete the assignment within two months from a period starting 9th October – 9th December, 2023.

How to Apply

Candidates interested in applying should send their applications to:

proposals@uaf-africa.org

No phone calls please.

We thank all those who apply, but only shortlisted applications will be contacted. To learn more about UAF-Africa and our programs, please visit our website at <http://www.uaf-africa.org/>

All applications must be received on or before **September 30th, 2023 by 5:00p.m. EAT.** Late applications will not be considered.

