

**URGENT  
ACTION  
FUND +  
AFRICA**

FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

# The other end of the rope

**Focusing COVID-19 response  
on those who need it the most**

April 2020

## Context

As at **30th April 2020**,  
the **World Health Organisation**  
reported 24,713 cases of COVID-19  
in Africa

**24,713**

Reported cases of COVID-19 in Africa



Most of the national proposed risk  
mitigation measures if not authentically  
practiced might present instances of  
**constitutional rights  
violations.**

Many on the continent are  
struggling with the effects of

**school closures,  
lockdowns, self-  
isolation and  
physical  
distancing.**



In Africa, it is people who live at the margins of society including women in **rural areas and urban slums, women refugees and prisoners, women in the informal economy like street vendors and care givers, gender non-conforming people, women with disabilities and those living with HIV & AIDS** among other chronic illnesses are affected the most. It is these same group of people who fall into the low income bracket, lacking social safety nets of public health, maternity and child care services.



The feminisation of the impact of  
COVID-19 is further worsened by  
**unavailable/weak health  
systems and structures,**  
and lack of state commitment to gender  
equality in many African countries.



# Observation from our COVID-19 rapid response grant making



COVID-19 support has gradually shifted to Gender Based Violence (GBV) responses, immediate practical and strategic needs such as personal protective equipment, water, food as well as online advocacy engagement.



Governments' militarised efforts to raise awareness and curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic are focused in major cities and not in rural areas, thereby restricting access to information.

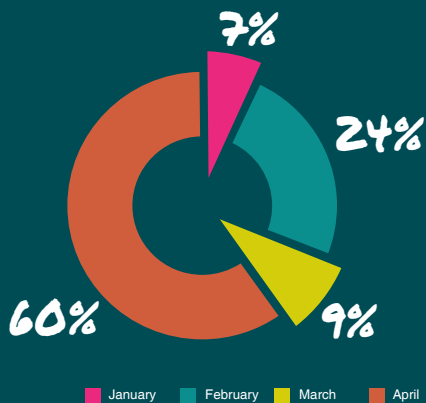


Women vendors, female refugees, and women with disabilities are facing structural challenges. Most of the measures taken by governments to contain the spread of the virus have a direct impact on their livelihood as these population live on daily wages.

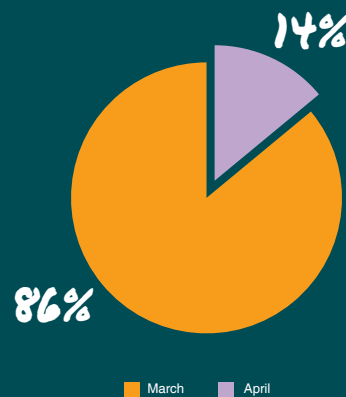


The number of grants requests we receive per week has trebled. We have continued to support the resilience and wellbeing of African Women's Human Rights Defenders during this COVID-19 pandemic by providing additional grants to cover collective care and healing and disability rights advocacy.

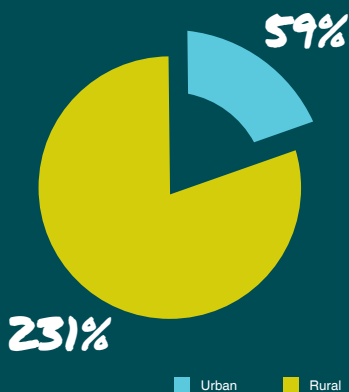
## Increased grants request



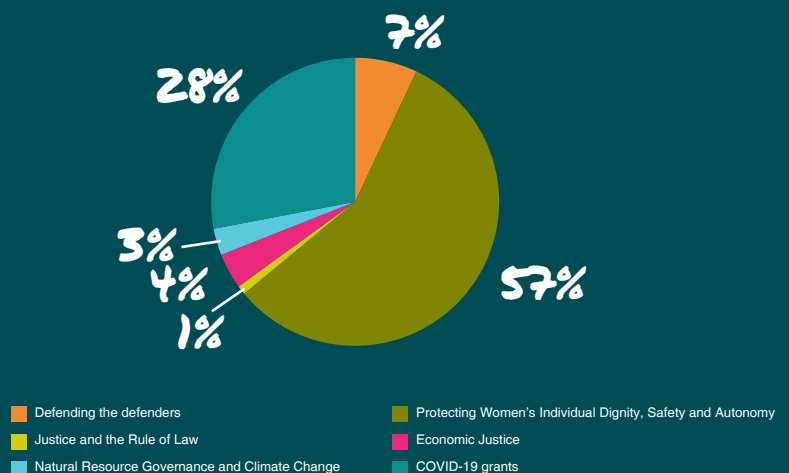
## Number of grants awarded



## Requests by geographic location



## Requests by thematic area



# Configuring our grant making to suit COVID-19 demands

We are bolstering our rapid response grant making to ensure women and gender non-conforming people's dignity and rights are protected, respected and advanced during this time of crisis. As a feminist and women's rights pan-African Fund, we will continue to utilise our Rapid Response Grantmaking (RRG) mechanism to support African women's human rights during this fast-evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, we are supporting initiatives that:



Develop and widely disseminate gendered messages and information about the disease.



Simplify and/or translate the complex COVID-19 information that is being shared by governments and public health experts into simple and local languages.



Respond to immediate practical needs such as water & sanitation service, hygiene & dignity parts, food, masks and so on.



Conduct action research/ document the effects of the pandemic on women and gender non-conforming groups.



Address issues of gender-based violence particularly aggravated by COVID-19.



Create awareness education on the COVID-19 at the grassroots level targeting informal sector rural/ urban slums communities and other at-risk groups.



Respond to collective care and healing to deal with distress caused by persistent forms of exclusion, violence and marginalisation. We are supporting strategic, sustainable, bold and unique initiatives that are proposed by our constituencies across Africa.

## Reach out to us

We will walk and work with our grantee partners during this trying moment. Our grantmaking team stands ready to fully discuss changes to the implementation of your activities. Specifically, we encourage you to reach out to your respective Grantmaking Officers to discuss the possibility of:

- Shifting your activities to align with the current environment and challenges
- Postponing or cancelling some activities, especially those related to physical convenings and meetings
- Delaying some grant deliverables such as reports
- Discussing how some resources might already have been sunk into anticipated meetings and campaign preparations that will now not happen

The UAF-Africa grantmaking team is available to receive your grants requests/ proposals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 a year. All grant requests will be acknowledged within 24 hours and resources wired out to successful grantees within 72 hours after necessary due diligence has been conducted.

For further information on our RRG mechanism, we request you to check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on our website or email us and we can chat to clarify any issues, especially relating to the support we are offering in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UAF-Africa staff are available to respond to your questions and concerns. You can contact us by email at [proposals@uaf-africa.org](mailto:proposals@uaf-africa.org) with the subject line - **Changes to the implementation plan**. Additionally, you can call us on + 254 732 577 560.



Our social media platforms are open for messaging

 [urgentactionfundafrica](https://www.facebook.com/urgentactionfundafrica)

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 [Urgent Action Fund-Africa](https://www.youtube.com/UrgentActionFund-Africa)

# 'However long the night, dawn will break'

African  
Proverb

## Together, we are turning this tide!