



Voices for Just Climate Action Programme

Call for Proposals for Creative Partners

Issuance date: 25th May 2023

Deadline for Proposal Submissions: 14th June 2023 at **18:00** EAT

Funding Type: Project Grant

Project Size: €10,000 - €50,000

1.0 Introduction

Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) under the auspices of the Voices for Climate Action (VCA) programme welcomes proposals from African based feminist creative organizations, collectives, and coalitions to partner in developing innovative advocacy knowledge products and materials. Through this partnership, our hope is to illuminate the precarious and yet often ignored nexus between the climate crisis and the economic justice struggle. Cognizant of the power of the arts and creative expression in raising political consciousness and challenging dominant orthodoxies, we are seeking proposals that will contribute towards building a critical mass of Pan-African feminist leaders and thinkers working to influence policies and ensure the adoption of feminist alternatives as strategies for sustainable development.

1.1 About Akina Mama wa Afrika

Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) is a feminist Pan-African leadership development organization with headquarters in Kampala, Uganda. Our work is rooted in feminist principles and beliefs guided by the Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists which define our leadership development program and movement building activities. We envision a world in which African women are politically, economically, and socially autonomous and are champions of change in their lives and society. Our thematic areas of focus include Women's Political Leadership, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Economic Justice and Climate Action. The organization's work is advanced through feminist and transformational leadership development, feminist research and knowledge building, and policy influence and movement building. AMwA provides strategic direction in key Pan-African networks including NGO CSW Africa, Solidarity for African Women's Rights, and the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign. AMwA also has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. AMwA is part of the VCA, a global alliance of 5 organizations working across 3 regions i.e. Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America to drive locally-shaped solutions to climate change challenges by empowering

local civil society groups and citizens to have their voices heard and be advocates and co-creators in finding solutions.

1.2 About Voices for Climate Action (VCA)

The Voices for Climate Action (VCA) is a 5-year programme (2021-2025) supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs government under the “**Power of Voices**” framework. The programme is being implemented in Kenya, Tunisia, Zambia, Bolivia-Paraguay, Brazil, and Indonesia and targets Women and Youth in all their diversities, Indigenous peoples, Urban poor, feminist movements and women’s rights organizations, civil society organizations, human rights activists, government technocrats, policy makers, media practitioners as well as women and girls in all their diversities.

Under VCA, we recognize that we are at a critical stage, not only in our fight against the climate crisis, but also in addressing the economic and social challenges to transform our societies in a sustainable, just and inclusive manner, the programme aims to scale up climate action response targeting vulnerable communities. VCA further seeks to drive locally-shaped solutions to climate change challenges by empowering local civil society groups and citizens to have their voices heard and be advocates and co-creators in finding solutions. Civil society needs to engage and especially amplify the voices of those who have been left at the margins of decision making and climate action to influence climate change policies. Business as usual approach to climate action will no longer suffice and is no longer appropriate.

Our approach focuses on building broad societal support for local solutions and stimulating action from diverse perspectives and alternative approaches. We facilitate unexpected new coalitions that protect and expand civic space and engage in inclusive dialogue that builds mutual trust. In doing so, we shift ownership to local civil society and support them in movement building, raising their voice to the global level and challenging power balances. We focus on strengthening mutual capacity for co-creating alternative scaled climate solutions; Setting the agenda and building movements in climate action through amplified storytelling; and undertaking joint lobbying and advocacy to make policy and financial flows responsive to locally shaped climate solutions.

2.0 Background and Justification

Climate justice and economic justice are inextricably linked. The current economic world order which is heavily anchored in neoliberal capitalism, imperialism, patriarchy, neo-colonialism, and other systems of oppression have contributed greatly to the climate crisis. Addressing the climate crisis therefore requires transforming the institutions and systems that influence the historically unequal power dynamics between people from the Global North and South, promote complex cultural and social dynamics that influence gender norms, and establish legislation that place the responsibility of addressing the climate crisis on those that bear its impacts, among others. Mitigating/ undoing the crisis cannot therefore be fully effective without addressing the extractive and exploitative nature of our economic systems whose key actors largely seek profit, and convey little regard to the need to protect, preserve and conserve the natural ecosystem.

As Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), we believe that addressing the climate crisis requires identifying and acknowledging the root causes and effects of the climate crisis. As part of the VCA programme, our role is to ensure an integration of feminist intersectional approaches, theories, and principles to address

existing climate problems and advancing just and inclusive solutions. This includes facilitating the adoption of strategies to prevent the deepening of inequalities while addressing the structural factors that cause and maintain the discrimination of women and other minorities groups. We base our political awareness, activism, and advocacy on the evidence gathered through feminist research and knowledge development. In understanding that gender, racial, and class power dynamics impede knowledge production and assign validity and worth based on location and identity, we foreground the criticality of feminist theory in issue analysis to arrive at solutions that look to transform instead of reform.

We view arts and creative expression as a strategy that has a unique ability to serve as a rallying cry for change, with the profound power to disseminate complex messages across large audiences in a common, easy-to-understand manner that inspires the masses. Therefore, as we embark on a quest to make the existing wealth of knowledge on climate and economic justice more accessible to a wider audience and to shift power, we will leverage creative expression to draw on a wider range of ideas and perspectives. This will enable us to promote a deeper understanding and enhanced engagement with the material, leading to better retention and application.

It is against this background that we seek collaboration with a partner who shares our vision to inspire new ideas and provide a fresh perspective to effectively challenge the ongoing polycrisis.

4.0 Call for Proposals

Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA) under the auspices of the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) programme is seeking arts and creative partners whose work espouses feminist principles and values to develop creative advocacy products and materials. We encourage partners with diverse creative capabilities from audio, visual, and other artistry displays that can portray the lived experiences of African women, girls and gender diverse persons. The work of the partners will target key actors such as feminist movements and women's rights organizations, civil society organizations, human rights activists, government technocrats, policy makers and media practitioners.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply?

We welcome organizations/creative hubs/collectives with the following areas of expertise:

- a. Minimum 3 years' experience implementing advocacy projects using arts and creative strategies
- b. Proven commitment to human rights and women's rights activism and demonstrable experience in social justice or human rights broadly
- c. Technical knowledge of/expertise in areas of economic and climate justice
- d. Evidence of previous experience in using arts and creatives for advocacy/activism
- e. A team with interpersonal skills and ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people in a multicultural, multi-interest, multi-ethnic environment,
- f. Ability to communicate and work effectively in English.

4.2 Grant Value

Grants will be awarded annually for the duration of the VCA programme (2023 – 2025) depending on performance and availability of funds. Grants range up to EUR 10,000 – EUR 50,000 annually and applications should be within this range. Applications should include an indicative budget in the concept note. A full and detailed budget is not expected at the concept note stage.

4.3 How to Apply

Proposals should include the following:

- A detailed description of the proposed creative and advocacy strategies you would use to meet your desired project goals; clearly explain the targeted results, and how they will be measured
- A brief description of your organization or coalition and why you are well-suited to carry out the proposed work
- Provide at least two examples of previous creative work that was produced by you or one of the members of your organization to advance women’s rights. Include a link to an online platform where the previous work has been shared
- Identify a Lead and their name, phone number, and email information
- Amount of request (**EUR 10,000 – EUR 50,000**) and indicative budget

5.0 Application and submission Timelines

Date	Item
25th May 2023	Issuance of ‘ <i>Call for Proposals</i> ’
14th June 2023 at 18:00 EAT	Deadline for submission of Proposals
15th - 19th June 2023	Assessment of Proposals
20th June 2023	Successful applicants are notified
20th to 27th June 2023	Organizational Capacity Assessment
1st July 2023	Signing of contracts

Kindly complete your Proposal by using the template ([link here](#)). Completed Proposals should be submitted to proposals@akinamamawaafrika.org with the subject title ‘CALL FOR CREATIVE PARTNERS’. For further information, questions, or clarifications, please contact lumonya@akinamamawaafrika.org.