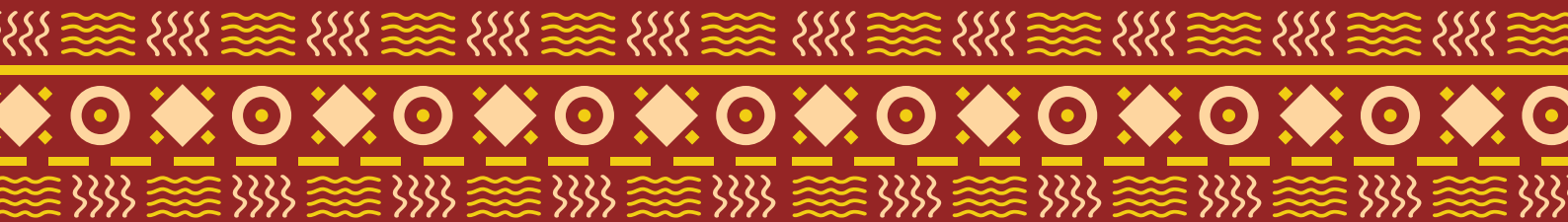




The African Women's
Development and
Communication Network

A Year of Transformation: Highlights from FEMNET's 2023 Journey





The African Women's Development and Communication Network

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FORWARD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



I am proud to share FEMNET's 2023 Annual Report, highlighting a year of impactful leadership and steadfast dedication to advancing gender equality across Africa. As a leading pan-African feminist network, FEMNET continues to drive collective action against systemic inequalities and champion the rights of women and girls.

In 2023, FEMNET made significant strides on regional and global fronts. The successful Africa Disrupt CSW 67 that was held in Lilongwe, Malawi and the resulting Lilongwe Declaration strengthened African women's influence in shaping global policies, including at CSW67 in New York. We also marked the 20th anniversary of the Maputo Protocol by boldly declaring the need for universal ratification of most progressive women's rights instrument and calling for domestication and resources for full implementation. Our innovative capacity strengthening and policy influencing initiatives like the African Feminist Macroeconomics Academy and Feminist CoP, showcased FEMNET's role as a thought leader, strategic convenor and movement builder in promoting gender-responsive economic and environmental policies by connecting community activism with regional and global decision-making processes.

We further invested in empowering women's rights advocates through training in key areas such as sexual reproductive health rights and transformative women leadership. Working with girls and young women remains a priority, with programs like "She Leads" which strategically convened Africa Girls and Young Women's Festival at the sidelines of the Maputo Protocol 20th Anniversary allowing girls and young women to meaningfully engage in policy influencing and accountability.

FEMNET also strengthened its internal capacities and expanded its digital presence to enhance advocacy and knowledge-sharing, ensuring we stay effective in a fast-changing world. I commend the dedication of FEMNET's team, members, and partners who have made these achievements possible. Together, we are committed to creating a future where every woman and girl can fulfil her potential.

Let this report inspire us to continue our shared journey toward gender equality and justice.

Dr. Amany Asfour

Board Chair, FEMNET



FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2023 was a year of profound reflection, resilience, and relentless pursuit of gender justice across Africa. As FEMNET – the African Women’s Development and Communication Network – we continued to stand at the forefront of the women’s rights movement, championing transformative change, amplifying feminist voices, and deepening our impact across the continent.

In the face of shrinking civic space, growing economic inequalities, and the increasing feminization of poverty, our collective resolve was tested, yet we rose with renewed determination. This report chronicles not only our milestones but also the powerful stories of resistance and hope co-created with our members, partners, and communities.

From mobilizing for gender-transformative financing and climate justice, to influencing key policy processes at regional and global levels, to deepening feminist leadership through intergenerational spaces, 2023 reaffirmed FEMNET’s place as a convenor, agitator, and builder of feminist solidarities.

We take immense pride in the strides we made, whether through convening powerful movements, shaping feminist policy dialogues, or holding institutions accountable. Behind each achievement lies the courage, creativity, and unwavering commitment of our members, staff, donors, and feminist allies.

As you read through this report, may you be inspired by the passion, power, and possibilities that define our journey. Together, we move forward, unapologetically feminist, pan-African in our vision, and unstoppable in our quest for a just and equal world for all African women and girls.

In Solidarity,

Memory Kachambwa

Executive Director

FEMNET – The African Women’s Development and Communication Network



ABOUT FEMNET

The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) is a pan-African, feminist and membership-based network based in Nairobi, Kenya with over 800 individual and institutional members across 50 African countries and in the diaspora. ***FEMNET envisions a society where African women and girls thrive in dignity and well-being, free from patriarchal and neoliberal oppression and injustices.***

FEMNET recognizes that the commitment to alter relations of power, structural injustices, and systemic oppression lies at the heart of feminism. FEMNET is therefore committed to pushing towards altering power structures that perpetuate gender inequality by nurturing the African women's movement to enable women and girls in their diversity to effectively claim, affirm, and use their collective power to end all forms of exclusion, oppression, exploitation, and injustices against them.

Founded in **1988**, FEMNET exists to facilitate and coordinate the sharing of experiences, information, and strategies for human rights promotion among **feminists, activists** and **women's rights organizations** as a strategy for collective organizing; policy influencing & advocacy; strategic communication; capacity strengthening as well as feminist solidarity and movement building.

Over the years, FEMNET has strategically positioned herself as a convenor, organizer and facilitator of critical dialogues around:

1. **Women's economic justice and rights;**
2. **Transformative women's leadership;**
3. **Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR);**
4. **Climate justice and natural resource governance,**

as well as, **ending all forms of violence and harmful/discriminatory practices against women and girls.**

FEMNET continues to be intentional in influencing decisions made at national, regional and global levels, constantly ensuring African women voices are amplified and their needs, priorities and aspirations are prioritized in key policy dialogues and outcomes that have direct and indirect impact on their lives. FEMNET mobilizes African women to hold their States accountable to women's rights and gender equality commitments.

Vision

African women and girls thrive in dignity and well-being, free from patriarchal and neoliberal oppression and injustices.

Mission

To mobilize African women for achievement of gender equality and the realization of women's and girls' rights at all levels.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



If you look across African history, you can always find and trace, individual, and collectives of women who are resisting patriarchy in its different forms and its relationship to different dynamics. - Jessica Horn

The **2023 Annual Report** of FEMNET reflects a year of transformative impact and unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality across Africa. As a pan-African feminist network, FEMNET has mobilized and amplified the voices of women and girls, addressing structural injustices and systemic oppression while fostering collective action and advocacy for women's rights.

In 2023, FEMNET championed the representation of African women and girls in key global and regional policy spaces. The organization hosted the second Africa Disrupt CSW in Malawi, creating a vital platform to explore the intersection of technology, education, and innovation with gender equality. This event culminated in the development of the Lilongwe Declaration, which was later presented at CSW67 in New York, ensuring that African women's and girls' priorities shaped the global discourse. Throughout the year, FEMNET continued to advocate for equitable digital policies, dismantling patriarchal and colonial frameworks embedded in technological advancements.

The year also marked the 20th anniversary of the Maputo Protocol, a milestone in advancing women's rights across Africa. FEMNET commemorated this occasion through a series of high-profile events, including intergenerational dialogues and the third African Girls and Young Women Festival. These activities engaged diverse stakeholders, from grassroots organizers to policymakers, to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that persist. Notably, the festival provided an opportunity for young women to express their realities and influence ongoing advocacy efforts for the Protocol's implementation.

FEMNET's work on climate justice took center stage with the organization of the African Feminist Macroeconomics Academy and the Feminist COP. These initiatives fostered innovative, feminist approaches to addressing climate challenges and advancing economic justice. By engaging grassroots movements, policymakers, and international stakeholders, FEMNET amplified the narratives of African women and girls and advocated for gender-inclusive climate policies.

The organization also focused on strengthening advocacy and capacity among its members through a variety of training programs and thematic dialogues. These efforts spanned issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), transformative leadership, and economic justice. Through these initiatives, FEMNET equipped activists and leaders with the tools to drive policy change and foster inclusive governance structures.



Youth engagement remained a cornerstone of FEMNET's activities, with initiatives like "She Leads" empowering girls to take on leadership roles and influence decision-making processes. The organization also promoted technical and vocational education for girls, particularly in STEM fields, as a pathway to economic empowerment.

Internally, FEMNET continued to grow and evolve, implementing robust human resources and safeguarding policies while expanding its team. The organization's innovative use of digital platforms enhanced its ability to mobilize, advocate, and share knowledge effectively, extending its reach and impact across the continent.



HIGHLIGHTS ON KEY SPACES AND ACTIVITIES

Africa Disrupt CSW67

FEMNET held its second flagship African Commission on the Status of Women (Africa -CSW) in Lilongwe Malawi to ensure representation and engagement of African Women in the CSW global space.

Over the years, African women have expressed concern with the lack of inclusion of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and other global spaces as they continue to face barriers such as economic and immigration constraints as well as capacity restrictions. These challenges limit their representation, participation, and voice in crucial spaces where they need to be heard. FEMNET convened African Women and Girls from all the five sub regions (over 200 delegates from 21 African countries) for the second CSW the session was held from 28th February-2nd March 2023. The choice of hosting the second CSW Africa in Southern Africa was intentional and spoke to our desire to ensure that CSW rotates to enhance accessibility for African Women and Girls in all their diversity.

FEMNET convened civil society organizations, Activist, women, girls, non-binary persons, persons with disabilities, government representatives, members of the Malawi parliament, political leaders, traditional leaders, women and girls living in rural areas and informal settlements, media representatives, development partners (UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral partners and INGOs) and private sector for the second Africa Disrupt CSW67 in Lilongwe, Malawi under the theme: ***Unpacking Innovation, Technology and Education in the Digital Age for Women and Girls***. This was a space for African women and girls to reflect and delve into discussions to foster a collective voice and dissect the realities of digital advancements and its effect on women. The delegates re-emphasized the contribution of African women and girls innovators in technological advancements in their countries, regionally and globally; reflected on the progress and challenges on the technological gender divide; consolidated perspectives from localized contexts and co-developed a common agenda and voice on advancing gender transformative policies and practices that are centered on safety, well-being, inclusivity, affordability and sustainability. The deep conversations and provocations challenged the patriarchal and colonial underpinnings embedded in the design of digital technology. Africa Disrupt CSW serves as a platform to co-develop a concrete common position for African women and girls to inform the CSW67 agreed conclusions.

The meetings resulted in the development of the [position statement and recommendations by African women and girls](#) and Africa Disrupt ([Lilongwe Declaration](#)) were presented at CSW67 in New York. The African Disrupt was definitely a precursor that got the African Women's voices prepared, united, focused and ready to engage at the CSW 67 in New York and reflected on FEMNET's Strategic Priorities of Solidarity, Amplification of the African Women Voices and dismantling patriarchal power relations.



Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 67) NY

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the global inter-governmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. CSW is aligned with FEMNET's work to mobilize African women and girls for the achievement of gender equality and the realization of women's and girls' rights at all levels in all their diversity. The CSW discusses progress and the gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the key global policy document on gender equality as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The CSW 67 theme for 2023 was: ***Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.***

The [position statement and recommendations by African women and girls](#) and Africa Disrupt ([Lilongwe Declaration](#)) were presented at CSW67 in New York.

FEMNET engaged before, during and after CSW67 to ensure that **African women's and girls' voices were amplified, and their needs, priorities and aspirations are prioritized in CSW67 policy dialogues and outcomes.** FEMNET facilitated a delegation of 18 participants who actively engaged at CSW67 in New York from 6th-17th March 2023. FEMNET organized 3 parallel events: Recognizing and Safeguarding African Indigenous Technology & Innovation for Women and Girls; Africa Women's Regional Caucus Session and the Africa Women's regional caucus session. The outcomes of each session were forwarded to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for follow-up. FEMNET ensured that the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopts concrete measures to increase meaningful participation of GYW-led groups in the policy and decision-making processes. Secondly it also ensured that the African women and girls' voices that culminated in the Lilongwe Declaration was distributed to key policy makers and influencers at the UN Convention. FEMNET also contributed to the advocacy efforts towards the rotation of the CSW venue.



Celebrating Maputo @ 20

Twenty years ago, in July 2003, African Governments adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, defining the rights of women and girls across Africa. Just two years later in November 2005, 15 countries ratified the Protocol, making it the fastest human rights instrument to come into force in the history of OAU/AU. The progress of the Maputo Protocol results from incredible advocacy efforts by various human rights organizations, regional unions, and state bodies in ensuring it is signed, ratified, implemented, and reported on by African governments. To date, 43 out of the 55 AU member states have signed and ratified the Maputo Protocol. 9 states have signed and are yet to ratify. Only 3 States have not signed and not ratified the Protocol.



In July 2023, The Protocol marked its 20th Anniversary. The Maputo Protocol's adoption is a significant milestone for the African continent and more so for women and girls in all their diversity. The normative landscape of gender equality and women's rights in Africa has immensely changed in the last twenty years, notwithstanding much needs to be done especially in transforming gender norms and sustainable resourcing of frontline women's and young-led movements.

The African Union and the Government of Kenya organized a high-level meeting on 11th July 2023 in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Protocol bringing together members of SOAWR (FEMNET is a member), decision-makers, International Organisations and other women's rights organisations working to advance gender equality and women's rights. During this high-level meeting, a former FEMNET board member and current FEMNET member, Mama Koite Doumbia from Mali, was awarded with the Solidarity Award in the Category of Access to Justice.



In addition to the high-level meeting, FEMNET organized several activities during that week of commemoration bringing together 269 women and girls in Nairobi Kenya. The women and girls were drawn from 34 countries in Africa notably Botswana, Madagascar, Eswatini, Cote de Vore, Mali, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Niger, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somaliland, Tunisia, etc. A total of 21 Men were also engaged to promote male involvement. The activities included the third African Girls and Young Women Festival and a Women in Political Participation intergenerational dialogue. The 3rd AGYW Festival provided an opportunity to engage in artistic expression, celebration of diversity, trivia nights, treasure hunts, creative displays and dialogue with development partners and policy makers.



The Women Political participation programme brought together WPP stakeholders from the eight implementing countries including government executives (gender ministers), policy makers, duty bearers, women's rights organizations, young activists, the regional economic communities, gender stalwarts, community mobilizers, election management bodies, media and civil society organizations to critically analyse governments performance in the implementation of the Article 9. During the WPP thematic dialogue, Hon. Tebogo Makwinja, the Assistant Minister of Gender in Botswana committed to follow up with her government on the ratification of the Protocol. Botswana is among the three African Union Member States that are yet to sign the protocol since its adoption in 2005.

The 2nd Cohort of the African Feminist Academy for Climate Justice (AFACJ) was organized in partnership with Oxfam Novib and was held in Nairobi alongside the Maputo Protocol at 20 commemoration events. The academy brought together 30 activists and grassroots mobilizers to provide a space for African women



to share their climate narratives and built their confidence to amplify these narratives at local, national and regional levels thus ensuring they are not left behind. Participants were immersed in discussions on how to create attention to climate change issues. Participants also engaged in conversation on how climate change discourse, particularly conversations on climate finance can be conceptualized to the benefit of all especially women. Discussions interrogated the barriers and gaps that women and girls face in accessing climate finance, how national and international institutions can support women to access climate finance and feminist approach to climate financing.

FEMNET organized a training for 14 feminists from Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Niger on safety and security as defenders of women's rights on bodily autonomy and sexual reproductive health and rights. The training was held on the margins of Maputo@20 from 12th to 14th July 2023. The training program comprised various interactive sessions, group activities, presentations and discussions focusing on evidence and impact-based advocacy and opposition monitoring and mitigation. The training aimed to build the change makers' knowledge on using data in their advocacy and how to spot opposition and deal with them while maintaining safety.

FEMNET organized the African Feminist Macroeconomics Academy (AFMA) from 10th to 13th July 2023 in Cape Town, under the guiding theme: [African Feminist Alternatives to the Financialization of Everyday Life](#). AFMA is organized annually with broad objectives of building a cohort of feminists with deeper knowledge and skills on macro-level economics which they can use to shape discourse, influence policy and practice and support effective advocacy campaigns on women's economic justice.

The [STITCH project](#) organized a virtual session and used arts (Feminist Artivism) to outline the impact of their work in Rwanda, Kenya, Tunisia, Ethiopia, DRC, Mali and Mauritius.

During the event, a video documentary on the impact of working with women rights movement in Africa to advocate for the implementation of Maputo in the seven countries was also screened.



Women Deliver

The Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023) took place in-person in Kigali, Rwanda, as well as virtually, from 17-20 July 2023. As one of the largest multi-sectoral convenings to advance gender equality, WD2023 convened 6,300 people in Kigali and 200,000+ people online through the virtual Conference and six-month Global Dialogue leading up to the Conference. WD2023 enabled inclusive and co-created spaces that fostered solidarity for sustainable solutions on gender equality. FEMNET actively engaged in this global space with the overarching goal of bringing the voices of grassroots women and girls to the space. Echidna giving foundation hosted a side event and invited affiliate organizations such as FEMNET, FAWE, and Tech for all to discuss issues affecting girls and young women in school. It was an opportunity for FEMNET to showcase our work with not only girls in TVET but also our regional ability to convene and help African girls and young women speak up on issues affecting them. We took that opportunity to share with attendees the ISpeak4myself book which is a compilation of AGYW voices on issues affecting them post COVID 19, climate change and policy issues across the region.



COP 28

FEMNET held the [Feminist COP](#) in October 2023, in Ghana which brought together 40 women and girls' activists and grassroots mobilizers. The Feminist COP is co-convened before the COP 28 and is curated as a bold safe space for feminists, climate activists, Indigenous leaders, girls, and young women advocates, and more to connect, reflect, strategize, and co-design ways to engage, disrupt and show up at COP28. The theme was, "A Feminist Approach to Just Transition." The activity was successful as a set of demands were developed and these were used as part of our engagement in COP 28 in Dubai.

FEMNET engaged in COP 28 and supported 13 of our members including staff members who followed various discussions such as Loss and damage, Gender, Climate Finance and Just Transition. FEMNET mobilized women and young girls to participate in the COP, partnerships with WGC, PACJA, identified key sector issues affecting women and girls in climate justice, participated in media briefings, podcasts and social media and nominated to the lead gender steering committee within CAN.



Influencing the EU Gender Action Plan

FEMNET is a member of the Policy Forum on Development ([PFD](#)). The PFD brings together civil society organizations, local authorities, professional and business associations as well as representatives of EU institutions and Member States to discuss relevant issues and implementation of EU development cooperation. Within the PFD, FEMNET is a member of the task team which maintains communication between PFD meetings, undertakes preparatory work, monitors and advises the functioning and performance of the PFD. Further, FEMNET represents Civil Society Organizations in Africa within the task team. In 2023, FEMNET engaged in several activities representing her members and ensuring that gender issues are surfaced and included in the planning and implementation of EU development cooperation. Specifically, FEMNET participated in a consultation for CSO and Local Authority (LA) on the EU regional programming for sub-Saharan Africa (2021-2027). Among our key contributions was demands for EU funding to reach women rights organizations at the frontlines, gender to be prioritized in the planning and implementation of EU actions, EU actions reach women and girls who are most marginalized. A key highlight was FEMNET's contribution to the [Concord GAP III parallel report](#), and the mid-term review of the GAP III implementation providing useful insights to strengthen implementation of gender actions in EU development cooperation. In addition, in 2023, FEMNET joined the [Global Gateway CSO and LA Advisory Platform](#). We represent our members notably women's rights organizations and CSO working to advance gender equality from Africa, in the platform by providing feedback and perspectives on integrating gender and inclusion in the design, implementation and evaluation of GG projects.



PROGRAMMATIC OUTLOOK - OUR AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Projects

1. Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Vulnerable Adolescents in West Africa (My Health My Rights),
2. We Lead Project - Hivos, MoFA
3. UNWomen Spotlight
4. UNDP Spotlight
5. Community Building Change to Promote Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights-SRHR for women and girls in Migori, Homabay and Tharaka Nithi Counties in Kenya.

FEMNET together with her partner ROAJELF partnered to mobilize key stakeholders from Niger, Mali, Cameroon, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Guinea Conakry, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Senegal, Togo, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea Bissau. The forum Strengthened the knowledge, capacity, and strategies of CSOs and women's rights activists in the WACA region to advocate for reforms in their respective national and regional contexts. It also created a network among CSOs and women's rights activists in the WACA region to share good practices, build solidarity and form a strong global and regional movement on EAWG, HP and SRHR. The forum developed a strategy to build public support for changing discriminatory civil, customary, and religious laws and practices that exacerbate violence against women in the WACA region. This resulted in the Bamako Recommendations.

FEMNET developed a training manual on SRHR advocacy and budgeting titled **A Training Manual on SRHR, EAWG, Policy, and Budget Advocacy in West and Central Africa Region**. The Training manual in both French and English has been annexed in this report. The manual will contribute to building knowledge and skills on SRHR, RR, and EAWG policy and budget advocacy landscape in West and Central Africa

FEMNET strengthened the capacity of 64 Right Holders from Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, and Nigeria on Evidence for impact Advocacy, Opposition Monitoring, safety, and security.

FEMNET conducted a Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) and training on Unpacking Diversity and Rights Holder Friendly Service Provisions for Healthcare Providers in Kenya from September 2023 in Kenya. The training aimed at enhancing healthcare providers' capacity to deliver rights-based services with a focus on diversity and inclusion. The diverse participants in the training included clinicians, community health nurses, maternity professionals, and SRHR service providers. The training covered the change of attitude, values assessment, diversity, inclusion, and rights-holder-friendly service provision. The participants' demographic in the training contributed to a rich and dynamic learning environment, bringing together individuals with different life experiences and perspectives to enhance the training's effectiveness.

64 COAs trained in
4 countries

WACA Training Manual
developed, Comparative
Analysis Study

Spaces: GIMAC



2. Economic Justice and Rights

Projects

1. AWDF - Femonomics: A just economy for All
2. FJWG - Fiscal Justice for Women and Girls in Africa
3. GATES - Engaging gender advocates in Africa's economic recovery
4. Ford Foundation - Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Recovery
5. Hewlett Foundation - Advocating for a gender just economic recovery in Africa

FEMNET hosted the annual African Feminist Macroeconomic Academy (AFMA) in Lome, Togo from 20th-23rd February 2023. This was the first AFMA to be held in a francophone country. AFMA 2023 marks the fifth academy since inception in 2017. The convening brought together 30 African feminists and activists from 19 African countries. AFMA facilitated a space for women to gather and reflect, challenge orthodoxy in economics, deepen their thinking and explore alternatives

FEMNET has over the years been working towards creating a vibrant critical mass of African feminist economists involved in macroeconomic discourse. Remarkable achievement was realized with the ongoing success of the AFMA in enhancing the capacity of gender advocates, activists, movement leaders, journalists, and networks dedicated to women's rights and gender equality. As of December 2023, the academy had 242 alumni participating in the academy between 2017 and 2023. These alumni were found to be actively participating in feminist macroeconomic discourse, making substantial contributions across more than 31 African countries.

Years	Participants	Level
2017	20	Regional
2018	31	Regional
2019	34	Regional
2020	63	Regional (Online)
2021	22	Regional
2022	22	Sub-Regional
2023	50	Sub-regional
Total	242	

AFMA alumni are not only acquiring knowledge but also creating context-specific knowledge products and actively applying them to generate tangible impacts. Through the development of knowledge products such as articles, they are disseminating insights and addressing issues like gender-insensitive taxation, the unpaid care economy, and gender inequalities in public service delivery, sparking meaningful conversations.

Fiscal justice project ensured policy wins at the national level in Zambia Uganda as well increased awareness and appreciation of the link between gender and tax.



3. Transformative Women Leadership

Projects

1. Gender Equality and Advocacy Policy (GEAP)-AGECS-Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)-GAC
2. Women in Political Participation (WPP)-IDEA

FEMNET convened 40 participants from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Madagascar and Mozambique for the African Feminist Transformative Leadership Academy (AFTLA) in May 2023. The participants were trained as ToTs and to enable them to carry the trainings at the grassroots level FEMNET developed the African Feminist Transformative Leadership Academy (AFTLA) Gender Advocacy manual which will later be designed and printed.

FEMNET convened a two-day thematic dialogue with 35 select women's rights organizations, civil society, WPP partners and the media on 27th and 28th June 2023 at Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to harness their collective power in influencing inclusive electoral processes and governance ahead of the General Elections in December 2023. Despite the higher population of women in DRC, their influence in governance remains subtle. DRC is among the African countries with the least representation of women in the National Assembly according to Gender Quotas Data by IDEA.

The space was therefore curated to revitalize women right's leaders in DRC to acknowledge their power, embrace women's leadership, rally behind women candidates, run for political office and enhance their solidarity toward nation-building. The successful event was graced by Hon. Chantal Nembunzu and Ms. Catherine Odimba of UN Women among partners from Oxfam, CONAFED, ARSF, Afia Mama and the Ministry of Gender. The participants advocated for enhanced capacity strengthening initiatives, economic and social empowerment of women and solidarity in championing for inclusive governance systems, structures, and practices. The activity was massively featured and gained traction in the mainstream and online media.

FEMNET collaborated with Sauti ya Wanawake – Pwani, Dream Achievers Youth Organization (DAYO) and Aga Khan Foundation (AKF Kenya) to co-design and develop advocacy and media strategies to address the survivor-centered access to justice during the 16 Days of Activism. As a result, the partners convened a community outreach (Kongamano) in Mwakirunge, Mombasa on 4th December 2023. This successful event brought together over 300 participants including the local administration, political leaders, judiciary, health service providers, civil society, educators, activists, community leaders, male allies, opinion leaders, religious and cultural leaders. The outcome of the campaign will be compiled in a policy brief for accelerated advocacy at the local, national and regional advocacy forums.

FEMNET in collaboration with Mzalendo Trust and KEWOPA convened the Women Political Participation post-election scorecard with Kenyan women parliamentarians. This brought a different and impactful strategy of involving women parliamentarians in political dialogues. The informal, heart-to-heart discussions created a safe space for the boundary partners to freely express themselves and boldly speak up on political matters. The event that started with a firechat discussion was critical in setting the environment for open discussion, bonding and interaction among members of parliament, some of whom were interacting for the very first time. The collaboration with KEWOPA and Mzalendo Trust solidified our WPP partnership and elicited discussions for further collaborations in advancing women's political engagements. On the last day of the WPP Scorecard 2023 forum, women parliamentarians developed a communiqué and invited the press to issue a statement on the State of the Nation and their collective



commitment to advance gender responsive policy formulations and solidarity among.

40 partners from 5 countries trained on Gender and Policy Advocacy in the AFTLA

African Feminist Transformative Leadership Academy (AFTLA) Gender Advocacy manual developed

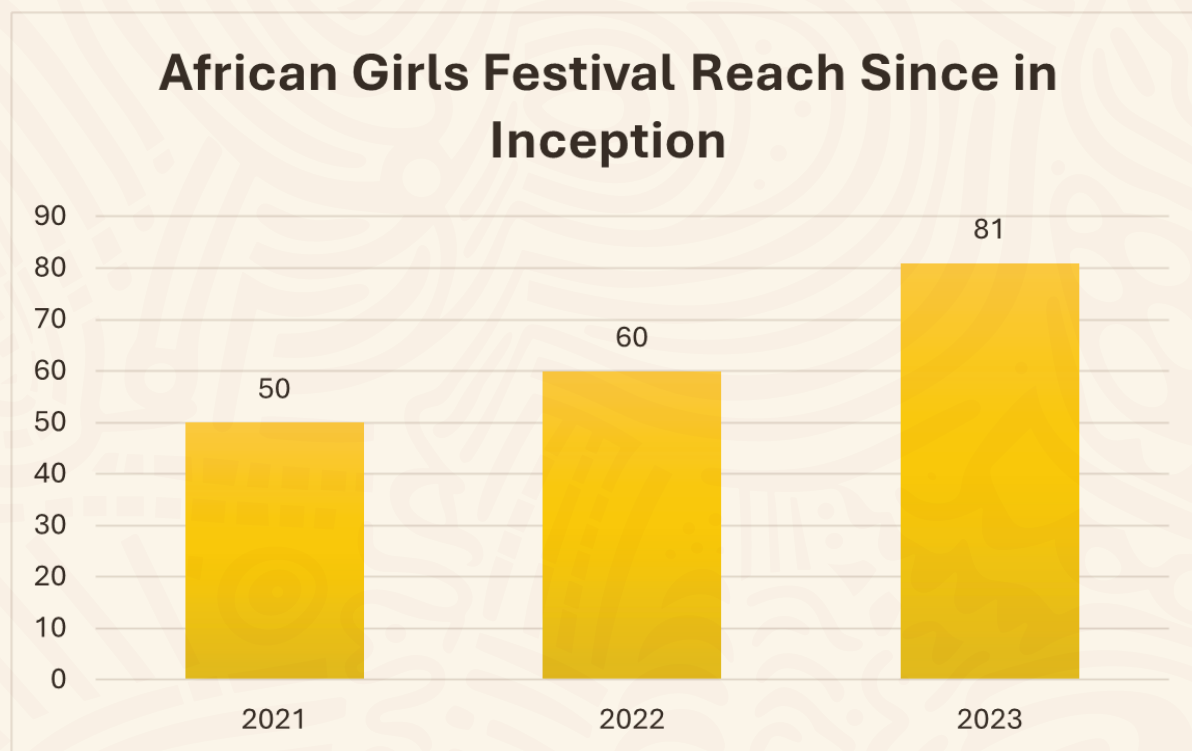
30 WROs convened for dialogue in DRC ahead of the country elections.

4. Transformative Women Leadership-Girls and Young Women

Projects

1. She Leads
2. Influencing Inclusive Education for Girls and Young Women in East Africa.


FEMNET coordinated the third African Girls where 81 AGYW from 15 countries attended the 3rd Festival at the margin of Maputo @ 20 and gave recommendations to the African Union and a Call To Action. The theme of 2023 Girls Festival was **'AGYW Infusing Young Feminist Realities in the Maputo Protocol'** The main objective of the forum was to meaningfully engage African Girls and Young Women (GYW) in the co-creation, and co-ownership of the third African Girls and Young Women's Festival with the aim of fostering cross-learning, collective action, and accountability. The 3rd AGYW Festival provided an opportunity to engage in artistic expression, celebration of diversity, trivia nights, treasure hunts, creative displays and dialogue with development partners and policy makers. Each year we have been able to reach more GYW with the total reach now at 191 GYW.



FEMNET closely worked with nine WROs as implementing partners across the region including: Polycom in Kenya, GLS in Uganda, IDIWA in Uganda, CHI Liberia, WSLF Sierra Leone, ROAJELF in Mali, NMWEO in Ethiopia; Yellow Movement in Ethiopia, HFFG in Ghana, WAN in Ghana.

The She Leads Pan African consortium that FEMNET takes lead conducted a mid-term review that





indicated that 17 laws had been influenced to promote GYW's voice, agency, leadership and representative participation in decision-making processes in public, private and civic sphere.

The Vocational Education Training (VET) Policy supported by IIAGE was assented by Kisumu County Government. This is a culmination of efforts by FEMNET, Kisumu County Government, Girls and Young women in the TVET institutes and CSOs working in the region. The TVET GYW in Uganda continued to build on their media influence with the successful launch of their media campaign by TVET students that strengthened their agency.

5. Climate Justice and Natural Resource Governance

Projects

1. African Activists on Climate Justice (AACJJ)
2. Climate Justice in Africa

FEMNET closely worked with seven WRO as implementing partners across the region. These include RECODE (Senegal), VDF (Burkina Faso), EVA (Nigeria), UEWCA (Ethiopia), NAGAAD (Somalia), WOKIKE (Kenya) and MULIEDE (Mozambique). The organizations have been critical in building women and youth movements in their countries. The established movements have taken on key issues e.g. in Burkina Faso where there is current ad hoc mass division and sale of land the movements have worked with the local administration to stop this. In Nasarawa, Nigeria the movement advocated for the inclusion of women in local communities. MULEIDE worked on pushing the involvement of women in the land law review process in Mozambique and used its convening power as the CSO chairperson to ensure CSO involvement in the process. The groups are organized differently in each country but at least meeting times have been set and the climate agenda has been well articulated. The organizations have continued to work on building narratives on climate justice by training journalists especially women journalists and communities on narrative development. The AACJ project also focused on key policies and laws that affect women and other vulnerable persons. In Mozambique, MULEIDE and other consortium partners contributed to the development of Draft One of the Land Law, which was made public by the government in December. FEMNET was key in the planning and participated in the launch of the Africa Women and Gender Constituency (AGWC).

FEMNET participated in the Inaugural [Africa Climate Summit and Africa Climate Week](#), and supported four FEMNET members. FEMNET engaged in the pre-side events and side events in line with the Summit. As part of the African Feminist Task Force, we planned and celebrated Gender Day, which was held on 3rd September 2023. The event brought together all African women and girls in their diversity to launch the first ever Africa Women and Gender Constituency (AWGC) which was supported by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).

40 partners deliberate at the FEMINIST CoP ahead of the CoP 29 in UAE

Engaged 7 implementing partners across 7 countries engage in movement building, narrative development and climate policy advocacy

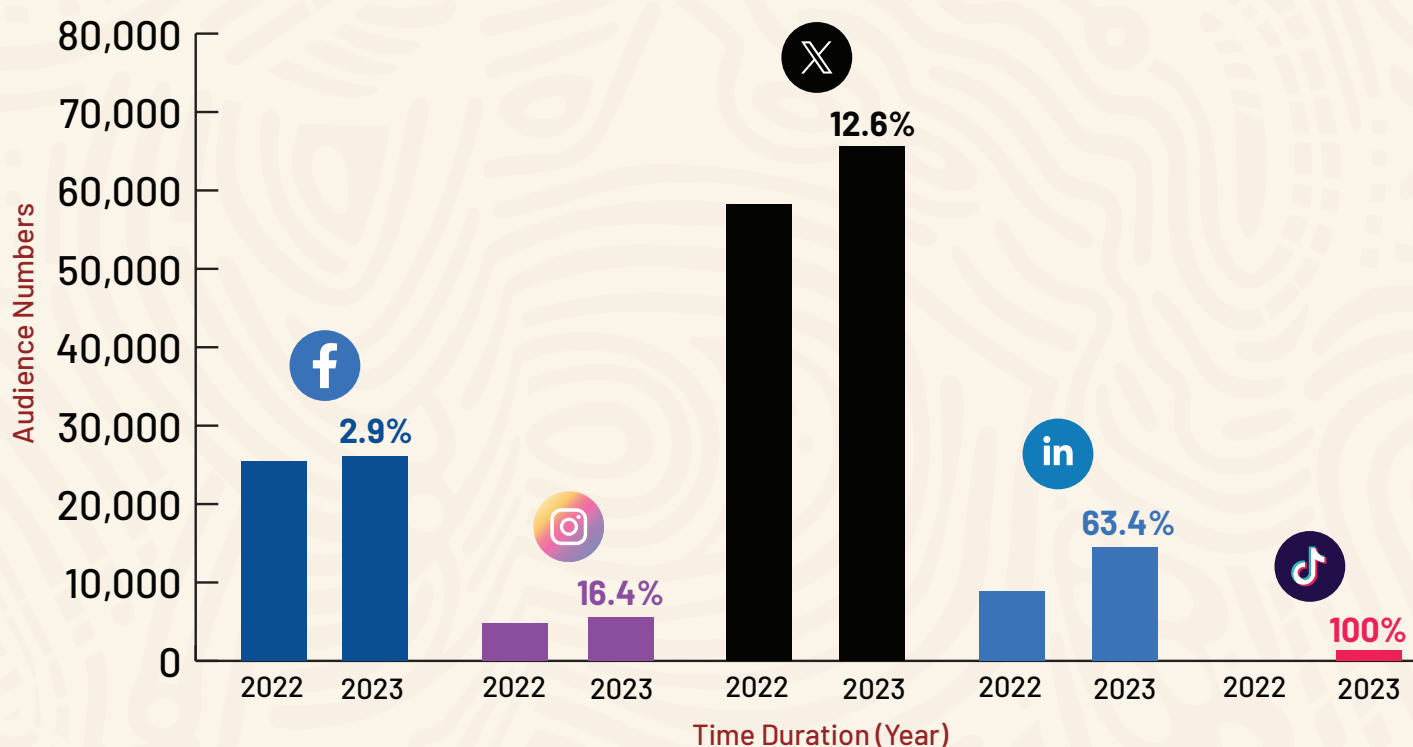


DIGITAL FOOTPRINTS AND CONVERSATIONS

FEMNET's innovative use of digital and social media platforms has enabled her to effectively mobilize, influence policy, engage, network, follow up and share information more fluidly with her members and coordinate members around key moments. Throughout the year, FEMNET initiated, joined and contributed to online discussions.

Audience numbers in the different platforms. The numbers are compared to **April 2022 to June 2023**:

Platform	Previous Year	July 2023 – August 2024
Facebook	25,394	26,127 (2.9%)
Instagram	4,813	5,604 (16.4%)
X	58,281	65,608 (12.6%)
LinkedIn	8,874	14,497 (63.4%)
TikTok	-	122 (100%)



FEMNET - THE SOUL

FEMNET in 2023 maintained a dedicated team of staff. The organization saw a number of staff transitions but also opened to new talents who were attuned to the FEMNET values and goals. The FEMNET staff grew over the year and by close of the year the organization had **40 (33F/7M)** staff with various contracts. FEMNET rolled out the implementation of the **HR Policy and Safeguarding Policy**. FEMNET worked on building staff capacities through internal learning sessions as well as personal development. Key trainings included **Personal Financial Management Training, Health-Talk, Cyber Security, Psychosocial and Human Rights Defenders Security Training**. FEMNET worked on enhancing security at the FEMNET Offices.



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 & 2022

ASSETS	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Kshs	USD	Kshs	USD
Non-Current Assets				
Property and equipment-net of accumulated depreciation	46,719,235	298,599	35,335,497	286,411
Intangible assets	1,475,718	9,431	1,967,624	15,948
Current Assets				
Cash and Bank Balances	1,208,265,103	7,722,428	1,120,806,101	9,084,659
Accounts Receivable	65,462,601	418,394	58,145,525	471,296
Total Current Assets	1,273,727,704	8,140,822	1,178,951,626	9,555,955
Current Liabilities				
Accounts payable	15,488,756	98,994	25,275,596	204,871
Deferred unrestricted income	244,044,925	1,559,774	194,708,404	1,578,204
Deferred restricted income	624,745,636	3,992,958	781,251,384	6,332,408
Total Current Liabilities	884,279,317	5,651,726	1,001,235,385	8,115,483
Net Current Assets	389,448,387	2,489,096	177,716,242	1,440,472
Net Assests	437,643,340	2,797,126	215,019,363	1,742,831
Represented by:				
Programme funds	117,866,998	753,328	130,892,844	1,060,946
Foreign Currency Reserve as Restated	319,776,342	2,043,798	84,126,519	681,885
Total Funds	437,643,340	2,797,126	215,019,363	1,742,831



STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	2023	2023	2022	2022
	KShs	USD	KShs	USD
INCOME				
Restricted grant income	673,892,561	4,821,543	744,000,107	6,340,175
Unrestricted grant income	13,912,775	99,532	43,681,440	353,933
Other income	30,605,965	218,977	8,331,036	70,695
Total Income	718,411,301	5,140,052	796,012,583	6,764,803
EXPENDITURE				
Programme expenses	632,124,851	4,522,679	676,521,243	5,740,804
Establishment expenses	10,560,712	75,560	10,893,328	92,438
Administration expenses	88,751,581	634,994	61,981,446	525,961
Total Expenses	731,437,144	5,233,233	749,396,017	6,359,203
Balance for the Year	(13,025,843)	(93,181)	46,616,566	405,600

The Statement of Financial Position for FEMNET closed the year 2023 with a net assets balance of KES 437,643,341 (US\$ 2,797,126).

FEMNET recorded Income of KES 718,411,301 (US\$ 5,140,052) during the 2023 financial year. The organisation continued to have very strong expense ratios with programme expenses representing 86% of the total expenses.

The expenditure and related items as presented, represents operations in implementing FEMNET's 2020 strategy in line with its mission. Operations during the year took into account most important and relevant opportunities that evolved during the reporting period. The network made invaluable efforts in assessing and exchanging ideas and experiences on systems, policies, good practices, programmes quality and strategies with 28 WROs, which got sub-grants in 2022. The 2022 operations include US\$ 1,653,740 disbursed to co-applicants and implementing partners as sub-grants and/or coalition members, with more WROs expected to be funded in 2023.

We have been able to implement our activities in sustainable way and we aim to drive sustainability agenda to all our stakeholders to always consider the ecological, economic and social impacts of our work.

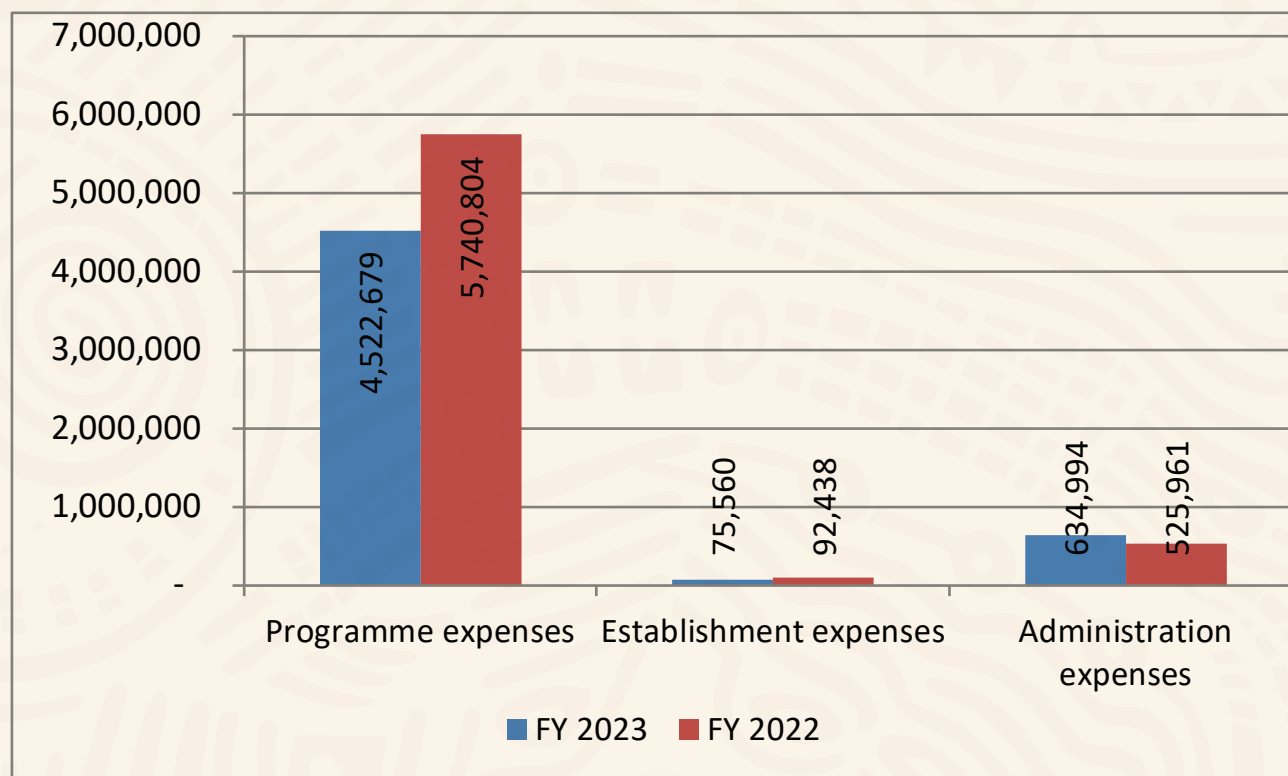
The assets include a 2 acre land in the outskirts of Nairobi presented at cost (2012), with directors' valuation as at 31st December, 2023, standing at KES 28 million (US\$ 204,179) up from purchase price of KES 10 million (US\$ 97,276).

*The financial statements are prepared in Kenya Shillings (KES) as the base currency. For reporting purposes, the current year balances have been translated to United States Dollars (USD) at the year end rate of 1 USD = KES 156.46 for statement of financial position items, spot rate for grants received during the year and the annual average rate of USD 1 = KES 139.77 for other items in the income statement.

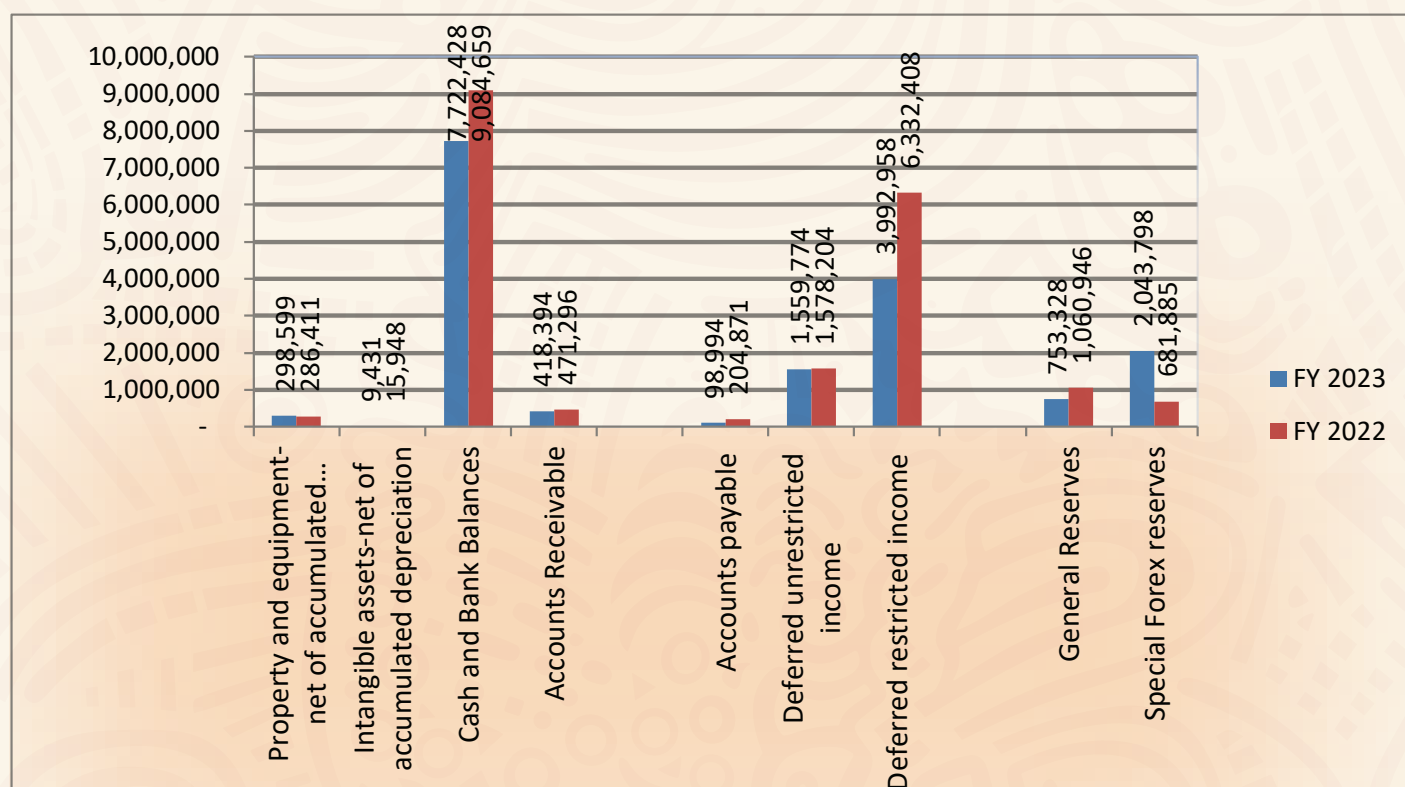
The published financial reports are extracts from audited Financial Statements and Reports. FEMNET's financial statements have been independently audited by Audit firm of BDO East Africa Kenya and received an unqualified audit opinion as to their fair presentation in conformity with International Standards on Auditing (ISA).



EXPENDITURES FOR 2023 AND 2022-COMPARATIVES FIGURES IN US\$



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 & 2022



STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 & 2022

