The focus of the Trust’s work is to accelerate the economic advancement of African women by strengthening existing country-level business women’s associations, establishing new networks of women in sectors that are critical for Africa’s growth, increasing women’s access to finance and financial services and equipping them with the necessary skills to grow. Scale and consolidation are needed to harness the economic potential of women to improve their lives and effect change in their communities and countries.
OUR OBJECTIVES

**Advocate** for the increased recognition, representation and participation of women in the economy.

**Influence** policy makers, governments and the private sector to be more responsive to the needs of women.

**Facilitate processes** that increase women’s awareness of economic opportunities and builds women’s confidence and capacity to empower themselves to realise their potential.
When women are more educated and economically empowered, they increase their choices and decisions to overcome oppressive practices and change the overarching power relations to live the life they want and choose.
OUR APPROACH

Engage with regulators, policy makers and private sector bodies to remove the structural obstacles that impede women’s economic progress.

Convene key stakeholders in different sectors to develop innovative ways to accelerate women’s economic advancement.

Advocate for the expansion of women’s economic opportunities and leadership at national, regional, continental and global levels.

Conduct research and disseminate knowledge on women’s financial inclusion, entrepreneurial development and the sectoral contribution to African economies.

Strengthen and expand our networks to have a tangible and measurable impact in the countries in which they operate.
Africa’s continued journey towards full economic and social prosperity will only be achieved when women take the lead in setting the continent’s development agenda and have equal opportunities to participate at all levels in society. Through their collective action, women are instrumental in building a stronger and more vibrant and equitable future for all Africans.

Graça Machel, Founder
National and regional umbrella body of business associations that seek to represent and serve the interests of businesswomen across sectors.

Launched as an AWAB driven initiative, this is a women-led project that promises to bring an innovative and regional approach to Africa’s food security challenges. The model adopted has a unique multiplier effect that will provide investment opportunities for women in the production of food supplies, value-addition, storage, marketing and logistics.
Established in 2009 for the purpose of expanding the participation and influence of women in the financial sector.

COUNTRIES
Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

A network of African women journalists who individually and collectively use their influence and voice to help shape and disseminate empowering storylines about Africa’s women and children.

COUNTRIES
Angola, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
The Women in Media Network (WIMN) is the Trust’s most recent network comprising 35 highly experienced journalists from 15 countries across Africa. A key focus of the network will be to challenge the current perceptions and mindsets about Africa’s women and children and how they are portrayed in the media. We believe that through balanced storytelling we will be able to shape a new reality - one that reflects more nuanced stories, told in the way that women want and deserve their stories to be told.

A WIMN Advisory Board was established to provide strategic insight and help drive change across the continent’s media landscape. Represented on the Board are some of Africa’s leading media influencers and shapers, as well as global health, education and gender specialists.

**THE WIMN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ARE:**

- **ABN Group Executive Director and Editor in Chief CNBC Africa**
  Bronwyn Nielsen

- **CEO of AB Communications**
  Susan Makore

- **Editor-in-Chief of IRIN**
  Obina Anyadike

- **Executive Editor of allAfrica.com**
  John Allen

- **Health Editor of South Africa’s Mail & Guardian**
  Mia Malan

- **Director of the Panos Institute in West Africa**
  Diana Senghor

- **Director General of Fraternité Matin**
  Dr. Venance Konan

**PROVIDING GLOBAL STRATEGIC ADVICE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH AND GENDER ISSUES RESPECTIVELY ARE:**

- **Director of International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity**
  Lars Grøsenth

- **Senior Advisor on Communication and Advocacy in the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)**
  Katja Iverson

**To date, 92 women have completed post-graduate degrees under the programme, in a variety of areas ranging from science and technology, business and commerce to the humanities to equip them to take up leadership positions in order to have a direct impact in the communities, nations and region in which they live.**

**PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES**

- To create a cadre of highly skilled and world-class African women leaders who will serve as role models for future generations.
- To equip Southern African women with Masters’ and Doctorate degrees that are relevant to the developmental needs of the region in areas such as health, education, science and technology, economics and finance.
- To provide appropriate mentoring, internship and career guidance opportunities during and after their studies.

**NUMBER OF SCHOLARS PER COUNTRY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Scholars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges faced by women entrepreneurs negatively impact their capability and capacity to grow their businesses, leading to them not being able to realise their full potential and become meaningful contributors of job creation and Africa’s socio-economic development.

Gaining insights of the barriers women face from its NABW membership, the Trust established Women Creating Wealth (WCW), an enterprise development programme to directly tackle these challenges.

Women Creating Wealth is an holistic one-year programme focussed on key strategies such as: detecting business opportunities and planning for sustainable growth; improving efficiency and quality of their service offering and improving decision making by utilising multiple sources of information within their business operations and broader environment. It is being jointly offered in partnership with the United Nations Convention for Development’s (UNCTAD) Empretec initiative.

Offered in Zambia, Tanzania and Malawi

Women owned enterprises only account for one third of all businesses operating in the formal economy and in Africa the majority of these are micro and small enterprises that often struggle to grow beyond the national averages.
The Women Creating Wealth Programme aims to improve the women’s confidence and business skills, as well as their capacity to develop and implement business strategies and business plans, thus enabling them to scale up their operations into businesses that are profitable and sustainable. The programme seeks to build a cohort of women who are committed to building wealth and will one day be considered as major economic players on the continent.
An ambitious, women-led solution addressing Africa’s food security challenges

A model for developing women-owned seed companies and small-holder farmers

The Graça Machel Trust Food Basket Project is a model for developing women-owned seed companies and small-holder farmers. A core focus of the project is to address the increasing need for seed within the SADC region. It has been specifically designed for women farmers to help grow women’s agricultural activities from smallholder to thriving agribusiness enterprises and to address food security in Africa. It is currently being rolled out in Malawi and Zambia, with plans for expansion into Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

““The Food Basket Project has established itself as a plausible solution to agri-business challenges, alleviating poverty and addressing obstacles to food security.”"
The African Women in Agribusiness Network (AWAB) aims to propel women’s agricultural activities beyond subsistence farming and into viable businesses that participate equitably in the agricultural value chain.

The Food Basket Project offers an innovative, sustainable and home-grown solution to resolve a number of agribusiness challenges, particularly, one of Africa’s most pressing; quality seed production.

The agricultural initiative uses an inclusive business model that is able to benefit different kinds of women with diverse backgrounds. It is to be rolled out in three phases;

**THE PRE-PRODUCTION PHASE** to provide inputs and produce the development of sustainable seed;

**THE PRODUCTION PHASE** which focuses on mechanisation as well as the

**POST-PRODUCTION PHASE**, that addresses marketing and access to markets.
KENYA partnered with the Nairobi Stock Exchange to launch the NSE Leadership & Diversity Dialogue to address the shortage of women in leadership positions in the financial sector and other areas. NSE Leadership & Diversity Dialogue is a series of roundtable events that the NSE is convening for listed firms in an effort to promote discussion about the various aspects of board diversity, including gender, culture, age and profession.

UGANDA
250,000 people (60% of them women) from 465 villages in the Lwengo District have received financial literacy training to improve their knowledge of banking services, products and their rights as consumers. 377 village savings groups have been created and registered with bank accounts with accumulated savings now reaching 4 billion Uganda Shillings ($1.2 million USD).

New Faces New Voices focuses on expanding the role and influence of women in the financial sector. Our three key objectives are to: increase women’s access to finance and financial services; build the capacity and skills of African women to access finance as consumers, investors and entrepreneurs; and increase the number and visibility and influence of women’s leadership in the financial sector.

Showcased is a selection of work being undertaken by our Chapters in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda respectively

www.nfnv.org
The NFNV Rwanda Chapter recently launched the RUGORI FUND that will invest in different market securities (equities and fixed income) and cash deposits in Rwanda and East Africa. The Fund will manage its assets to achieve a positive return and will reinvest all profits to grow its net asset base. Within 2 years, the Fund will invest up to 5% of its assets in a second fund that will invest debt and equity into women-led businesses or businesses that benefit women.

By buying into the Rugori Fund, investors will support the economic empowerment of women in Rwanda; and within the next five years the Fund will significantly contribute to lifting one million Rwandans out of poverty.

**THE RUGORI FUND KEY MILESTONES**

- **At least 3,000 women will be connected to markets through “She Trades” platform in the next 3 years**
- **The fund will reach out to at least 300,000 women as investors**
- **90% of women will be formally financially included (from 63% today)**
- **At least 30,000 Rwandan women will obtain certification in basic financial literacy**

**RWANDA WOMEN’S FUND**

A digital investment fund owned by women, for women