



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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PROJECT: The Dr. Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship Annual Programme

PERIOD: 2008 – Current

AMOUNT: 60'525 CHF (2010)

DONOR& PARTNER: A Swiss Entrepreneur

DESCRIPTION:

In its work to alleviate violence and other human rights violations against women, an international NGO such as FAS needs to know and link directly with international bodies and treaties such as the UN Human Rights Council and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). An internship at the FAS International Secretariat has been out of reach for any African working at the grassroots level in Africa.

The Wanjiru Kihoro fellowship programme aims to bridge the gap, providing the opportunity to an African person coming from and living in an African country. She/he will work for 9 months at FAS' International Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland before returning to put their skills into action through an additional 3 month placement with an NGO in Africa.

The Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship has been established posthumously in honour of a Swiss entrepreneur dedicated to philanthropic activities, especially in Africa, as an effort to bridge the gap between the North and the South. With the passing away in 2004 of the Swiss gentleman, his family wished to extend his legacy and continue his good works through the creation of this fellowship. At the request of the family, and in conjunction with a foundation, FAS has been asked to bestow the fellowship with a meaningful African name. In light of this, FAS has suggested that the fellowship be named in memory of Dr. Wanjiru Kihoro, distinguished economist, feminist, activist and tireless supporter of gender equality, justice and democracy. Dr. Kihoro was a close partner and friend of FAS, working in solidarity for gender equality and women's advancement on the African continent. In her lifetime, She transformed her political commitment to women, by promoting the highest standards of professionalism, organisational development principles and values. In naming the fellowship in honour of Dr. Kihoro, FAS recognizes her as a role model for future generations, and hopes to foster in the candidate a commitment to some of these same values and causes.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The main outcome of the project is providing the opportunity for candidates to gain international experience at FAS' International Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, the insight into an NGO's activities at the international level, and first-hand experience in international relations. Selected candidates could enrich and enhance their skills at FAS, which is the intention of this fellowship that the beneficiary would return home, to continue their work and to participate in building peace on their own continent.

The project is expected to contribute to the development of a new generation of African women leaders who are dedicated to utilizing their voices and experience to further women's central role in peace building and development work in their country, region and continent.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Under the general supervision of the Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), and together with the staff of the Regional Office for Africa in Dakar, Senegal and the Liaison Office in New York, USA, the Wanjiru Kihoro Fellow is responsible for conducting research and analysis on issues relating to FAS programmes on engendering the peace process in Africa, as well for drafting reports and statements to be used in the advocacy work of FAS. The Fellow will participate in all activities related to the UN Working Group on Peace.

A mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation will be proceeded to ensure a better understanding of what can reasonably be achieved with the Fellow so that the organisation can position itself to effectively build the capacity of future fellows. The Fellow will complete a report in the end of the nine months on his/her experiences learned at FAS. At the same time, FAS will also report on the activities and outcomes generated by the Fellow, in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship.