

*Celebrating*

**WOMEN FUND  
TANZANIA TRUST**

*Empowering Local Women Heroes*



**15**  
*years*

*of Feminist Funding  
in Tanzania*

---

# FOREWORD

## 15 Years of Our Feminist Funding Journey in Tanzania.

I hold a strong belief that funding which is directed to women and girls has a transformative potential in freeing women from the chains of patriarchy and other social economic oppressive systems. My conviction on the need to disrupt the funding ecosystems within governments as well as within philanthropic funding agencies is a result of my experience working with the UNWomen over the past few years, as well as working with Women's Rights Organizations.

This book on "The 15 years of Our Feminist Funding Journey in Tanzania" comes timely during a time when anti-progressive forces which are often gender blind are pushing for policies and programs which are reversing some of the gains which have been attained by progressive forces particularly WROs.

The authors walk us through the Women Fund Tanzania Trust initiative which began as a dream by two well-known activists, who were able to stimulate an interest of few other activists who supported the dream by translating it into operational functional organization.

The first chapter of this Book provides a snapshot of an overview of origins of Women's funds, by discussing contextual factors within the funding ecosystem. This chapter is followed by conversation of two founding members who generously share their dream and how they facilitated the initiative which gave birth to the first Feminist Fund in Tanzania.

Chapter three walks us through the governance systems, processes, and structures which have managed to translate feminist governance principles into a functional Women's Funds. In this chapter, the book covers voices from Board of Directors and staff in a very creative manner.

Chapter four highlights feminist leadership succession model through which leadership was smoothly transferred to an incoming Executive Director without shaking the fundamental principles that guide the Funds' agenda and processes.

In chapter five the book walks the reader through the gains/fruits which captures the success story of the Fund for the 15 years of its existence. In this chapter some of the road blocks are shared as well as mitigation mechanisms to counteract the challenges.

The final chapter graphically provides the vision in 50+ years when most of us will no longer be here, but through which a sustained transformation in funding ecosystem would have been put firmly in place, supporting women and girls feminist movements.



.....  
Hodan Addou.

The UN Women Country Representative