



## The RAND African First Ladies Initiative



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*partners with Africa's first ladies, supporting their efforts to become champions of change for the health and education of millions of women and children across the continent.*

## Change

As wives of presidents and prime ministers, Africa's first ladies occupy a unique position at the pinnacle of society. Their status and prestige, their role as private counsel to their husbands, as well as their ready access to national policy makers, make them one of their country's most influential figures, and a largely untapped resource for change. Since early 2009, RAND has partnered with Africa's first ladies to support their efforts to become champions for change in health and education across the continent.

### CHALLENGES FACING AFRICA'S WOMEN

RAND recognizes the scope of Africa's challenges in health and education:

- More than 536,000 women die each year worldwide from pregnancy-related causes, and though Africa is only 15% of the world population, the majority of these deaths occur in Africa;
- Today, 60% of children unable to attend school worldwide are girls, 40 million in Sub-Saharan Africa;
- HIV rates in Sub-Saharan Africa average 6%, compared with 1% worldwide.

**Participating countries  
in past or ongoing efforts**

Angola  
Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cape Verde  
Chad  
Comoros  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Haiti  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
South Sudan  
Swaziland  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zambia



# Leadership

RAND and its key partners are helping first ladies and their offices to more effectively address their countries most pressing problems, including maternal and child health, girls' education and other social needs. This effort involves RAND and other experts working directly with first ladies and their staff to: (1) develop country- and issue-specific 'road maps' and strategies to influence specific policies and programming; (2) further leverage their influence by engaging other key stakeholders, including ministries, senior government officials, local and international NGOs, businesses and faith-based organizations; and (3) design appropriate plans for implementing, evaluating, and modifying their plans as needed.

# Fellowship

The RAND African First Ladies Fellowship Program, launched in September 2010, introduces first ladies and their staff and advisors to various strategies for establishing and managing an effective first lady's office and to a leadership development and policy-analysis framework for improving executive decision-making. Through presentations, small working groups, Q&A sessions, and individual consultation and mentoring, the program provides attendees with a nuanced discussion of how to:

- Negotiate and define the role of the first lady and her office
- Structure and manage an executive office
- Engage national & international public and private stakeholders
- Develop short and long-term strategies
- Efficiently assess problems, identify solutions, and shape policy

Participants who successfully complete this mentored fellowship program will be awarded a Certificate of Completion from the Pardee RAND Graduate School.

For more information, visit: <http://www.prgs.edu/african-first-ladies>.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



RAND has given seed funding for the African First Ladies Initiative and we are now seeking additional support from global partners, foundations and public and private leaders who want to create long-term solutions for the health and education of women and children in Africa.

For more information, please contact:

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