

Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Call for Proposal

Regular Funding Cycle

Call Opens: 1st March 2022

Deadline for Submissions: 26 April 2022 (8 weeks)

1. About the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

Composed of representatives from donors, United Nations entities, and civil society organizations, the WPHF is a global pooled funding mechanism which aims to re-energize action and stimulate a significant increase in financing for women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in peace and security processes and humanitarian response. The WPHF is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism. It supports quality interventions designed to enhance the capacity of local women to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, and seize key peacebuilding opportunities.

The WPHF breaks silos between humanitarian, peace, security, and development finance by investing in enhancing women's engagement, leadership, and empowerment across all phases of crisis, peace and security, and development. It addresses structural funding gaps for women's participation in key phases of crisis, peace and security, and development by improving the timeliness, predictability and flexibility of international assistance. Notably, it will ensure a timely investment in conflict prevention after receipt of early warning signals from women and will accelerate the dispersal of development assistance after successful peace negotiations. It recognizes that peace cannot be created nor sustained without investment in civil society organizations. Therefore, the WPHF invests in strengthening civil society organizations, particularly in grassroots women's organizations, with the required financial and technical support.

The overall goal of the WPHF's theory of change is to contribute to **peaceful and gender equal societies**. Achievement of this goal will require that women are empowered to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from conflict prevention, crisis response, peacebuilding, and recovery. Since its launch in 2016, WPHF has been supporting over 450 civil society organizations and is present in 26 countries or group of countries.

The WPHF is governed by a Funding Board at the global level, which is comprised of four UN entities (currently UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA and PBSO), four donor Member States (currently Norway, Germany, Sweden and Australia), as well as 4 Civil Society Organizations (currently Feminist Humanitarian Network, Kvinna till Kvinna, Action Aid and Women's Refugee Commission). UN Women acts as the WPHF's Technical Secretariat at the global level. UN Women also acts as Management Entity for civil society organizations where UN Women has a country presence.

2. Nature and scope of the Call for Proposals

The WPHF will fund qualifying projects in **Ethiopia**. The projects must focus on **one** country. Multi-country projects will **NOT** be accepted.

The Northern Region of Ethiopia has experienced armed conflict since early November 2020. Displacement caused by the intensification and expansion of the conflict from the Tigray region to Amhara and Afar region, in addition to ongoing inter-communal tensions and regional border disputes are the

main drivers of the humanitarian and protection needs. The trend of displacement has increased over the last three years from the 3.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) recorded in 2018 to 4.3 million at the end of 2021. Mounting insecurity has limited humanitarian access and the ability to deliver life-saving assistance to the affected regions.

Women and girls have been directly and profoundly impacted by the conflict in Ethiopia and constitute the majority of IDPs and survivors of SGBV. The conflict further exacerbated the existing vulnerabilities of women and girls affected by crises and contributed to additional risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse. Young women and girls have experienced the majority of the sexual violence during the conflict.

Consecutive years of drought in Ethiopia's southern regions (Somali, Oromia, SNNPR, Sidama, Gambela, South West) have worsened food security, disrupted the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of farmers and herders, and increased the threat facing women and girls^{1,2}. Likewise, women's unequal economic participation coupled with the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 is severely holding back recovery³. Exclusion and discrimination of women and girls is also contributing to high levels of acute humanitarian need and lack of protection among some of the most vulnerable⁴. Being further compounded by heightened needs and limited resource, this is likely to have lasting effects with the potential to undermine progress on women's livelihoods, rights, gender equality and the development of the country. This is especially considering the interlinkages between fragility and gender inequalities⁵.

Additionally, women's and girls' needs have not been systematically prioritized in the humanitarian response and programming, despite women's organizations' crucial role in driving, advocating and delivering gender-sensitive humanitarian and disaster response and empowering other girls and women in the process. This has further contributed to exacerbating the conflict as well as the vulnerabilities of women and girls.

The focus of this WPHF call for proposals will be on local civil society organizations working on humanitarian crisis planning and response as well as the protection of women and girls. Special attention will be provided to applications supporting women and girls multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, HIV status, among others, which is in clear alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the principle of leaving no one behind.

The proposal submitted must be aligned to the [impact statements of the respective WPHF funding stream](#) that the organization chooses to apply to:

Programmatic Funding Stream (select one of the below focus)

- WPHF Impact area 3:** *Enhanced participation and leadership of women in humanitarian crisis planning and response*

OR

¹ FAO Rapid Drought Assessment Report Borena and Dawa, November 2021

² <https://www.acaps.org/country/ethiopia/crisis/complex-crisis>

³ <https://www.acaps.org/country/ethiopia/crisis/complex-crisis>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-equality-across-the-hdp-nexus-july2021.pdf>

- **WPHF Impact area 5:** *Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls' and their human rights respected*

AND/OR apply for institutional funding (Stream 1)

Institutional Funding Stream (WPHF impact area 1) to reinforce the institutional capacity of civil society organizations working on women's peace and security issues including protection of women and girls and humanitarian response and planning.

Please read through the WPHF Tip Sheets for guidance on the result framework in Section 8 below.

3. Duration of Grants

All civil society organizations can apply for a maximum of 12 months.

4. Location

Projects will be accepted for all regions of Ethiopia.

5. Funding streams and amounts

The WPHF will grant around 500,000 USD over one year to Ethiopia. The Call for proposals aims at responding to the needs of local women's organizations in fragile and humanitarian settings, with two (2) funding streams:

Funding stream 1: Institutional funding: from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD

This funding stream will provide institutional funding to local civil society organizations working on gender specific issues in peace and security and humanitarian contexts, to ensure they are able to sustain themselves and to improve their impact. Prospective applicants will need to demonstrate how the current context affects their institutional and financial capacities and how the funding would support them as an organization. It will aim at financing a limited range of activities to support the development or strengthening of a CSO's institutional capacity. The purpose of this funding stream IS NOT to finance the delivery of a programmatic activity.

Funding stream 2: Programmatic funding: from 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD

This funding stream will finance projects which aim specifically to fund programmatic activities aligned with the WPHF Impact Areas 3 of humanitarian and crisis response and reach, and Impact Area 5 for the protection of women and girls.

An organization (lead or co-implementing partner) can apply one time for institutional funding AND/OR one time for programmatic funding. Organizations who apply for both streams need to submit two separate applications packages based on the related templates of each stream.

6. Eligibility, Application, and Selection Process

6.1. Who is eligible to apply and receive funding?

International⁶, national and local women- led, women's rights, feminist, or civil society organizations with a proven track record working with women and girls, are eligible to apply. International NGOs are only

⁶ Only if registered at the national level.

eligible to apply if they are partnering with a national, regional or local women-led organization. Grassroots and local community-based organizations are particularly encouraged to apply. Joint projects are allowed and encouraged.

To be considered a “Women’s Rights or Feminist Organization,” the organization’s official mission/vision statement must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women’s rights. The organization must aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, and work to transform these.

“Women-led organization” must be headed by a woman as director/head of organization.

To be considered “Youth rights”, the organization’s official mission/vision must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing the rights of youth.

“Youth-led organization” must be headed by a youth as defined by the country/organization

Other CSOs must demonstrate experience in addressing violence against women and girls, gender inequalities and/or women’s rights.

The following are NOT eligible to apply for a grant from the WPHF:

- Organizations proposing a multi-country intervention;
- Organizations proposing an intervention in a country different from the eligible country;
- Lead-organizations that are not legally registered in the country/territory of implementation;
- Government agencies or institutions;
- UN agencies or UN Country Teams;
- Private individuals;
- Private sector entities;
- Universities and Education institutions

6.2. Do I need to be a legally registered entity/organization to apply?

The lead applicant organization must have legal status with the competent national authority in the eligible country of project implementation. Organizations that are not registered in the country of implementation may apply in partnership with a locally registered implementing partner as the lead applicant.

A proof of legal registration (or legal status) is a required attachment for any grant application. Applications without clear proof of legal status will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the application process. Note that articles of incorporation are not proof of legal status.

Only the lead partner has to provide their legal registration. Implementing partners that are part of a joint proposal, do not have to be legally registered but have to be civil society organizations (non-profit and non-governmental).

6.3. Can my project cover several countries?

No, projects can only be implemented in one single country. Multi-country proposals are not eligible.

6.4. May I submit more than one application?

No, organizations (either as lead or implementing partner) may not submit more than one application per funding stream. If an organization appears in more than one application in the same funding stream, only one project may be considered as eligible.

6.5. Can more organizations apply jointly?

Yes, joint projects are encouraged. For joint projects, only the lead organization is required to meet the eligibility criteria.

For joint projects, the roles and responsibilities of each organization must be clearly detailed within the application in the appropriate section in the proposal template. Proposals must clearly indicate which organization will take lead responsibility for project management and contractual obligations.

6.6. May I apply for funding for an ongoing initiative or project?

Yes, the WPHF accepts proposals for ongoing projects. However, the specific value added of the contribution should be clearly outlined.

6.7. What are the requirements for project design?

For this Call for Proposal, the project(s) must contribute to the following WPHF Impact areas:

Impact Area 3: Enhanced participation and leadership of women in humanitarian crisis planning and response

Required Impact Indicators (select at least 1):

- 3.1. Number/Percentage of women participating in decision-making in humanitarian and crisis response
- 3.2. Types of mechanisms established to improve gender responsive humanitarian and crisis planning, frameworks and programming

OR

Impact Area 5: Enhanced safety, security and mental health of women and girls' and their human rights respected

Required Impact Indicators (select at least 2):

- 5.1. Number and percentage of CSOs, that report having greater influence and agency to work on ending sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)
- 5.2. Degree to which social accountability mechanisms are used by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end SGBV
- 5.3. Number of local women's organizations, CSOs or autonomous social movements coordinating efforts to end SGBV

AND/OR

Impact area 1 for Institutional Funding: Enhanced role of civil society organizations in advocating for and ensuring accountability on WPS commitments

Required impact indicators (select at least two):

- 1.1. Average number of months organization can be sustained as a result of institutional funding
- 1.2. Number/Percentage of staff retained as a result of institutional funding
- 1.3. Development of risk management and/or contingency plans or strategies for organization

1.4. Types (and number) of adaptive strategies, tools or systems adopted by organization for continuity of operations

Please note that all projects are required to include the following reach indicators:

- *Number of people directly benefiting from the response (by sex, age group, or other variables)*
- *Number of people indirectly benefiting from the response*
- *AND develop 1-2 additional indicators for each outcome that captures the change of your project*

Please refer to the indicator tip sheets for additional information.

6.8. Must applicants contribute to the project budget?

Civil society organizations are not required to contribute to the budget.

6.9 Where do we obtain more information about the call?

An online information session will be organized with prospective applicants on 23 March 2022 online (or in person) organized by UN Women with WPHF Secretariat support. To register, please sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RAfNKxiefUiFw8mjJSIL6KTIW1x3xWxDt2QMRR41vWBUNERGS1RNUjVPS1Q4NIJFVIZGUKixWkEzMi4u> by 18 March 2022.

7. Where, when and how to apply for the Call for Proposals?

- The deadline for submission of proposals is 26 April at midnight (Addis Ababa time). Applications received after that date will not be considered.
- Applications are accepted in **English**. Only applications in this language will be accepted.
- You may not make changes to your application after it is submitted.
- Application packages can only be submitted by email to the following address: Wpsha-ethiopia@unwomen.org. No paper/hardcopies will be accepted.
- Please indicate: **“WPHF Project Proposal”** in the subject line of the email.
- Applications can be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted. Legal registration certificates can be submitted in jpeg, doc., docx., or pdf format. All documents should be submitted together as a package.
- The UN Women Country Office will aim to acknowledge receipt of application within three days of receipt. Please DO NOT resend your application unless you do not receive a confirm of receipt within three days.

The UN Women Country Office will be able to provide some limited support to grant applicants. Please note, that questions contained in this guidance note will be responded to. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours for responses to any questions.

7.1. Required Components of the Application Package

Applicants are required to use the WPHF templates provided. Please note, incomplete applications or use of different templates will not be considered.

- WPHF Proposal Template (attached, no more than 10 pages, excluding Annex A and B)
- Results Framework (Proposal Template Annex: A)
- Project Budget (Proposal Template Annex: B)

AND

- Proof of valid legal registration or status of the lead organization (if you are in the process for renewal, please share proof)

DO NOT submit photos or additional documents other than the ones listed.

7.2. Evaluation Criteria

As you write your application, please keep in mind that proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Stream 1: Institutional Funding

Project objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change, particularly with respect to the specific outcome in the results framework (Impact Area 1) and institutional capacity objectives
- Clear articulation of experience of organization and rationale how the current crisis affects their institutional and financial capacities
- Definition of clear objectives and expected results and outputs focused on strengthening CSOs institutional capacity and how the organization will be sustained
- Identification of risks and appropriate mitigation measures

Budget:

- Budget is consistent across all documents and detailed per output in the result framework
- The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%)
- The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account

Stream 2: Programmatic Funding

Project design and objectives:

- Alignment with the WPHF's theory of change, particularly with respect to a specific impact in its results framework.
- Definition of clear objectives, results, and outputs, taking account of best practices of gender-responsive approaches.
- Ensuring meaningful participation of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as those marginalized and excluded due to poverty, ethnicity, disability, age, geography, migratory status, among others which are in clear alignment with Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.
- Partnership and capacity development of local women's organizations and/or a clear capacity building plan for CSO partners in place to deliver programme results. Joint projects are strongly encouraged.
- Complementarity with other Funds and Programmes.

Programme management and monitoring:

- Identification of comprehensive risks and appropriate mitigation measures
- Realistic activity schedule and implementation strategy to achieve objectives within the time frame.
- Identification of relevant and appropriate monitoring and evaluation approaches based on the results framework and indicators

Budget:

- The budget is sufficient and reasonable for the activities proposed and takes the scale of problems into account.
- The budget includes indirect operational costs at the allowed level (no more than 7%).

Sustainability and national ownership:

- Promotion of national and local ownership in developing and establishing activities, and specific objectives to build the capacities of national and local players.
- Sustainability of the programme beyond the financing period and (where applicable), how to reproduce it and improve it over time.

8. Useful Resources

- The WPHF's website www.wphfund.org
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact Area 3](#)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: Impact Area 5](#)
- [Indicator Tip Sheet: Institutional Funding](#)
- [Results Based Management Capacity Building Webinar](#)
- The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's [Operations Manual](#)
- The WPHF's Twitter account: [@wphfund](#)
- M&E and Results Based Management Terms. The OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation available in English, French and Spanish.
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/21/2754804.pdf>
- M&E Standards and Guidelines. The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Standards for Evaluations, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian
http://www.uneval.org/papersandpubs/documentdetail.jsp?doc_id=22